



Kent Credit Union
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CommonBond

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF KENT CREDIT UNION

SUMMER 2009



Kent Credit Union staff and volunteers working at the auction booth for Hats Off To Hattie included Linda Hospodor, Tig Lyons, Jodi Crawfis, Joe Crawfis, Tara Castro, Steve Hammond, and Stephanie Grippe.

Hats Off to Hattie raises more than \$8,000 for disabled kids & adults

Kent Credit Union staff, volunteers and members helped other local businesses raise more than \$8,000 for mentally disabled kids and adults at the *Hats Off to Hattie* event on June 6. The funds raised surpassed last year's event, which raised \$4,700.

The event supports Hattie Larlham, a non-profit organization that provides care to children and adults with developmental disabilities in our local communities.

Kent Credit Union joined other merchants in the Liberty Corners Plaza in Streetsboro to plan a day of fun and fundraising for a great cause. Streetsboro Acting Mayor Art Scott kicked off the day with opening comments, followed by Darryl Mast, the Executive Director of Hattie Larlham, and Board Member Bruce Felber and Executive Director Meghan Urbon from the Streetsboro Chamber of Commerce. Kent Credit Union conducted a Chinese auction that featured a jersey and basketball autographed by Cleveland Cavaliers players, a Coach purse, a child's Mercedes-Benz car, and dozens of gift certificates and gift baskets donated by local businesses and individuals.

Local bands The Boardwines and



Friends and the Home Wreckers kept the crowd happy, and Lisa's School of Dance performed. Derrick Polk of the Harlem Globetrotters signed autographs and entertained with basketball tricks. The Streetsboro Police Department stopped by with its D.A.R.E. car and new K-9 dog, Bo. The Streetsboro Fire Dept. brought its popular Fire Safety House and a Fire Engine.

Kent Credit Union also hosted a Blood Drive in our Streetsboro office and received 21 donors throughout the day.

Hattie Larlham's Director of Events Nancy Farinacci thanked the organizing committee, which included representatives from Kent Credit Union. "I've never seen such a level of energy from a committee!" Farinacci said. "Our organization is so fortunate to have them involved."

Many thanks to everyone who participated and attended *Hats Off to Hattie*! Please join us next year for this fun community event!

6 Simple Ways To Boost Your Credit Score

By President/CEO Joe Crawfis

Having a high credit score can save you thousands of dollars in interest expense compared to having a lower score. To improve your credit score, follow these guidelines:

- 1. Always pay your bills on time.** Payment history represents 35% of your credit score.
 - 2. Don't close the oldest account you've paid off.** A positive factor for your score is how much available credit you have compared to your credit balance. Also, 15% of your credit score is based on the length of your credit history — that includes the age of your oldest account and the average of all your accounts.
 - 3. Don't apply for credit too frequently.** Applying for credit too often will decrease your credit score because this is a characteristic of high credit risk groups.
 - 4. Keep balances low.** If you max out your cards, it affects your credit score negatively. The more debt you pay off, the better your score. A good rule of thumb is to keep your credit card balances below 25% of your credit limits.
 - 5. Closely review your credit report.** Contact the credit reporting agencies immediately to fix any errors.
 - 6. Get your free annual credit reports.** You can get a free report online from each of the credit reporting agencies annually at www.annualcreditreport.com. I recommend staggering the requests, asking for a report from one of the three agencies every four months. This will allow you to keep a close watch on your credit throughout the entire year. Find a link for free reports at www.kentcu.com.
- It pays to increase your credit score.** It also takes discipline and dedication. But it's worth it when you reach a good credit standing that allows you to qualify for loans, lower interest rates, and more. Please feel free to contact a Kent Credit Union loan officer with any questions about your credit score.



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Each individual account is insured for up to \$500,000 by the National Credit Union Administration and Excess Share Insurance.



Kent CU wins state award for 'Hattie' event

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. During the Great Depression and the years after, Maxwell organized 120 cooperative credit unions to help working people save money and gain access to low-cost credit.

Hammond's project for this state-wide recognition was "Hats Off to Hattie." The fundraiser allows Liberty Corners merchants to give back to the community by assisting a local charitable organization that provides services to mentally retarded and developmentally handicapped residents of Portage County.

Hammond served as the merchant committee's corporate sponsor chairperson and was instrumental in the organization of

the fundraiser. "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 benefits Hattie Larlham, an outstanding organization that does so much for our community," Hammond said after accepting the award. "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."



Kathy Hammond, Vice President of Business Development, accepts the Dora Maxwell Award for Social Responsibility.

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Online services are available to you on our Website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just log in and you can pay bills, transfer funds, check your balances, and apply for auto loans, home equity lines of credit, and mortgages from home, work or your favorite coffee shop.

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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

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