

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bethpage's "Heart of Bethpage" Program Spreads Holiday Cheer To Long Island Children

Bethpage Federal Credit Union Supports Operation Jocelyn's Spirit, John Theissen Children's Foundation, Education & Assistance Corporation, and Cohen's Children's Medical Center for the 2012 Holiday Season

**Bethpage, NY – December 21, 2012 –** Bethpage Federal Credit Union has pledged its support to various children's non-profit organizations this holiday, providing toys and support to underprivileged Long Island families.

For the fourth year in a row, through its "Heart of Bethpage" community outreach program, Bethpage has volunteered to support Operation Jocelyn Spirit, a non-profit organization that answers children's letters to Santa. More than 80 Bethpage employees "adopted" a local child, answered his/her letter, and fulfilled a child's holiday wish list by purchasing presents that they otherwise would not have been able to enjoy.

Bethpage also participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual <u>Education & Assistance Corporation (EAC) Holiday Shopping Spree</u>, sponsored by the Marie & Micheal Gubitosi Foundation and hosted this year by Walmart's Farmingdale location. More than 200 Long Island foster children received a \$100 gift card to purchase items on their holiday wish list and shopped with Bethpage volunteers who helped them make their choices of toys, clothing and electronics.

Bethpage supported two additional efforts including the John Theissen Foundation Toy Drive by placing toy collection bins in every Bethpage branch. This is the tenth year Bethpage has worked with the <u>John Theissen Children's Foundation</u>. Lastly, as part of the Newsday Holiday Lights Festival, sponsored by Bethpage, children and families from across Long Island created holiday cards for children admitted to Cohen's Children's Medical Center, located in New Hyde Park.

"Bethpage has been a long-time supporter of Long Island families in need, and during the holidays it's more important than ever to do what we can to bring happiness and cheer to all Long Island communities," said Linda Armyn, Senior Vice President, Bethpage Federal Credit Union. "We're proud to work with these fine organizations who work so tirelessly to better the lives of others."

<u>Bethpage Federal Credit Union</u> is a not-for-profit financial cooperative, existing solely to serve its members and has experienced rapid growth in recent years to become a strong alternative to banks. Bethpage was approved for the largest federal community charter in the U.S. in 2003 and now is Long Island's largest credit union and leading community financial institution with over 205,000 members, 26 branches and 60 shared service center locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. As a financial cooperative, Bethpage offers better rates, lower fees and a full menu of personal and commercial financial services.

Bethpage maintains branch locations in Bay Shore, Bay Shore King Kullen, Bethpage, Central Islip, Commack King Kullen, Elmont, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Levittown King Kullen, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, Mineola, North Babylon, Patchogue, Port Jefferson, Riverhead, Seaford, Smithtown, Roosevelt, West Babylon and Westbury with over 425 surcharge-free ATMs in King Kullen, CVS Pharmacy and Costco locations throughout Long Island. For more information, call 1-800-628-7070 or visit www.bethpagefcu.com.

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