

Positive Perspectives

DECEMBER 2021

News + Events To Enhance Your Financial Life

A Note From our CEO

Dear Marine Credit Union Members,

May this message find you well this holiday season. We are here to advance the lives of our members, from a place of financial need to a life of ownership and giving back in our communities. Here at Marine Credit Union, we are wrapping up a great year of impact: in the lives of our members, employees, communities and financially.

Members: This summer we were excited to safely welcome members back into our lobbies, which had been closed since March 2020 due to the pandemic. In June we launched CoverIt, a subscription-based program allowing members to dip into a grace zone without being penalized per item overdraft fees. This fall we upgraded our Marine Mobile app to provide you a better, faster, easier experience to do your digital banking. Our Marine Credit Union Foundation also expanded Finding HOME, our free financial literacy program that you can read more about in this issue.

Employees: We are committed to making Marine a great place to work, rooted in our mission and values. On April 15, MCU Foundation Senior Financial Literacy Counselor Majel Hein received Governor Tony Evers' Financial Literacy Legacy Award, a lifetime recognition for her efforts helping Wisconsinites build financial capability skills. Majel was also appointed Chair of the Governor's Committee on Financial Inclusion this year. In June, Milwaukee-area mortgage lender Robertta Masoud was featured on a nationwide webinar discussing our commitment to ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) lending. Our search is also coming together for our next Chief Executive Officer.

Communities: This year the MCU Foundation surpassed the \$1 million mark in donations given out to charitable causes. By the time this publication is in your hands, nearly \$1.5 million will have been distributed in our communities since 2014. We have enjoyed getting back out in our communities safely to serve not only your financial needs, but to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. In 2021, our employees volunteered countless hours in communities across our footprint, from building 30+ beds for children with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to school supply drives and Halloween trunk-or-treats. In Platteville, our team was also recognized with the Platteville Regional Chamber's award for 50 consecutive years of membership and giving.

We continue to grow despite challenges, because of your loyalty and our deep commitment to our mission and values. Marine Credit Union now sits at over \$1 billion in assets and over 78,000 members. We believe every member of the community can achieve the goal of financial ownership and giving back. We're all at different points on our financial journey, but we can all help each other get to the next step.

Thank you for continuing your life's journey with Marine Credit Union. May you and your families enjoy happy, safe holidays.

Tom Knothe, Interim CEO
Marine Credit Union



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2022 Scholarships

Are you or someone in your family attending college next year?

Marine Credit Union is offering eight \$1,000 scholarships that will be awarded to deserving, hardworking students graduating from high school with the class of 2022 or are continuing their collegiate studies.

To be eligible, the applicant must be an MCU member or the child of an MCU member, and must plan to enroll for the next academic year as a full-time student. The scholarships are sent directly to each student's respective school and can be used for tuition, fees or other educational expenses.

Talk to your local community branch team member, or visit marinecu.com/scholarships for scholarship details.



Finding HOME Program Expands Footprint

Marine Credit Union Foundation believes a community thrives when all members experience opportunities for growth and stability. People with financial challenges need critical resources, tailored advice, and encouragement to build a better future.

To this end, the MCU Foundation created Finding HOME, a 12-18-month financial education program designed to help credit-challenged individuals and families become homeowners. The program consists of one-on-one financial coaching, educational courses, and resource navigation assistance. As a result of changed spending and borrowing habits, participants increase credit scores, reduce debt, and build robust savings accounts. Graduates of the program are guaranteed access to a market-rate mortgage that fits their budget.

Since program inception in 2018, Finding HOME has helped over 200 credit-challenged households in the La Crosse, WI area build an individualized roadmap to homeownership. To date, in addition to becoming homeowners, graduates have saved an average of \$11,000; paid off 35% of overall debt; and raised their credit scores 160 points per household.

Finding HOME has now expanded its reach to residents in the Fond du Lac and Sheboygan areas.

Interested Individuals, families, or households should contact Lisa Anne Musch at 608.737.1662 or Finding.HOME@MarineCU.com to schedule an appointment.



FINDING HOME

HOPE • OPPORTUNITY • MASTERY • EMPOWERMENT

Finding HOME by the Numbers

(since May 2018)



223 families have been given an individualized roadmap to homeownership.



70% of those families were connected to homeownership opportunities in their first appointment.



On average, graduate families have increased their credit scores by more than 160 points; paid off 35% of their overall debt; and saved over \$11,000.

Save the Date | Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 2022



Marine Credit Union Members are cordially invited to join us for an opportunity to learn more about the credit union and share their comments or suggestions.

Our 2022 Annual Membership Meeting will again be virtual via webcast. Look for more details and a link to the event in your March statement or via our website at marinecu.com.

Donate Today



YES! I want to make a positive impact on my community with a donation of:

- \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other Amount: \$ _____

Payment Options:

Charge my Debit/Credit Card:

Name _____ Card Number _____ CVC _____ Expiration Date _____
Phone _____ E-mail Address _____ Billing Address _____

Online Donation: Donate through Venmo @MCUFoundation or online at MarineCU.com/Donate

Check payable to MCU Foundation:

Please mail this form to Marine Credit Union Foundation, 811 Monitor Street, La Crosse, WI 54603.

A donation receipt will be delivered to you via e-mail or mail. The MCU Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 corporation. Please consult with your tax advisor for federal income tax deductions.