



News Release

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NuUnion Credit Union Brings Major New Economic Development To South Lansing Brownfield Site *Donates More Than 100 Items from Former Hotel to Local Non-Profits*

NuUnion Credit Union and community leaders gathered today to celebrate the organization's redevelopment of the former Regent Inn, a community eyesore and location for criminal activity for several years.

In preparation for the demolition of the hotel, which will begin immediately following final and formal approval from the State of Michigan, NuUnion donated more than 100 useable items including beds, dressers, lamps, mirrors, appliances, an HVAC unit, televisions, and even a couple of sinks to local non-profit organizations Volunteers of America, Haven House, and Capital Area Child and Family Services.

"Lansing has been very good to NuUnion," said NuUnion Credit Union President and CEO Stephan L. Winninger. "We've been in business in this city for 56 years and since that time NuUnion has grown to over 88,000 members. But we've never stopped calling Lansing home. Our main office is located right downtown on Capitol Ave and we have four other branches in the city alone. So we're very committed to Lansing and the people who live and work here, which was also why it was so important to us to donate the useable items from the former business to local charitable organizations."

"South Lansing has been especially good to NuUnion. Our members and the people of this community have helped to make our existing South Lansing branch one of our busiest, and it's because of their support and the support we've received from the City and Mayor Bernero and other local businesses, that we knew this project could be really great. But we also knew that we were taking on a very big initiative," Winninger said.

Redevelopment of the Regent Inn site is being made possible through the use of incentives through Michigan Brownfield Program. NuUnion has worked closely with the Lansing Economic Development Corporation throughout the planning process. Credit union officials noted that there are several issues with the Brownfield site that make redevelopment challenging, including demolition, underground contaminants, drainage rerouting and asbestos removal. The credit union is awaiting final approval from the State of Michigan.

"We don't want to jump the gun. This is, as well it should be, a thorough review of the project and what will work best for all parties involved. While we await final word, we're continuing to move forward on our end," said Winninger.

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Demolition will begin immediately upon the State's final approval and should continue through 2009. Construction of the new branch would then begin in 2010, with relocation slated for January 2011.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero and City Council approved the project's economic incentives in June. "This is a key project for our City, particularly for South Lansing," Mayor Bernero said. "With this redevelopment project, NuUnion is bringing new investment and a new vitality to our one of our most important commercial corridors. Without a doubt, NuUnion Credit Union is one of our most valuable community partners."

Local non-profit executives applauded NuUnion's contributions to the community. "NuUnion has been an important resource for our organization over the past couple of years," said Haven House Executive Director Angie Mayeaux. "They've come to us asking, 'could we do this for you,' and that doesn't happen all that often. It's usually the other way around. That's why this donation, all these useable items, is a gift for all the non-profits here. We can really use them to help our clients, and the best part is that the donation just sort of happened because of who NuUnion is at their core."

Patrick Patterson, Volunteers of America Vice President of Operations said, "We're glad we can take what's of use for us and house some of the rest for the other organizations. There's just been an all-around collaborative approach from all the organizations involved."

"This is really a windfall for our teens in Supervised Independent Living," says Child & Family Services' Executive Director Jim Paparella. "When a child ages out of foster care, it is our job to get them settled in an apartment, but there's absolutely no budget for providing furniture or any other household goods. Everything these kids get for their new 'homes' is through the generosity of others, and the people at NuUnion are a prime example of how generous our community can be. We are extremely grateful that NuUnion has included Child & Family Services and our kids in this wonderful donation."

In addition to the monetary support NuUnion contributes each year to local non-profit organizations, the credit union also provides financial literacy training in community schools and partners with non-profit organizations to provide free financial education seminars.

Lansing-based NuUnion was established in 1952, and today is 88,000 members strong. With over \$813 million in assets and 14 branches, including eight locations in the Lansing area, two in Mt. Pleasant, and four in west Michigan, NuUnion believes in providing total financial solutions to its members through a unique service experience. Membership is open to anyone in the NuUnion community.

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