

# The Connection

## Letter From The President/CEO

Welcome to the midpoint of 2023! It's finally warm, and I hope Community 1st will be your 1st stop for all your summer plans. At a cooperative like C1st, you're not just a member. You're an owner. Our door is open for you! We're here to help you achieve success, and we want to be the best possible financial partner.

One of our goals in 2023 is to help our members save. We're ready to help you choose the right savings account or program to improve your financial health. We have some simple tips that could help you jump start your savings this year.

- ▶ **Avoid fees and earn more by choosing deposit accounts that fit your income and lifestyle.** For example, if you are 55+ and still in the same savings account you've had for years, check out ClubGO savings. You might be able to earn more and pay less!
- ▶ **Did you know you can set up regular, automatic transfers into your savings accounts?** Automating your savings makes reaching your saving goals so much easier. Think C1st Saver and Change Counts!
  - ⇒ Open a C1st Rewards Checking Account and auto-transfer monthly savings into a C1st Saver.
  - ⇒ With Change Counts, when you make purchases with your C1st Visa debit card, we round up the purchase to the next whole dollar amount and deposit the change into a C1st savings account of your choice.
- ▶ **Consolidate high-interest credit card debt into one low, monthly payment.** We have two great options:
  - ⇒ An unsecured personal loan offers a fixed rate loan with fixed monthly payments.
  - ⇒ With a home equity line of credit, use your home's equity to consolidate debt and typically enjoy a lower interest rate.
- ▶ **Build your credit and avoid sky-high interest rates and fees with a C1st Cash Loan, our payday alternative loan.**
- ▶ **Use Skip-A-Pay to give yourself a break from your monthly loan payment.**
- ▶ **Save for the holiday season all throughout the year with our Christmas Club account.** On October 1st each year, we'll return members' yearly savings along with the dividends – just in time for the holiday shopping season.
- ▶ **Be prepared for life's big events with an extra saving fund.** Now is a great time to ensure your money is safely invested and growing. No matter what your goal is, we have a solution for you.
  - ⇒ **Money Market Account:** Write up to six checks per month. Dividends are compounded and deposited monthly.
  - ⇒ **Certificate Accounts:** Our certificate accounts offer competitive rates and flexible terms ranging from 3 – 60 months.
- ▶ **Try the 52-week money challenge.** Week 1, save \$1. Week 2, save \$2, and continue it for a year, adding one more dollar to each weekly savings goal. By the end of the challenge, you will have saved \$1,378 plus dividends!
- ▶ **Wealth Management isn't just for the wealthy.** No matter what stage of life you are in, C1st Investment Services can help start paving the way for your road ahead. Whether you are bringing home your first baby, sending a child off to college, changing careers or nearing retirement – we offer strategies to help meet your needs.
  - ⇒ Estate Conservation
  - ⇒ Education Funding
  - ⇒ Insurance Planning
  - ⇒ 401(k) Planning
  - ⇒ Investment Planning
  - ⇒ Business Planning
  - ⇒ Retirement Planning



**Greg Hanshaw**  
President & CEO

The importance of saving is simple...it can give you security for the greater things in life. Community 1st is dedicated to your success and we believe together is better. Thank you for your membership and continued support of C1st.



Greg Hanshaw; President/CEO

## Choosing The Right Credit Card Is Easier Than Ever.



Choosing the right credit card is easier than ever.  
Learn more about our credit cards.

Whether you want to pay down multiple credit card balances faster, maximize cashback, earn rewards, or begin building your credit history, we have the ideal credit card for you!

No matter which card you choose, enjoy important features like:

- ▶ **Convenient and Flexible Purchasing Power.** Our credit cards are accepted at millions of locations worldwide.
- ▶ **Mobile purchasing capability for added convenience.**
- ▶ **Zero Fraud Liability.\*** You won't be liable for fraudulent purchases when your card is lost or stolen.
- ▶ **Cardmember Service – 24 hours a day/365 days per year**
- ▶ **Plus so much more!**

\*Elan Financial Services provides zero fraud liability for unauthorized transactions. Cardholder must notify Elan Financial Services promptly of any unauthorized use. Certain conditions and limitations may apply. The creditor and issuer of these cards is Elan Financial Services, pursuant to separate licenses from Visa U.S.A. Inc., and Mastercard International Incorporated. Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated.

## Get Up To \$2,000 OFF Mortgage Closing Costs!

The time is right! We know interest rates seem high – but did you know it's still a great time to buy a home. Get up to \$2,000 OFF Mortgage Closing Costs when you choose C1st Mortgage. Apply online or in-person and save on your home purchase with C1st.

### The Time is Right!

We know interest rates may seem high — but did you know it's still a great time to buy.

Get up to \$2,000 off closing costs!\*

Apply Now

\*Offer valid for new C1st primary (single family/primary residence) mortgage loans of \$50,000 or more. Offer must be presented at the start of an application July 1 –September 30, and close by November 15, 2023. Offer is not valid on FHA or USDA loans, home equity loans and lines or investment properties. Closing cost credit will be based on the size of the mortgage loan. The closing cost credit will be applied at closing to offset costs associated with the origination of the loan. Subject to credit approval and program qualifications; some restrictions apply. Ask a C1st mortgage lender for details.

## Take A Vacation From Your Loan Payment

We all need a vacation from time to time. At C1st, our Skip-A-Pay feature allows you to take a vacation from your qualifying loan payment(s) when you need it the most. Apply to skip a loan payment through C1st's Digital Banking. You'll know instantly if your payment will be skipped. Whether you need the funds for a large purchase, vacation, or an emergency, you can skip your payment when it's convenient for you!



## C1st Branch Locations

**Albia:** 1420 S. Clinton St.

**Atlantic:** 200 Maple St.

**Bloomfield:** 301 E. Franklin

**Cedar Rapids:** 1030 Sierra Drive NE

**Centerville:** 999 N. 18th

**Chariton:** 1934 Court Ave.

**Creston:** 205 E. Taylor St.

**Fairfield:** 2501 W. Burlington

**Grinnell:** 205 West St.

**Indianola:** 300 S. Jefferson Way

**Knoxville:** 1008 W. Bell Ave., Suite 103

**Mount Pleasant:** 1800 E. Washington St.

**Osceola:** 714 W. McLane St.

**Oskaloosa:** 1311 A Ave. West

**Ottumwa Venture:** 1940 Venture Dr.  
(Walmart)

**Ottumwa Penn:** 739 Pennsylvania Ave.

**Ottumwa Richmond:** 235 Richmond Ave.

**Ottumwa JBS (JBS Employees Only):** 600 S.  
Iowa Ave.

**Pella:** 500 Main St.

**Shenandoah:** 700 S. Fremont St

**Washington:** 303 S. 2nd Ave.

**Apply Online:** [c1stcu.com](http://c1stcu.com)

**Toll-Free:** 866.360.5370

**Email:** [memberservice@c1stcu.com](mailto:memberservice@c1stcu.com)

**TEXT:** 641.638.5015

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.



## Flexible Funding For College

Apply Now. Borrow Later. We know that determining your fall college funding needs may be a challenge. Don't worry – with our private education line of credit, we've got you covered.

Even if you're unsure of the college you'll be attending or the exact loan amount you may need, you can establish your private education line of credit today. Then, once your plans have been finalized, you can come back to request the exact funding needed. Our Private Education Solution provides the additional funds you need and features you want, including:

- ▶ Flexible funding
- ▶ Lower interest rates
- ▶ Repayment options
- ▶ Easy online application and approval
- ▶ A convenient line of credit structure that lets you apply once and secure financing for your entire college career\*
- ▶ Check out our Resource Hub and Personalized Support options available at: [c1stcu.com/studentloans](http://c1stcu.com/studentloans)

\*Subject to credit approval.



## Don't Miss Our Auto Loan Special

Community 1st Credit Union's auto loan deal is back! Don't miss out, it comes with *three great specials in one* for a limited time only.

- ▶ Rates as low as 5.49% APR<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ No payments for 90 days<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Up to \$200 cash back!<sup>3</sup>

We also offer a quick, easy pre-approval process and online applications. Whether you're buying a new or used car, or refinancing your current auto loan, we have what you need. Fill your tank on us and drive away with a vehicle loan from C1st.

fill your tank  
on us

Auto Loans as low as  
**5.49%** APR<sup>1</sup>

+  
no payments for 90 days<sup>2</sup>

+  
**\$200 CASH BACK<sup>3</sup>**  
Up to

1. APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Disclosed rate includes discount for automatic payment. Rates and terms are dependent on credit qualifications. Offer available on new/used vehicle loans. Must be 18 years or older (or have a qualified co-signer) to apply. Other restrictions may apply. Subject to credit approval and program qualifications. Auto loans must be from another financial institution in order to refinance. Rate subject to change without notice. All offers are for a limited time only.

2. Interest continues to accrue during the 90 days.

3. Cash back incentive disbursed at the time of loan funding in the form of a credit to the member's share account. Amount received is dependent upon the dollar amount of the loan financed. Minimum loan amount of \$5,000 for cash back. Amount deposited will be reported on Form 1099-INT for tax purposes. Offer is not available on vehicles financed indirectly.

**\$50 CASH** for loans \$5,000.00 - \$9,999.99

**\$100 CASH** for loans \$10,000.00 - \$14,999.99

**\$150 CASH** for loans \$15,000.00 - \$19,999.99

**\$200 CASH** for loans \$20,000.00+

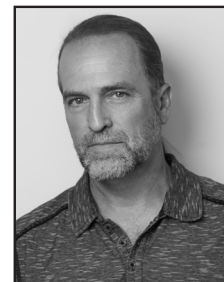
## Introducing Nathan Caraway, The Newest C1st Board Member

Earlier this year, we started the process of filling a board vacancy. It's our pleasure to announce a replacement has been appointed by the C1st Board of Directors. Please welcome the newest C1st Board Member, Nathan Caraway. Nathan resides in Marion, IA and has lived in Eastern Iowa his entire life. He's been a member of C1st since 2012.

Nathan has been self-employed for nearly three decades, and he has volunteered for many boards and committees. Nathan has found that volunteering places him in direct communication with others of exceptional character and skills.

"C1st has provided me with enjoyable experiences, experiences that gave me a reason to get more involved with the institution. My desire is that my joining the board will provide energy, respectable discussion, and hard work so our members will be aware of all the benefits that C1st has to offer, both now and in the future. We all have the same amount of time; it is what we do with it that makes the difference. My choice is to give back locally, there are few rewards so great," Nathan said.

Community 1st Credit Union Board members are a team of dedicated and passionate people. They serve as non-paid volunteers and spend countless hours serving the credit union. They attend regular monthly meetings and serve on one or more committees.



## 2023 C1st Scholarship Recipients

Community 1st Credit Union's 2023 scholarship program awarded \$50,000 to 24 area high school seniors this summer for the 2023-2024 academic school year. C1st has a long tradition of supporting local communities and education through its scholarship program for both traditional and non-traditional students. In the last decade, C1st has awarded over \$400,000 in scholarships to local student-members.



This year's awards include one \$4,000 scholarship, which goes to a child of a C1st employee, and 23 additional \$2,000 awards going to high school seniors looking to pursue further education.

**The \$4,000 C1st Child of an Employee scholarship went to: Paige Lisk – Pekin Community High School**

**The C1st scholarship winners receiving \$2,000 include:**

- Brayton Striegel – Albia High School
- Sophie Waber – Albia High School
- Jeremy Sheeder – Griswold High School
- Leah Rudd – Davis County High School
- Melana Followwill – Davis County High School
- Peyton Stadler – Clear Creek Amana High School
- Caden Spring – Moravia High School
- Delaney Caudill – Chariton Community High School
- Grace Watkins-Schoenig – Chariton Community High School
- Riley Wiperman – Creston High School
- Tayler McCreedy – Pekin Community High School
- Charles Willmott – Indianola High School
- Kaden McGill – Knoxville High School
- Jordan Crooks – Mount Pleasant Community High School
- Lane Whirrett – Clarke Community High School
- Rylee Dunkin – Twin Cedars Schools
- Anderson Keough – Oskaloosa High School
- Roderick Rath – Ottumwa High School
- Emma Strayer – Ottumwa High School
- Noah Trucano – Ottumwa High School
- Madeline Schmitz – Pella High School
- Ali Fletcher – Underwood High School
- Daniel Martinez – Columbus Community High School

"At Community 1st we sincerely believe one of the very best investments we can make is in helping our young members further their education," said Greg Hanshaw, President & CEO. "We are grateful that our Board of Directors has been extremely generous in making this investment a reality for many years now."

Scholarship America, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarships, tuition assistance, and other education support programs, administers the program. Applications for next academic year of 2024-2025 can be submitted for consideration on our website beginning December 2023.

## C1st Awards Several Grants

The C1st Foundation recently made several grant donations to non-profit organizations that support causes close to our heart. We strive to help enrich the lives of our members and communities we serve. Our focus is primarily on education, community betterment, and support of activities that involve and recognize the value of our members and employees.



**A \$2,000 check was presented to Andrew's Hope, in Bloomfield. Funds will be used to support the Together We Light The Way-Glow Walk, a walk dedicated to bring awareness to suicide prevention. The walk will be held at McGowen Recreation and Wildlife Area at 6:00 PM on September 22.**



**A check for \$5,000 was presented to Knoxville Baseball, to help aid in their facility renovation project and provide a safe and accessible baseball facility for the future of Knoxville Baseball.**



**A check for \$5,000 was presented to the Atlantic Splash Pad, to help with the construction and new build of a 4,500 sq. ft splash pad next to the pool, which is expected to be completed in 2024.**

C1st grant-funded project awards are made possible through the C1st Credit Union Impact Giving Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.