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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FREESTAR FINANCIAL RECEIVES MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT VETERANS RETURNING HOME**

Clinton Township, MI

FreeStar Financial CU is the most recent credit union to receive a Michigan Credit Union Foundation Community Enrichment Grant. FreeStar has worked with the Vets Returning Home organization for several years and is now installing more than 25 clothing donation bins within their communities to help collect items to donate to the organization's Thrift Store. The Thrift Store provides veterans with essential items and sells the surplus. The activity also benefits low-income designated communities in the area, who can purchase low-cost clothing from the store.

Vets Returning Home is a 501(c)3 volunteer organization that provides housing, clothing, transportation, and educational resources to veterans in crisis. Its mission is to prevent homelessness and transition veterans into society as fully functioning community members. The facility has 43 beds and a commercial kitchen. Onsite services include employment readiness, job placement, benefit connections and life skills training. Over 250 veterans per year transition to stable lives via the Vets Returning Home program.

Vets Returning Home receives no government resources; it relies heavily on sales from its Thrift Store and constantly needs items to sell to the public. Funds raised sustain the

organization by offsetting housing costs and assisting veterans living in the facility.

MCUF Community Enrichment Grants are available to help boost credit union initiatives aimed at improving financial well-being for people, families, businesses and communities in Michigan. MCUF works with cooperative donations to support credit union community enrichment, financial education and credit union development initiatives. Learn more, donate or apply for programs at [www.MCUF.MCUL.org](http://www.MCUF.MCUL.org)

- Talk about our long-term support of Vets Returning Home
- Each year, select a charity of choice
- Store opened in August 2022
- When learned about the need to keep replenishing supply of clothing, knew that we could partner with MCUF for this additional support through grant initiative
- Add that we added \$1,000 for total impact of \$10k
- Bins will not be at FreeStar locations
- Goal to raise \$10k through fundraising – promote Night at the Races

FreeStar Financial Credit Union is proud to announce that it has been awarded a Community Enrichment Grant of \$9,000 by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation (MCUF). The grant is set to aid in the installation of 27 clothing donation bins in the community, benefitting the Vets Returning Home facility residents, their thrift store, and the local community.

This grant will support veterans by providing clothing and other necessary items through the donation bins. These bins will serve as a collection point for community members to donate items directly to Vets Returning Home organization. Community members are welcome to shop at the two-story secondhand store for low-cost clothing and household items.

Beth Troost, Executive Director of the MCUF, said in a statement: "We applaud your commitment to this outreach initiative to help improve the financial futures of people and families in your community."

FreeStar Financial Credit Union extends its gratitude to MCUF for its generous grant funding and is eager to implement this new program to provide vital support to Vets Returning Home and our community.

FreeStar's CEO Drema Isaac shared, "We are grateful to the Michigan Credit Union Foundation for partnering with credit unions to make a significant impact in Michigan communities through the MCUF grant program."

FreeStar Financial Credit Union FreeStar Financial Credit Union is a full-service financial institution committed to providing members with quality financial products and services. Serving Michigan for over 60 years, FreeStar is dedicated to giving back to the community and supporting local veterans through various initiatives.

The Michigan Credit Union Foundation is a non-profit foundation that provides grants and programs to help Michigan credit unions serve their communities. Their focus is on promoting financial education, community enrichment, and development initiatives in the credit union industry.

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