

## PRESS RELEASE

February 12, 2016

**Gardiner Federal Credit Union has a record breaking year, raising funds for Ending Hunger and is awarded first place, for highest per member contributions.**



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Front row, L – R: Wendy Roberts, Hillary Greenleaf, Jenni Prue, Stephanie Rolfe.  
Back row, L – R: Kelly Marie, Kattie Trask, Laura Naas, Julie Chandler, Erica O’Connor, Sue Morse, Tracie James, Vicki Larrabee

The staff of Gardiner Federal Credit Union, proudly display the plaque, awarded to them this week, from the Maine Credit Union League (MCUL). A number of Maine Credit Unions have been raising funds for the Campaign to End Hunger, since 1990. MCUL ranks the success of the participating Credit Unions, in two categories; Most Funds Raised and Highest per Member Contributions. Gardiner Federal Credit Union has placed in the top three, for member contributions every year, for the past ten years, with a total of six first place awards.

“This recognition is not simply a pat on the back for our Credit Union staff, who work tirelessly on fundraisers year ‘round. This is a direct reflection of the kindness, generosity and compassion of our members and our community.” Gardiner and the surrounding communities have a lot of heart. When called upon to help their neighbors in need, they always step up, dig deep and do all they can. “We are so proud to be part of such a generous community and to be able to help end hunger in our area”, stated Kelly Marie, GFCU’s Marketing Specialist.

Gardiner FCU raised a total of \$17,290.84 for Ending Hunger, in 2015. With the first place in highest per member contributions and ranking 9<sup>th</sup> place in total funds raised, among the 62 participating Credit Unions, they earned an additional \$2,250 from funds raised by the Maine Credit Union League. That means Gardiner FCU has a total of \$19,540.84, in Ending Hunger funds, to distribute to area food banks and organizations that feed the hungry in Gardiner and surrounding communities.

Six weeks into 2016, the staff at Gardiner FCU continues their commitment to Ending Hunger. Their annual Chili & Chowder day, which was February 11<sup>th</sup>, raised over \$500. Throughout the month of February, they sell Hearts for Ending Hunger, at \$1 each and display them throughout the lobby. “We will continue to work toward ending hunger, as long as there is a need.”

## The results are in: 2015 Maine CUs' Campaign for Ending Hunger raises new record!

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Check It Out! (L-R) John Murphy, President of the Maine Credit Union League, Vicki Stuart, Chair of the League's Social Responsibility Committee, and Olympic icon, Mark Spitz, hold the big check revealing a new record raised in 2015 for the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger.

An Olympic icon, a large crowd and two significant milestones made for an extra special day in Freeport on Tuesday, February 9. The Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger held its Annual Results Luncheon, and the highly-anticipated results of the 2015 Campaign were revealed. With 7-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Mark Spitz, helping turn over the big check with the final amount, Maine's credit unions came through with a championship total of \$622,933.63, more than \$70,000 higher than last year's previous record. With the 2015 total, the Campaign also surpassed another milestone - \$6 million in funds raised since 1990; in fact, 2015's funds pushed the amount raised to more than \$6.5 million in the 26-year history of the Campaign.

In his remarks, John Murphy, President of the Maine Credit Union League, highlighted the fact that "every cent raised goes directly to the cause of ending hunger. There are no administrative costs that come out of the final total, and that makes a big difference in the impact that credit unions are able to have in communities across Maine. Setting a new record is a testament to not only the credit unions themselves but to the hundreds of thousands of credit union members across Maine who contribute to the Campaign. It's really a remarkable achievement."

Mark Spitz, who today remains one of the greatest Olympians ever for what he accomplished as a swimmer in the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, was the featured speaker at this year's Luncheon. Spitz smiled and pointed to the final amount when he helped turn over the big check announcing the total. "This is a tremendous effort that reinforces what can be done when we persevere. I understand this Campaign started raising just under \$25,000 in its first year, and to still be

going strong more than two decades later and be able to raise \$622,000 in 2015 is something you can all be proud of. Hunger continues to be a need throughout the world including Maine, where it is a significant problem, so what you do matters and makes a difference. Whether you're going for medals in the Olympics or raising funds for a cause, it takes commitment and dedication to be successful, and what you did this past year, I am really honored to be part of the celebration of that achievement." Once again, nearly all credit unions participated in the Campaign and every credit union that participated received at least 100% of all funds raised back to distribute to the hunger organization(s) of their choice.

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## History of the Maine Credit Unions' Campaign for Ending Hunger

The Campaign was founded in 1990 by the Maine Credit Union League's Social Responsibility Committee. Since that time, the collective efforts of Maine's credit unions have raised more than **\$6.4 million** to help end hunger in Maine. 100% of all money raised has stayed in Maine and gone directly to the cause of ending hunger.

Total Funds Raised By Year:	
1990 - \$25,345.10	2003 - \$209,030.75
1991 - \$58,891.80	2004 - \$215,743.70
1992 - \$62,576.08	2005 - \$251,828.56
1993 - \$83,346.20	2006 - \$315,419.26
1994 - \$75,753.66	2007 - \$363,940.10
1995 - \$79,200.50	2008 - \$375,237.04
1996 - \$88,500.00	2009 - \$375,923.93
1997 - \$104,750.00	2010 - \$402,740.02
1998 - \$105,200.00	2011 - \$446,929.50
1999 - \$133,820.46	2012 - \$471,744.42
2000 - \$144,518.99	2013 - \$513,309.19
2001 - \$170,356.09	2014 - \$552,257.43
2002 - \$193,624.02	2015 - ????????????
	\$622,933.63

