



Farmers & Merchants Bank's GIVE360 Project Benefits 25 Recipients

Farmers & Merchants Bank's Give 360 Project was a first year success. Launching last January, the project encouraged employees to get out and volunteer 10 hours in the community. After doing so, Farmers & Merchants Bank would donate \$500 in the employee's name to a cause of their choosing. "To say I'm proud of our Farmers' family would be an understatement," says Peter Kujawa, who himself participated in the project. "Not only did employees reach their 10 hours, many went above and beyond that. The hours they contributed to our community would have been equivalent to 13 straight days of volunteering. When you think about how these folks have full-time careers and their own families to take care of, that's pretty impressive."

Donations from the project benefited over 25 different recipients including the victims of the Quarry St. fire, Cystic Fibrosis Research, Berlin VFW and the Utica Fire Department. "One of the most special parts of this project was hearing the stories behind each person's donation choice," states Kellen Stellmacher, who organizes and runs the program. "Donations were made in memory of loved ones lost or in honor of survivors. They were made to support young children going through some serious health issues or to provide additional funds to a youth organization. You could see the impact this program had on the employee—they were just so proud and honored to be able to contribute to something personal."

This year, to reward those employees exceeding 20 or more hours, Farmers & Merchants Bank will donate an additional \$500 per individual. If all employees participate, the project will contribute \$60,000 to causes and charities in our area. To view some of the GIVE360 Project stories, visit Farmers & Merchants Bank's Facebook page.

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