

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT:**

Ruthann Varosi  
Extra Credit Union  
Phone: 586.276.3151  
Email: [rvarosi@extracreditunion.org](mailto:rvarosi@extracreditunion.org)

**Extra Credit Union collects \$1,500 and 400 winter/personal care items for homeless students in Macomb County**

WARREN, Mich. – So often the extra warmth of a winter hat and pair of gloves is taken for granted. They fill boxes in a home, often unused for years while so many homeless go without any.

Every year, Extra Credit Union hosts a Mittens for Kids drive to collect cold-weather items and toiletries for homeless students and their families in Macomb County. This year, the financial institution collected \$1,500 and 403 personal care items including hats, gloves, scarves, socks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and other items.

The annual effort supports the [Macomb Intermediate School District's \(MISD\) Homeless Education Project](#), which provides registered homeless students and their families in Macomb County with community resources, as well as personal care items and even food. There are currently about 920 registered homeless students in Macomb County. The number increases throughout the school year. Last school year ended with 1,450 registered homeless students in the county.

This is the ninth Mittens for Kids drive the credit union has hosted annually to benefit the project. And most years, the donations greatly increase. Last year, the credit union donated \$1,120 and more than 700 personal care items.

Deidra Williams, President and CEO of Extra Credit Union, said she is greatly pleased with the credit union's efforts to help these homeless students and their families year after year—an effort that also supports the credit union's legacy of having been started by a group of local teachers 65 years ago.

“We do a lot of work in our local schools helping to teach kids from kindergarten through high school the basics of responsible finances. But helping to make sure these students are warm and fed and have the basic necessities is even more important,” said Deidra Williams, CEO and President of Extra Credit Union. “I’m so proud to have a staff and membership that is so giving and that wholeheartedly cares about the wellbeing of those in our community, especially these youth who are in between homes. We want to let them know that we care about them.”

###

**Extra Credit Union** ([www.extracreditunion.org](http://www.extracreditunion.org)) was founded in 1954 by a group of educators with \$856 in assets. Today, with two full-service offices in Warren and Sterling Heights, Mich., Extra Credit Union (ECU) has nearly 20,000 members and \$238 million in assets. Extra Credit Union works with the local community and educators to provide hands-on learning, financial fundamentals, and customized services to help students and educators make good financial decisions. In addition, ECU provides solution-based lending and credit education programs to open lending possibilities to people of all credit backgrounds in Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.