

# FOOD Hope for the Holidays DRIVE Campagne de Collecte D'Aliment

## Hope for the Holidays Food Drive reaches highest APY

*January 2018*

**AROOSTOOK COUNTY**– NorState Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce that the annual Hope for the Holidays Food Drive was extremely successful.

Despite the freezing temperatures and the cold winds blowing, local food pantries were the recipients of over 12,254 pounds of non-perishable items to stock the shelves.

NorState's Ending Hunger Director and Ashland Loan Officer Debra Deprey commented, "In 2016, the food drive collected 10,398 record setting pounds, but this year our neighbors and friends blew that total right out of the snow!

The generosity of the people of the St. John River Valley especially, and the County as a whole really pulled through in helping this year's food drive excel."

"In part, the success of the food drive is dependent on the generosity of people living here in Aroostook County or who may have ties to the County, stated Denise Duperre, Executive Marketing Director.

I was optimistic going into this year's food drive, thinking if we could accomplish the same pounds or close to that of last year, it would be a blessing.

I'm more than pleased with the totals, I'm overwhelmed with peoples generosity towards our neighbors in need.

Without the cooperation of the participating merchants, the generosity of our neighbors and the spirit and County pride to do unto others as we'd have done unto us, we would not have such a great end result as this year's!"

Co-sponsor Channel X Radio respectively gives much awareness to potential donors and to their listeners, about the progress of the food drive as well as information on where to donate non-perishable goods or monies.

"This food drive doesn't cost the food pantries a dime," added Duperre.

I've been a strong advocate of this food drive since inception, when it started as just a small local drive back in 2004 and grew into a Valley-wide food drive in 2007, and reached down as far as Ashland in 2010 I knew we were on to something bigger than we could ever imagine.

This food drive gives pantries the stock to fill the shelves for the upcoming winter, and for all the donated non-perishable food they receive, it is weighed, reported and then we can happily report back to the Maine Credit Union League down in Westbrook who totals all drives to announce a statewide initiative to end hunger in Maine.

So your donation is two-fold," added Duperre.

Susan G. Whitehead, CEO of NorState FCU states, "Donors can take comfort in the fact that their donation of non-perishable food to the food drive remains local.

Thanks to Maine's Ending Hunger Campaign, that is under the supervision of the Maine Credit

Thanks to many food pantry volunteers, who tirelessly go around to the participating merchants to collect the donations for their respective pantry, added Whitehead.

They are the heart and soul of the food pantries, and truly are unsung heroes."

Hope for the Holidays Food Drive may have ended for 2017, but the monetary donations are still being accepted year round as fundraising efforts to end hunger locally is ongoing.

If you wish to donate toward the Ending Hunger Campaign, there is still time.

All donations receive remain local and 100% goes back to the food pantry and the neighbors we help during tough times.

Mail your check to NorState FCU, c/o Ending Hunger Campaign, 78 Fox Street, Madawaska, ME 04756 or drop off at your local NorState office. For more information about the Ending Hunger Campaign, call 1-800-804-7555.