

For Immediate Release:
August 19, 2008

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Citizens Bank Gives School Backpacks to Kids in Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

Bennington, Vt. — Citizens Bank staff and customers teamed with American Legion Bennington Post 13 to buy and fill 25 school backpacks for kids in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Citizens Bank Assistant Branch Manager Kim Madigan presented the backpacks on Tuesday.

“I know how supportive the Big Brothers Big Sisters program is with children in the community,” Madigan said. “I know the backpacks are going to children in the community who will benefit from the school supplies.”

Two children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, Alyssa Russell and Tyler Onorato, came to Citizens Bank to receive their backpacks at the presentation. They were excited about the backpacks if not so excited about going back to school.

Both children came with their mentors Kathleen Thunberg and Eugene Rowley to Citizens Bank for the presentation of the backpacks.

Several other mentors came to Citizens Bank to get backpacks for their littles, including Mary Morrissey, Amy Fela, and Joan Calicchia. Big Brothers Big Sisters coordinator Megan Brooks noted that more men are needed to be mentors, since there are many boys now waiting for mentors.

Men *and* women who are interested in mentoring can find out more by visiting the program’s web site at www.ucsvt.org/bbbs.php, or by calling Megan Brooks at 802-442-5491, x287.

“The American Legion was very generous in their support,” said Lara Saunders, an advanced teller at Citizens Bank who organized the effort. “American Legion members wanted to make sure the kids would be well prepared for school.”

Citizens Bank has 24 branches in Vermont, including branches in Bennington, Bondville, and Pawlet.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children with adult volunteers to build long-term, one-to-one relationships in Bennington County. This guidance is the single most important factor for helping children to increase achievement, academic effort, and future success. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bennington County is sponsored by United Counseling Service.

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