



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MCT Federal Credit Union Provides Food Backpacks To Needy Students at Summit Hall Elementary School

ROCKVILLE, MD, November 4, 2005 – The MCT Federal Credit Union (MCT) partnered with the Manna Food Center in Montgomery County to provide backpacks of nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to be distributed to selected students from Summit Hall Elementary School who are at risk for hunger on the weekends.

“Thousands of students in Montgomery County rely on free or reduced-price lunches during the school week,” explained MCT Loan Center Manager Greg Jenkins, a member of the MCT Community Involvement Team. “But on the weekends, many of them go hungry. So we want to help solve this problem.”

Backpack food programs have been shown to increase attendance rates, decrease suspension rates, improve the concentration abilities of students, and improve student academic achievement.

School guidance counselors identify students who will receive backpacks of food and distribute them on Friday afternoons. The school then collects the empty backpacks on Monday mornings from students who took full backpacks the previous Friday.

The first batch of 30 backpacks was delivered to the school by MCT employees on Thursday, November 3 and deliveries will continue each Friday through the end of the school year.

“We thank MCT for stepping forward to help this program,” said Summit Hall Elementary School Principal Keith Jones. “Children can’t learn if they’re hungry, so we know this program will help them succeed in school.”

The food backpack program is part of a larger partnership MCT has forged with the Manna Food Center in Rockville, MD, a nonprofit organization that collects and distributes food to needy individuals and families. MCT employees also volunteer at the Center each month to pack food for distribution to needy families.

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MCT Federal Credit Union is a 54-year-old not-for-profit financial institution with more than 54,000 members, headquartered in Rockville, MD. MCT collaborates with area schools in a variety of ways, providing many opportunities for students to learn about financial and investment topics. For more information about MCT, visit www.mctfcu.org.