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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Credit Unions Open 100th Location in Statewide Shared Branching Network

Added convenience offers members access to locations throughout state, thousands nationwide

ATLANTA (July 28, 2009) – Credit unions in Georgia have banded together to offer the state’s growing number of credit union members further convenience through a shared branching network that now boasts 100 locations statewide. The Woodstock branch of LGE Community Credit Union has officially become the 100th location in Georgia to join the network, which allows members of affiliated credit unions to conduct various transactions at all participating shared branch locations.

“Other financial institutions may be closing their doors and providing fewer locations, but Georgia credit unions are linking together to provide an extensive network of shared services,” said Mike Mercer, CEO of Georgia Credit Union Affiliates (GCUA). “Joining a credit union is now easier than ever, and the shared branching system now puts credit unions in the top tier of financial services providers in convenience and accessibility for members.”

Members of credit unions already participating in shared branching automatically have access to all shared branches, and reap the benefits and convenience of visiting any of the 100 shared branch locations across the state and more than 3,700 nationwide. This ranks credit unions in Georgia along with large banks for convenience based on number of locations available for members to conduct their transactions.

With shared branching, credit unions are linked together to allow members to perform transactions just as if they were in their home credit union. Whether at work, home, away at school or at a travel destination, members can find a shared branch location to conduct a range of transactions, such as:

- Making deposits and withdrawals
- Submitting loan payments
- Transferring funds between accounts
- Purchasing money orders, travelers checks and official checks where offered
- Using surcharge-free ATMs at participating locations.

As the shared branching network continues to expand, Georgians will have even more locations to conduct their personal and business transactions. Members can identify shared branching locations through a swirl symbol posted at participating credit unions, which can also be found through a link available at www.georgiacreditunions.org. Credit unions also provide convenience through a network of surcharge-free ATMs, debit cards and online banking services.

Joining a credit union has never been easier for Georgians. Membership is open to individuals who are associated through employer, organization, community or other affiliation. Many credit unions now open their membership to the broader local communities where they operate. To quickly find a local credit union or for more information, consumers can go to www.georgiacreditunions.org.

The convenience of shared branching networks is one of many benefits associated with credit union membership. Because credit unions are member-owned and not driven by profit or shareholder return, they are typically able to offer lower interest rates on loans, lower fees on services and higher rates on savings. In addition, credit unions are a safe place to save money: Georgia credit unions are well capitalized and have double the regulatory requirements for capitalization.

About Georgia Credit Union Affiliates

Georgia Credit Union Affiliates (GCUA) provides services and support that help credit unions meet the financial services needs of the state's more than 1.8 million credit union members. GCUA offers advocacy, educational, operational and marketing support for Georgia's more than 170 credit unions, which in 2009 have combined total assets of almost \$14 billion. More information can be found at www.georgiacreditunions.org.

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