



## Members First Credit Union Donates \$50,000 to Manchester Safe Station Program

**MANCHESTER, NH (July 9, 2018)** Members First Credit Union recently donated \$50,000 to Manchester's Safe Station program to combat the city's opioid epidemic. The donation comes from Members First's share of reimbursements the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) is providing to federally-insured credit unions nationwide.



*(L-R): Members First Credit Union President/CEO Bruce Leighton presents a \$50,000 donation to the Safe Station program to Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, Manchester Fire Chief Dan Goonan, Members First Board Member and The Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health David Mara, and Manchester Health Director Tim Soucy.*

"In the credit union spirit of people helping people, it was a no brainer to use this opportunity to make the community a better place for everyone," said Bruce Leighton, President and CEO of Members First. "Our first responders are on the front lines every day and the Safe Station program really saves lives. As a result, we're honored to be able to present Manchester's Safe Station with this check for \$50,000."

The Safe Station program was started in May of 2016 to give those struggling with substance use disorder a safe place where they can walk into any fire station in Manchester and get basic medical attention along with connection to recovery and support services. It's helped nearly 4,000 people since the program began and has not only expanded to other New Hampshire cities, but has been recognized nationally as an example of using civil services to combat the drug epidemic.

“In a little over two years, our Safe Station program has assisted over 3,700 people seeking help with substance use disorder,” said Manchester Fire Chief, Dan Goonan. Safe Station’s continued success and sustainability depends on support from our community. We are so pleased to receive such a generous donation from Members First Credit Union.”

Those in attendance at the donation ceremony were Leighton, Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig, Manchester Fire Chief Dan Goonan, Members First Board Member and The Governor’s Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health David Mara, and Manchester Health Director Tim Soucy.

“I’m incredibly grateful for Members First’s generous donation to the Safe Station Program,” said Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig. “This funding will help people suffering from substance use disorder who are proactively asking for assistance. Through Safe Station, our firefighters see 150 people per month on average, and Members First’s support plays a key role in addressing one of the most pressing issues facing our community.”

“Members First has been ingrained in the community for many, many years so their support of the fire department, the Safe Station program, and of all the work that’s being done in the community is really coming full circle,” said Tim Soucy, Manchester Health Director. “They’re a great community partner.”

Funds for the donation came from Members First’s share of a reimbursement from the NCUA to federally-insured credit unions. Although the exact amount of Members First’s share is currently unknown, the nationwide figure is expected to be \$753 million. Members First is taking the lead by pledging to use its funds to benefit critical community programs, and hopes to inspire other credit unions to do the same. “In the end, it’s what we do for our members and the communities we serve that matter most” Leighton said. “This was unexpected – kind of like winning the lottery – and using it to help the city that’s been our home for nearly 70 years is the right thing to do.”

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### **About Members First Credit Union**

Members First Credit Union has been a trusted financial resource since 1949. Our mission is to build valued relationships by delivering financial solutions that simplify the lives of residents and businesses in Manchester and Bedford as well as surrounding communities. A full service financial institution, Members First offers a range of services including investment real estate lending, mortgages, auto loans, checking accounts, electronic services and much more. Membership is open to anyone living or working within 25 miles of one of our branches in Manchester and Bedford. For more information, call 603-622-8781 or visit [www.membersfirstnh.org](http://www.membersfirstnh.org).

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