



Winter 2009

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the official newsletter of Minnesota Family Involvement Council

Gear up for the 2009 FIC Silent Auction

The new year has started, which means it's again time to start thinking about the Minnesota Family Involvement Council's annual Silent Auction fundraiser. This year's Silent Auction will be held during the MnCUN Annual Meeting which will take place from April 18-19 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington.

In an effort to increase the money raised at this annual event, the FIC is seeking cash or item donations for the 2009 Silent Auction. Starting this year, all the monies donated to the Silent Auction will be deposited directly into the scholarship fund. This is a change from previous years when the FIC would use the donated money to buy items for the Silent Auction. While this system worked for many years, the committee has decided that it is more efficient to use the money to directly fund scholarships for members.

All the proceeds from the FIC's Silent Auction are used to provide scholarships to credit union members in Minnesota who are pursuing higher education. Each year scholarship applicants are asked to submit an essay on a credit union-related issue. The information

gleaned from applicants' essays is distributed to credit unions in order to provide them insight into their programs and services.

The total amount of scholarship money awarded to credit union members directly correlates to the amount raised at the FIC's Silent Auction. In 2008, the Silent Auction raised \$11,500, allowing the FIC to award that amount in scholarships in 2009. For April's Silent Auction, the goal is to raise the same amount, or more. We hope you will help us make our goal a reality!

The success of each year's FIC Silent Auction is a group effort. It is only through the combined efforts of every one that the committee is able to raise record funds for scholarships. Success at the Silent Auction requires not only donations from credit unions but also bids on items at the Silent Auction. MnCUN Annual Meeting attendees are encouraged to bid high and bid often.

Members of the FIC will be contacting credit unions in the coming months with detailed information about the Silent Auction. Watch for your letter coming soon!

Check out this Educational Opportunity

CUNA's Model Youth Program Guide is a great resource to enhance youth initiatives at your credit union. This collective guide provides best practices on planning logistics and budgeting youth programs, financial literacy strategies, and more! Downloadable pdf files are available at www.cuna.org for \$129. Or you may purchase a hardcopy for \$99.



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FIC adopts new Mission Statement

During the FIC's planning session meeting on Nov. 18, the committee refined its mission statement to more accurately reflect what it wants to do and who it desires to serve. The new mission statement is:

The Minnesota Family Involvement Council will enhance the future of the credit union movement by supporting Minnesota credit union's efforts to provide financial education and encourage full-family involvement.

Free Services

- ❖ **Classroom Reporting** – Is YOUR credit union involved in financial education? Report it! For a step-by-step brochure on reporting, visit www.mnfc.org and click on the “presentations” button.
- ❖ **MNFIC web site** – Check us out online at www.mnfc.org. It’s your source for educational information on financial literacy.

FIC Adds New Volunteers



The Family Involvement Council (FIC) recently accepted service applications for two volunteers. The committee is now at its capacity with 12 individuals from a variety of Minnesota credit unions.

Shannon Garrity is the Marketing Coordinator for Postal Credit Union. Shannon is in her eighth year with her credit union and brings to the FIC her experience in working with youth. She is an advocate for youth involvement and takes a special interest in the role of credit unions serving this important segment of society.

Mark Hodowanic is the Market Manager for TopLine Federal Credit Union. Mark has 15 years

of banking experience. He also is very involved in and has a variety of experiences in community organizations. Mark says that he has a passion for the credit union industry, the communities that credit unions serve, and enhancing financial literacy awareness.

The FIC is excited to be working with a full committee. While it is important there is representation from all areas of Minnesota, it is understood it is not always viable. Therefore, if your area is not represented and you have feedback or suggestions, please contact LeAnn Achtenberg at (763) 253-2728 or leann.achtenberg@ahcu.coop at any time.

www.mnfc.org



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FIC Scholarship Deadline

All applicants must submit their FIC scholarship applications by February 1, 2009.

FIC Plans for 2009 and Beyond

The beginning of every year brings excitement and passion to release the former and face challenges anew to better ourselves, our families and our communities. During its recent planning session, the Family Involvement Council set out to evaluate the successes of 2008, determine direction for 2009.

One of the main accomplishments of the planning session was the rewrite of the FIC’s mission statement. The new mission statement encapsulating the essence of the Family Involvement Council’s pledge to you and your credit unions in Minnesota:

The Minnesota Family Involvement Council will enhance the future of the credit union movement by supporting

Minnesota credit unions’ efforts to provide financial education programs and encourage full-family involvement.

Additionally, the committee created measurable and action-oriented goals to drive the committee forward. The updated goals outline our commitment to you and your credit union including: maintaining the scholarship program, enhancing the FIC web site (www.mnfc.org), further developing financial education resources, and establishing criteria to develop community partnerships.

2009 is off to a great start, and the FIC is excited for you and your credit union to join it in its mission of financial education and the support of full-family involvement!

United Educators Credit Union offers schools Financial Literacy Grants



Pictured above: Eagan HS educators: (left) Nick Johnson, Work Experience Teacher; (center) Polly Reikowski, Principal; and (right) Patricia Keech, Work Experience Teacher with \$250.00 grant from United Educators Credit Union.

In 2008, United Educators Credit Union started a program to offer financial education grants to teachers, departments or schools. Announced in April in honor of Financial Literacy Month, the \$250 grants were intended to support the instruction of content related to budgeting, credit, money management, economics, saving and investing and more.

The program was communicated statewide through press releases to various educator associations, the credit union’s network of school ambassadors, newsletter articles and web site. In August 2008, United Educators Credit Union awarded grants to two high schools. Eagan High School received a grant for their Work Experience Students’ Financial Document filing system, and Sobriety High School received a grant for a one quarter, online course - "A Crash Course in Cash".

The grant program was one of the many ways United Educators Credit Union supports the teaching of financial education in the communities it serves.