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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KENT CREDIT UNION RECEIVES STATE HONOR FOR “HATS OFF TO HATTIE” FUNDRAISER**

Kent, Ohio – (May 29, 2009)

Kent Credit Union has been awarded *The 2009 Dora Maxwell Award* by the Ohio Credit Union League, the state trade association for Ohio credit unions. As part of the Ohio Credit Union League’s 2009 Leadership Recognition Program, this prestigious honor promotes social responsibility among credit unions by formally recognizing their community involvement efforts and achievements. Kathy Hammond, Vice President of Business Development, accepted the award at a grand assembly held during the recent annual state convention in Cleveland.

*The Dora Maxwell Award* is presented in honor of credit union legend Dora Maxwell and acknowledges her devotion to the credit union movement. Maxwell was elected to the first board of directors of the New York State Credit Union League. She served as treasurer of the New York Consumer’s Cooperative Credit Union in the early 1920’s and on the Credit Union National Association’s field staff. During a five-month period, she organized 120 credit unions.

Hammond’s project for this state-wide recognition was *“Hats Off to Hattie”*, a fundraising event to benefit Hattie Larlham, a non-profit organization that serves Portage County and surrounding communities by caring for those affected by mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD).

This annual event, organized by merchants of the Liberty Corners Plaza where Kent Credit Union's Streetsboro office is located, originated in 2007 from a mutual desire by the Liberty Corners merchants to give back to the community by assisting a local charitable organization, and at the same time, to draw awareness to their businesses. The family-oriented "**Hats Off to Hattie**" featured many attractions and entertainment for all ages and raised \$4,700.00 for the Hattie Larlham organization in 2008.

Hammond served as the merchant committee's corporate sponsor chairperson and was instrumental in the organization of the fundraiser. Hammond stated, "It was a privilege to accept this honor on behalf of Kent Credit Union and to be recognized for our involvement in a project that benefited Hattie Larlham, an outstanding organization that does so much for our community. I share this honor with other Kent Credit Union staff and participating merchants of Liberty Corners Plaza also involved in this project. It proves that great things can be accomplished by a few when their desires, efforts, and hearts are in harmony."

The third annual "**Hats Off to Hattie**" fundraiser is currently underway and is scheduled for Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hattie Larlham representatives Helen Herold and Nancy Farinacci have attended planning meetings and have been involved with promoting the event at Hattie Larlham. Herold, Development Associate, commented, "We at Hattie Larlham value the community support demonstrated by Kent Credit Union and the merchants of Liberty Corners Plaza. Their hard work and dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities truly stands out during their wonderful event, **"Hats Off to Hattie."**

For more information regarding "Hats Off to Hattie" log on to [www.kentcu.com](http://www.kentcu.com) or send email to [khammond@kentcu.com](mailto:khammond@kentcu.com).

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*Kent Credit Union, with branches in Kent, Ravenna, and Streetsboro, Ohio, has \$37 million in assets and 6,400 members. Anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in Portage County, Ohio, is eligible for membership. Kent Credit Union is a not-for-profit cooperative financial institution.*

**Attachment: Photo**

Hammond shares Kent Credit Union's award with Liberty Corners merchants at an organizational meeting for this year's charity drive. Back Row L to R: Steve Schwartz (Honey Baked Ham & Café), Debi Wischmeier (Transitions Hair Salon), and Pat McCoy (24/7 Snap Fitness). Front Row L to R: Danielle Urbon (Arabica Coffee), Kathy Hammond (Kent Credit Union), and Helen Herold (Hattie Larlham).