



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Wednesday, November 23, 2016**
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Michigan Sugar Company employees raise more than \$25,000 for local United Way chapters

Matched by Michigan Sugar, employee contributions fund United Way effort to help local families

BAY CITY – **Michigan Sugar Company** today announced its employees raised more than \$12,000 for donation to local **United Way** chapters serving Bay, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties, and the contributions are being matched by Michigan Sugar to provide more than \$25,000 that will help area families this holiday season.

“Michigan Sugar Company is truly proud of the dedication to community shown by our employees across the growing region this holiday season, and with matching funds from our cooperative, we’re able to continue our strong partnership with United Way,” said **Ray VanDriessche**, community and government relations director for **Michigan Sugar**. “We value every community we serve, and it’s important during the holiday season to lend a hand to our friends and neighbors, working together with United Way.”

“This week’s donation by Michigan Sugar Company and its employees is a reminder of the positive impact the cooperative has for communities and families throughout our region,” said **Jeff Mayes**, board president of **United Way of Bay County**. “This donation will directly benefit families who need a helping hand to celebrate the holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of local contributors like Michigan Sugar and its employees, we are better equipped to serve our community, and we truly appreciate Michigan Sugar’s ongoing partnership with United Way.”

VanDriessche said the annual giving campaign allows all Michigan Sugar employees to make an optional contribution to United Way, either directly or by payroll deduction.

“United Way has a strong, positive impact on families’ lives throughout Michigan, and Michigan Sugar is committed to partnership with United Way and many other charities in our growing region. Our employees are proud to contribute to the impactful work that happens every day at United Way,” said **VanDriessche**.

In addition to this week’s matched employee contributions, **Michigan Sugar** announced in October a holiday sugar donation serving approximately 40 food pantries across Bay, Saginaw, Arenac, Midland and Tuscola Counties, coordinating the opportunity with United Way.

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