

Press Release

October 15th INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

Today we celebrate the credit union difference and we recognize the contributions that credit unions make every day in the lives of their members and their communities worldwide.

Beginning in 1948, credit unions have come together annually on the third Thursday in October to commemorate the credit union movement's history and achievements. This year, a global credit union committee chose the theme "Local Service. Global Good.™," to anchor the celebration.

"Local Service. Global Good.™" emphasizes credit unions' positive impact in their communities and around the world to better serve their members. It also champions the credit union model by shining light on the industry's support of the common bond at the local, national and international levels.

The community commitment and positive economic and social change are just some of the ways that credit unions differ from traditional for-profit banks and financial institutions. Credit unions are very different, indeed, both in philosophy and structure. For more than 150 years, credit unions worldwide have proudly collaborated to put people before profits in order to provide access to affordable financial services for all members. Credit unions invest their earnings in helping members meet their financial goals. In addition to lower loan rates and better service, members experience the difference that comes through our democratic structure, service to members and social goals that credit unions embody.

The Association of Credit Unions in the Netherlands is just one of more than 57,000 credit union associations in the world serving 208 million members. Today we join our fellow credit union members in 103 countries to celebrate! Whether our members are rich or poor, from villages or cities, in communities at peace or in conflict, entrepreneurs or private individuals, credit unions are helping them to create new opportunities every day. With access to a safe, convenient place to save their money and secure affordable loans, members from all walks of life are able to create new opportunities for themselves, including starting micro-businesses, building homes and educating their children.

The Association of Credit Unions in the Netherlands (ACUN) opened its doors in 2014 with the vision to serve SME entrepreneurs through its members. Since then, our goal has always been the same: to meet the financial needs of small and medium sized entrepreneurs and to provide our members with opportunities that enable entrepreneurs to succeed. With the support of our members, ACUN has now grown to 17 members, 352 entrepreneurs and to € 2,5 million in combined loans. We hope to continue growing with our community In the spirit of International Credit Union Day, let us look beyond our local community to recognize credit unions for the important role they play in many distressed urban and rural areas worldwide.

No matter where you are in the world, access to financial services is vital. Rich or poor, we all face similar challenges in life. Together, credit unions are helping members overcome those challenges — not only here in the Netherlands, but throughout the world. Credit unions have consistently carried on the traditions set forth by their founders and exemplified the values of common bond, thrift, self-sufficiency and volunteer leadership democratically elected from among the members. Those qualities help credit unions create a special place for themselves among the world's financial institutions.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate International Credit Union Day! One member at a time for ACUN, and for our members as well, we are working to build a stronger community and we look forward to serving you and your enterprise for years to come!

For further information:

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