

## Press Release:



### For Immediate Release

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## Birchwood Credit Services Delivers for Operation Gratitude

*Birchwood makes philanthropy focus of NEMBC booth and donates \$5000 to charity*

[Birchwood Credit Services](#) of North Conway, NH is pleased to congratulate Phil Tocci of Academy Mortgage on winning the Birchwood Credit Services' charitable raffle at the New England Mortgage Bankers Conference ([NEMBC](#)) hosted by the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association ([MMBA](#)). As part of their support for the *NEMBC Gives Back* program, the Birchwood team is delighted to have been able to make a \$2,500 donation to this year's charity—[Operation Gratitude](#)—on Mr. Tocci's behalf. A worthy organization, Operation Gratitude sends more than 200,000 individually addressed care packages annually, helping lift the spirits of U.S. Military personnel, first responders, and others who serve the country. Birchwood also made a second, matching donation, bringing the grand total for the charitable contribution to \$5,000.

The NEMBC Gives Back program was launched two years ago, and immediately became a thematic focus of the conference for the Birchwood team. Each year, the Birchwood booth highlights Operation Gratitude, offering not only the raffle, but also a couple hundred Beannie Babies® plush toys, which the Birchwood team asks booth visitors "deploy" to the neighboring Operation Gratitude booth. The Beannie Babies have long been a staple of the Operation Gratitude care packages. Service men and women stationed around the world and first responders across America often send photos of themselves posing with their Beannie Babies back to Operation Gratitude with words of thanks and stories about how much the care packages and plush mascots brighten their days.

Kathleen Brady, Operation Manager at Birchwood, has a son currently serving in the United States Air Force. “Being a mom is a choice,” she says. “Being an Air Force mom is a privilege and an honor.” Commenting on Birchwood’s support of Operation Gratitude, she adds, “The level of enthusiasm throughout our staff has been inspiring, especially for me because this organization’s efforts hit close to home. It’s so rewarding working with a group of people who are truly passionate about supporting our men and women in uniform.”

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#### About NEMBC and MMBA

The New England Mortgage Bankers Conference (NEMBC) is the largest mortgage banking conference in New England. It is hosted by the Massachusetts Mortgage Bankers Association (MMBA), which was founded in 1976, the largest mortgage association in New England. The MMBA serves its members by supplying information, providing representation, serving as a trusted commentator on public policy, providing and supporting educational training, and advocating for the highest ethical standards and networking opportunities.

#### About Operation Gratitude

Operation Gratitude is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer-based corporation, funded entirely by private donations. Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped more than 1,600,000 care packages to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of the Military and First Responder communities.

#### About Birchwood Credit Services

Founded in 1992, Birchwood Credit Services, Inc., is a nationwide Credit Reporting Agency that has been providing financial credit services to mortgage lenders and mortgage brokers, including accurate mortgage online credit reports, tax return verifications, flood reports, collateral and property reports, credit re-scoring, and other related services, for over twenty five years.