

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Georgia Federal Credit Union Makes Donation To The Ark Assistance Program



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(l. to r.) Lisa Thurmond, GFCU Regional Manager; Laura MacArthur, Director of the ARK; Tom Cochran, GFCU and ARK Board member. GFCU presented The ARK with a donation this month.

Athens, GA – Georgia Federal Credit Union (GFCU), is pleased to announce a significant donation to one of Athens financial assistance organizations, The Ark: United Ministry Outreach Center. The ARK is a 501(c)(3) organization that has provided emergency financial assistance to citizens of the Athens-Clarke and surrounding counties for 20 years. Over that period, The Ark has given approximately \$700,000 to almost 22,000 individuals.

Originally founded by a coalition of Athens religious groups, The Ark now draws about half of its income from local congregations. The rest of its funding comes from individuals and organizations like Georgia Federal Credit Union.

To qualify for assistance, clients – called *neighbors* – must have a verifiable loss of income through no fault of their own or an unexpected necessary expense. Assistance is provided to qualified individuals without reference to religious affiliation, race, gender or any consideration, other than need.

Georgia Federal Credit Union's donation was applied directly to The Ark's Jubilee Fund, which offers small, short-term interest-free loans to neighbors who meet The Ark's guidelines. Those who repay successfully will receive a portion of the loan in an account opened in their name at GFCU. The Jubilee Fund program is administered by Ark volunteers recruited and trained specifically for this purpose.

About Georgia Federal Credit Union

Georgia Federal Credit Union is ranked as one of the top credit unions in Georgia with over \$570 million in assets and 14 branch locations. Their mission is to provide value-priced financial services to members in the communities they serve. Georgia Federal Credit Union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF).

GFCU has a community charter in Athens-Clarke county, where they also serve faculty, staff, students and alumni of the University of Georgia.

For information about Georgia Federal Credit Union, visit their Web site at gfcuonline.org.