



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teddy Bears, Lunch, and a Whole Lot of Heart:

Community Bank & Trust Launches Feel-Good Movement to Lift Spirits Across LaGrange

LaGRANGE, GA – July 10th, 2025 – In a world often filled with tough headlines, one local bank is delivering something different—hope, hugs, and hot meals. This week, *Community Bank & Trust (CB&T)* launched its 2025 **Teddy Bear & Lunch Drive**, surprising six local organizations with hundreds of teddy bears and Chick-fil-A lunches as part of its ongoing **Customer and Community Appreciation Initiative**. As part of the initiative, the Community Bank & Trust team came together to personally assemble each teddy bear during a team-building exercise—transforming a day of collaboration into a heartfelt act of service. The effort was a reflection of CB&T's culture of unity, compassion, and community-first values.

From children in crisis to elderly residents and exhausted frontline workers, CB&T's mission was simple: comfort those who give the most but often receive the least recognition.

"We believe small acts of kindness can spark real change," said **Bill Stump**, Director of Community Banking at Community Bank & Trust. "Whether it's a child facing a hospital stay or a nurse ending a long shift—everyone deserves to feel seen and supported."

Highlights of the initiative include:

- **Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center** – Teddy bears were delivered to pediatric patients to provide comfort and reassurance during hospital stays.
- **Harmony House Domestic Violence Shelter** – Women and children seeking safety received teddy bears to offer emotional support and a sense of hope during times of transition.
- **Poplar Creek Senior Care** – Seniors were surprised with teddy bears and lunch, bringing smiles and reminding them they are valued members of the community.
- **LaGrange-Troup County Homeless Coalition (Branches of Hope Center)** – Individuals and families experiencing homelessness were given warm meals and teddy bears as a gesture of compassion and dignity.
- **CASA of Troup County** – Children in the foster care system were gifted teddy bears to provide comfort and a sense of stability in challenging circumstances.
- **Twin Cedars Youth & Family Services** – At-risk youth received teddy bears as a reminder that they are seen, supported, and not alone.



The entire effort was made possible by CB&T's volunteer team of employees, spouses, and board members—proof that giving back isn't just part of the bank's mission, it's part of its identity.

About Community Bank & Trust:

For over a century, *Community Bank & Trust* has served Georgia's families, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits with pride. As the region's only locally owned bank, CB&T is more than a financial institution—it's a trusted neighbor committed to building stronger communities through personal service and grassroots support.

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