

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 29, 2010

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**READING CO-OPERATIVE BANK EMPLOYEES BUILD CARE PACKAGES TO
SUPPORT THE TROOPS**

Reading, MA -Reading Co-operative Bank employees spent a rainy but fun day at Camp Curtis Guild building care packages that have been sent to the local soldiers of the 379th Engineer Company currently deployed to Iraq.

For its fourth annual teambuilding event, Reading Co-operative Bank employees spent the day giving back to a unit that won't see American soil again until December. The Bankers broke into 8 teams and had a friendly competition to "earn" the contents of the care packages. Each box was comprised of more than 35 care and comfort items such as deodorant, gum, itunes gift cards, magazines, soap, tissues, socks, pain relievers, wet wipes, popcorn, Visine eye drops, puzzle books, dental care items, toys, earplugs and much more.

At the conclusion of the day, members of the National Guard were asked to join the Bankers for dinner, offering a chance for everyone to learn a little more about their experiences overseas.

"Many troops are deployed from Camp Curtis Guild, our neighbor here in Reading," said Bank president & CEO Julieann Thurlow, "Reading Co-operative Bank and its employee's felt this was a great way of saying thank you to these brave men and women. Regardless of your opinion on the war; I think we can all agree that our soldiers need our support while in service to our country."

"Soldiers are sometimes forgotten and it is companies like yours that ensures that they are not," said Sergeant Major Paul Ronan. "We owe you and your company many thanks."

He went on to explain that sometimes the First Sergeant will hand out the packages to soldiers who have not received mail from home while other times they will open the packages and distribute the contents among the younger soldiers who may not have many personal items on the deployment.

Reading Co-operative Bank is a community bank, founded in 1886 on the principle that profit and growth go hand in hand with responsible banking and service to the community. Bauer Financial, Inc. has honored them with the Five-Star Award for Excellence for the 75th quarter running. Customer Service Specialists can be reached at 781.942.5000, readingcoop.com or by visiting one of the locations in Reading, North Reading, Wilmington, or Woburn.

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