

Foundation Helps Georgia CU Employees with D i s a s t e r R e c o v e r y

In May of this year, a devastating tornado hit middle Georgia. According to news reports, the tornado was the worst to hit the area in 50 years, leaving some without water and power for days.

Many within the credit union family were affected by the tragedy. To help these staff and their families get back on their feet following the devastation, the Georgia Credit Union Foundation approved four grants totaling \$7,500 for employees at three Georgia credit unions—CGR Credit Union, Georgia Guard Credit Union and Robins Federal Credit Union.

"We were happy to be able to help Georgia credit union employees at such a critical time," says Dan Denning, executive director of the Foundation. "It is in times like these that we are thankful for the ongoing contributions of credit unions across Georgia."

One of the grant recipients was Patricia Hendrix, an employee at CGR Credit Union in Macon, whose home sustained a sizeable amount of damage. As a result of the damage to their home, Hendrix and her husband were forced to stay in a motel for five days after the tornado. Upon being notified of the grant, Hendrix said, "I actually cried. I really needed the help financially and the support of others. I appreciate everything the Foundation did."

She said the credit union has been very supportive and understanding of her situation. "The managers all understood what I was going through and let me leave when I had to. I was

initially out for five days and since then I have had to go home often for home repairs. Everyone has been so wonderful and understanding."

Kim Elkins, a training manager at Robins FCU in Warner Robins, also received much needed help from the Foundation after the tornado. She and her family lived through what she describes as one of the most frightening experiences she has ever had. "It sounded like the house was going to come apart," she says of the moments when she, her husband and 12-year-old daughter piled atop each other in a closet in their home as the storm passed through their neighborhood near Macon State College. The aftermath was breathtaking, according to Elkins.

"Our neighborhood was destroyed. We had some water damage to our home, no power for five days, rafter and decking damage, and major damage to our roof. Things are still not completely repaired," she explains.

But the support she and her family received from her supervisors and co-workers at Robins FCU and from the Foundation was exceptional. The grant Elkins received from the Foundation helped cover the insurance deductible so repairs could be made on her home. "Before receiving the grant, I knew that the Foundation existed, but I didn't know what they did," she said. To those who contributed to the Foundation and helped her move on after the storm, Elkins says, "You will never, ever know, and there will never be words to express how much this has meant to us."



Aftermath of the storm at Elkins home in Warner Robins.

CU360

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Oftentimes, credit union leaders wish they had a quick reference guide with answers to everyday questions. With access to CU360, those answers are available with the click of a mouse.

In March, the Foundation made CU360 available free of charge to credit unions under \$35 million in assets. Since then, 72 users from 44 credit unions in Georgia have signed up for the service. This online research and advice resource combines market insight and leadership expertise with interactive benchmarking and analytical tools. Credit unions that aren't using it are missing out on a wealth of information.

"CU360 has been a great resource for Richmond Community Federal Credit Union in Augusta. I use it for information on operational issues, industry analysis and best practices advice," says Cindy Bonner, director of operations at Richmond Community FCU. "We also use CU360 as a human resource tool. I especially enjoy the Hot Topics section and the Most Viewed section, which

gives me insight into what our peers are concerned about, and what they are making plans for. Our entire management team uses CU360 on a routine basis. What a great way to network! It's great to have a Web site that offers so much information relative to credit unions."

From best practices and research reports to articles, rates and online analysis, CU360 covers a wealth of practical information for credit union leaders. "I really enjoy reading the CU360 Newsletter," says Evette Evans, manager at RICH-SEAPAK Federal Credit Union in Brunswick. "I look forward to reading the week's articles, as they are informative with current and relevant topics. CU360 is a powerful resource for information delivered conveniently by e-mail, and at no additional cost."

Credit unions under \$35 million in assets that are interested in signing up for CU360 should contact Dan Denning at GCUA: dand@gcu.org or (770) 476-9625.

GCUF Helps With Iowa Disaster Recovery

In May and June, Iowa received a deluge of flood waters that destroyed crops, businesses, homes, even neighborhoods and entire towns. In response to the devastating flooding, Georgia credit unions have answered the call from the Georgia Credit Union Foundation and contributed funds for the disaster recovery efforts conducted by the Iowa Credit Union Foundation. To date, the Georgia credit union community has contributed over \$34,000, including a \$5,000 contribution from the Georgia Credit Union Foundation. This is yet another example of the cooperative spirit of credit unions as they continue to exemplify the "People Helping People" philosophy.

Upon hearing of the contributions of GCUF, Patrick Jury, CEO of the Iowa League had this to say: "I've heard the good folks of Georgia have made some serious contributions to lowans impacted by the flooding. I doubt I could ever thank you enough for this generosity. We'll make sure the money is put in the hands of the credit union members who need it most – the folks we are working with have lost most everything. Please extend my thanks to others who have worked to help improve the lives of our members."

