CVS Health makes two food drive donations

CVS Health has stepped up to make generous monetary contributions to two food agencies as part of the 2017 Letter Carrier Food Drive.

In Clearwater, FL, CVS Health donated $10,000 to Religious Community Services Mission food pantry in the name of Clearwater Branch 2008 member Brian Mueller. Mueller was the food drive coordinator at the Cleveland Street station in Clearwater and was killed in a traffic crash while riding his motorcycle home after working on this year’s May 13 food drive. Brian’s wife and children, letter carriers from the Cleveland Street station and Postal Service managers were on hand for the special check presentation in August.

CVS Health donated another $10,000 to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. This donation was in recognition of the hard work of members of Reno, NV Branch 709 at the Philatelic Society’s Ameristamp Expo in Reno in March. The event highlighted the unveiling of the first-ever Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive stamp. Volunteer uniformed letter carriers and NALC retirees were on hand in Reno to promote the food drive and honor the food drive’s 25th anniversary.

Note: In a report on food drive results in the August Postal Record, we incorrectly reported the location of Branch 1692. The branch is in Columbus, MS, and its members collected 2,937 pounds of food this year, one of the branch’s best food drive results ever. PR

Union Plus awards scholarships to two NALC members’ children

Two children of NALC members have won scholarships from the AFL-CIO-sponsored Union Plus program. Alyssa Menko of Kulpmont, PA, whose father, David Menko, is a member of Harrisburg, PA Branch 500, was awarded a $750 scholarship. Union Plus awarded David Tegtmeyer of Las Vegas $1,000; his father, David Tegtmeyer, is a member of Las Vegas Branch 2502.

Menko will begin college this fall with a dual major in communications and English at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. While in high school, she earned 24 college credits through dual-enrollment classes at nearby Luzerne County Community College and Bloomsburg University. She is a National Honor Society member.

In 2013, Menko’s mother sustained permanent nerve damage due to complications from back surgery. “My mom’s condition has required ongoing assistance, which my father has been able to provide because of NALC’s strong backing of the Family Medical Leave Act,” she said. “It’s comforting to know that unions are still actively protecting, securing and uniting their members today.”

Tegtmeyer will begin college this fall as a chemical engineering major. He reached the top Boy Scout rank of Eagle Scout in 2014 and volunteered during each summer of high school as a lifeguard at a local scout camp. He is a National Honor Society member and recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award. Tegtmeyer’s grandparents were union members, and his mother, Kathleen, is a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

“Unions have provided for my family with a lifetime of employment and a means to support a family in an environment I proudly call home,” he said. “Unions provide stability to the community by producing a strong workforce with an unshakable work ethic.”

These scholarships were among the $150,000 in assistance that Union Plus awarded this year to 106 students representing 31 unions. Now in its 26th year, the scholarship program bases its awards on outstanding academic achievement, personal character, financial need and commitment to the values of organized labor. The program is offered through the Union Plus Education Foundation.

Union Plus has awarded more than $4.2 million in educational funding to more than 2,800 union members, spouses and dependent children. Union Plus Scholarship awards are granted to students attending a two-year college, a four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. The selection process is very competitive, and this year more than 5,100 applications were received from 65 unions. Visit unionplus.org/scholarship for applications.

In addition to the scholarship program, Union Plus provides a wide range of money-saving programs and services for union members and families. PR