

**~SAN MATEO~
CREDIT UNION**

P.O. Box 910
Redwood City, CA 94064-0910
Tel (650) 363-1725
www.smcu.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Richard Villareal
San Mateo Credit Union
(650) 562-1233
rvillareal@smcu.org

San Mateo Credit Union Wraps Up 2008 with Philanthropy Drives

By all accounts, 2008 was a tough year. But, as the year inched toward a close, the employees and members of San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU) were determined to wrap things up on a positive note by directing their efforts toward community service. When all was said and done, the SMCU family donated their time and thousands of dollars in clothing and gifts to community members in need.

The philanthropy began with the Redwood City Police Activities League toy and book drive on December 15. Several employees donated their time to help collect toys, while others donated books and toys to area youths.

Meanwhile, other SMCU employees were organizing a drive to collect coats for the local One Warm Coat drive. The goal was to collect clean used coats for distribution to help get everyone through the winter. SMCU Director of Community Outreach, Richard Villareal, said, "We collected 14 large bags full of donated coats in 2008. It was better than we ever imagined and a truly inspiring experience to see the community respond so overwhelmingly."

The giving spirit continued with a gift card drive for the San Mateo Country Independent Living Skills Program (ILP). The ILP provides resources and financial support for current and former foster children as they transition to adulthood. SMCU employees provided \$250 in the form of \$5 gift cards. In total, 50 members of the program were given an extra boost during the holiday season.

SMCU employees then focused their attention on the Angel Tree gift tag program. The program solicits gift wishes from local children whose parents are incarcerated. This year's program saw the completion of all 100 tags assigned to SMCU, including more than \$250 donated by SMCU members.

The program served as a reminder to all that the giving spirit was still alive and well, despite tough economic times nationwide. Villareal echoed this sentiment, "We were a little worried this year because we weren't sure how the economy would play into things. But, the tremendous response by both our employees and community was incredibly inspiring. We're proud to be a part of it and be able to call this area home."

Never one to rest on their laurels, SMCU has several charitable projects planned for 2009 new year. Keep an eye out for these events in the local paper, or contact your local SMCU representative to learn more or provide suggestions for future events.

###

About San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU)

Founded in 1952, SMCU is a member-owned financial institution that currently serves more than 69,000 members, who live, work or attend school or church in San Mateo County. Managing more than \$580 million in assets, with six San Mateo County branch locations, SMCU provides a full range of financial services to its member-owners. For the branch nearest you, visit www.smcu.org.