

MA SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE PRESENTS \$110,000 CHECK TO MASS. COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS; RECOGNIZES OUTGOING CHAIR



Making the check presentation from left to right are: Stephen Jones, Jeanne D'Arc CU; CCUA Chairman Bernie Winne, Boston Firefighters CU; Paul Marotta, Hanscom FCU; CCUA President Paul Gentile; MA Coalition for Homeless Executive Director Robyn Frost; David Plantier, MassMutual FCU; MA Social Responsibility Chair Nicole James, RTN FCU; Rui Domingos, Naveo CU; and Charlene Bauer, Metro CU. Missing from photo are Jon Reske, UMassFive College FCU and Debra Lee Surface, St. Jean's CU.



Honoring Nicole James are CCUA Chairman Bernie Winne (left) and CCUA President Paul Gentile.

Massachusetts Credit Unions continue to display their extraordinary generosity with their support of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. Members of the Social Responsibility Committee presented Coalition Executive Director Robyn Frost with a ceremonial check representing the overall donation of \$110,000 on behalf of all the credit unions from 2015.

"The Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless is grateful to the Massachusetts Credit Unions for the strong partnership we have in helping low- and moderate-income households throughout our state to avoid being homeless," stated Frost. The support that the Coalition receives from the credit unions fuels its work, crafting statewide public policy efforts ranging from affordable housing to creating housing for unaccompanied youth. "Our mission is to eradicate homelessness from the commonwealth of Massachusetts," remarked Frost.

Sixty-nine credit unions throughout Massachusetts that took on a wide variety of fundraising activities made this donation possible. The biggest individual contributions came from RTN Federal Credit Union in Waltham, Mass., raising more than \$30,400 and Hanscom Federal Credit Union located at Hanscom Air Force Base with a donation of more than \$12,000. Both credit unions raised these amounts through their own initiatives, the largest for RTN being the annual "Walk Home" which is held in June at three locations and Hanscom's employee raffle and additional activities.

Cooperative Credit Union Association President/CEO Paul Gentile remarked, "Building on the credit union core principles of cooperatives helping people and local communities, the Massachusetts Credit Unions are committed to the Coalition and its efforts to ensure

everyone has a place to call home. We are enthusiastic to strengthen our support in 2016 and working with the Coalition on future initiatives."

Credit unions including: Boston Firefighters Credit Union, Brotherhood Credit Union, Harvard University Employees Credit Union, Liberty Bay Credit Union, MassMutual Federal Credit Union, Members Plus Credit Union, Metro Credit Union, and St. Jean's Credit Union showed major support by donating \$2,000 and above.

Frost praised the compassionate spirit of Massachusetts Credit Unions and expressed her gratitude to them for supporting the Coalition's work. "The continuing assistance from the credit unions makes a huge difference for us to be a voice for those who are voiceless in the areas of poverty and homelessness," exclaimed Frost. She continued, "Your efforts help us create more affordable housing within the state for families and individuals who are at-risk or homeless."

Prior to the check presentation, Association President Paul Gentile and Chairman Bernie Winne from Boston Firefighters Credit Union recognized Social Responsibility Committee Chair Nicole James from RTN Federal Credit Union with a spray of flowers and a small token of their appreciation. James was stepping down from the committee having served more than 10 years. She was most appreciative of the gesture and thanked all members of the committee as well as Robyn from the Coalition.

The Association's Social Responsibility Committee members extend their sincerest "Thank You" to all the credit unions and chapters in Massachusetts that supported their efforts for the Coalition. The generosity of the officials, staff and members of so many credit unions throughout the state is a true testament to the philosophy of "people helping people." ✨