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**Bethpage & Woodhull Intermediate School Help Raise Funds for  
Huntington Hero James Byler, U.S. Marine**

**Bethpage, NY – June 15, 2011** - Bethpage Federal Credit Union teamed up with Huntington's Woodhull Intermediate School to help raise funds for Building Homes for Heroes and its support of local hero Lt. James Byler, a United States Marine and 2003 Huntington High School graduate, who returned home recently from Afghanistan after losing both of his legs in a devastating bomb blast.

A total of \$771.00 was raised by the Woodhull Intermediate School students, which was matched by Bethpage, for a total of \$1,542.00 donated to Lt. Byler and Building Homes for Heroes, which will help Byler rebuild his life on Long Island.

James Blyer, a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Marines, received a hero's welcome upon returning to his Huntington home back in December, 2010. While serving as an infantry platoon leader with the Third Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines out of Camp Pendleton, California, Blyer took a step backwards while on patrol in the Northern Helmand Province, one of the most dangerous provinces in Afghanistan, when a buried IED exploded. Resulting in devastating consequences, Blyer lost both his legs and the pinky fingers on each hand in the bomb blast.

"We are proud of every student including the Student Council who spearheaded this initiative to raise funds for Lt. Blyer. What an amazing effort the students of Woodhull Intermediate have done for their local hero. I would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support and thank Woodhull for allowing Bethpage to match the funds to meet the goals," said Robert Suarez, Assistant Vice President Community Development, Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

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The Building Homes for Heroes organization is committed to providing families of severely wounded and disabled veterans a chance to rebuild their lives. The organization provides everyone with the opportunity to support those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and safeguard our country. To make a donation or participate in Building Homes for Heroes, please visit [www.buildinghomesforheroes.com](http://www.buildinghomesforheroes.com).

Bethpage Federal Credit Union 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 180,000 members, 24 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, Elmont, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Islandia King Kullen, Levittown, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, Mineola, North Babylon, Port Jefferson, Riverhead, Seaford, Smithtown, Roosevelt and Westbury with over 350 surcharge-free ATMs in King Kullen, 7-Eleven, Walgreen's and Costco locations throughout Long Island. For more information, call 1-800-628-7070 or visit [www.lovebethpage.com](http://www.lovebethpage.com).

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