

# The Connection

## 2021 Year In Review

Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support in 2021. We value your business and look forward to delivering more service excellence in 2022. We are genuinely grateful for the opportunity to help you achieve financial success!

2021 was a year of growth for your credit union. We started the year with 17 locations, \$845 million in assets, and 58,000 members. Thanks to our strong and empowered team, we have continued to grow and are now at \$985 million in assets, 64,000 members and 20 locations. This growth would not be possible without you, our loyal members.



Greg Hanshaw President & CEO

We continue to offer new and innovative products and services. At the beginning of the year, we introduced Trust Services. If you would like to set up a Trust, please reach out to Matthew Vickers, your C1st Financial Advisor. He's ready to help members protect their hard-earned assets, achieve their financial aspirations and ensure their financial legacy endures.

We strive to have the right technology for today and tomorrow. In the summer, we launched a few digital banking enhancements, including a feature that allows members to skip a monthly payment on a qualifying loan as long as certain program qualifications are met. We also implemented enhanced digital debit card services. Now you can control your debit card by turning it on/off, setting travel notifications, adjusting ATM limits and more.

We are always looking for expansion opportunities, and in 2021 we added three new markets to our footprint. In July, we celebrated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of our new branch facility in Osceola, Iowa, at the southwest corner of W. McLane (HWY 34) and S. Dearborn. In October, Nishna Valley Credit Union joined the C1st family. This merger added new full-service branches in Creston and Atlantic, IA to the list of C1st locations already available to you. We hope you'll stop in and say hello to our newest team members.

We are....Clst! For the sixth year in a row, Community 1st Credit Union was named a Top Workplace in Iowa. Ranking 6th out of 47 medium-sized businesses is an additional honor and an all-time high for C1st! The results show we continue to have something truly special happening here. Even in especially challenging times, our employees embraced the opportunity and continued to be a strong and empowered team.

We are here to improve the lives of our members. C1st was awarded a \$1.8 million federal grant to support economic recovery. The funding came from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the Treasury's CDFI Rapid Response Program. The funds are being used to help give our members a financial boost by continuing to provide a payday alternative loan program and first time homebuyer down payment assistance program.

We pride ourselves in staying connected to our communities. We awarded \$44,000 in scholarships to 22 area high school seniors and returning college students in May. In addition, we gave our local communities over \$125,000 for local non-profit organization sponsorships and donations. We are also very proud to announce our C1st Foundation exceeded the giving of over \$100,000 in grants – directly affecting our local communities and promoting community betterment. C1st grant-funded project awards are made possible through the C1st Credit Union Impact Giving Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

With sincere gratitude, we humbly thank you for being a member of Community 1st. Credit Unions were built on the foundation of 'people-helping-people.' Providing our members access to affordable financial products and services and striving to meet the needs of underserved communities is what the credit union difference is all about. At C1st, we're honored to have been a part of that philosophy for 85 years!

Greg Hanshur

Greg Hanshaw; President & CEO

## **Financial Resolutions For The New Year!**

While we recognize the importance of saving money, it can be hard to do when your budget is already stretched thin. Try the 52–Week Money Challenge. There are no complicated rules to remember. Week 1, you save \$1.00. Week 2, you save \$2.00, and it continues through the year, adding one more dollar to each week's savings goal. By the end of the challenge, you will have saved \$1,378!



Use this easy-to-follow chart to keep track of your deposits each week!

	Week	Deposit	Balance		Week	Deposit	Balance		Week	Deposit	Balance
	1	\$1	\$1		18	\$18	\$171	0	35	\$35	\$630
Ο	2	\$2	\$3	Ο	19	\$19	\$190	Ο	36	\$36	\$666
	3	\$3	\$6		20	\$20	\$210	0	37	\$37	\$703
Ο	4	\$4	\$10	Ο	21	\$21	\$231	ο	38	\$38	\$741
	5	\$5	\$15	0	22	\$22	\$253	0	39	\$39	\$780
Ο	6	\$6	\$21	Ο	23	\$23	\$276	O	40	\$40	\$820
0	7	\$7	\$28	0	24	\$24	\$300	0	41	\$41	\$861
Ο	8	\$8	\$36	Ο	25	\$25	\$325	O	42	\$42	\$903
	9	\$9	\$45	0	26	\$26	\$351	0	43	\$43	\$946
Ο	10	\$10	\$55	Ο	27	\$27	\$378	Ο	44	\$44	\$990
	11	\$11	\$66	0	28	\$28	\$406	0	45	\$45	\$1,035
O	12	\$12	\$78	Ο	29	\$29	\$435	Ο	46	\$46	\$1,081
0	13	\$13	\$91	O	30	\$30	\$465	0	47	\$47	\$1,128
Ο	14	\$14	\$105	Ο	31	\$31	\$496	Ο	48	\$48	\$1,176
	15	\$15	\$120	0	32	\$32	\$528	0	49	\$49	\$1,225
0	16	\$16	\$136	Ο	33	\$33	\$561	Ο	50	\$50	\$1,275
	17	\$17	\$153	O	34	\$34	\$595	0	51	\$51	\$1,326
							Success!		52	\$52	\$1,378

Helpful Tips:

Schedule automatic transfers for each weekly deposit within C1st's Digital Banking.

Create custom alerts via text or email / calendar reminders every week to notify you of automatic transfers and balances.

- Work backwards and start the program by making the largest deposit first.
- Deposit \$26.50 each week to save \$1,378 at the end of the 52 weeks.



One of our newest branches, located at 200 Maple Street in Atlantic, IA, recently celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on December 2, 2021.



Another one of our new locations, located at 205 E. Taylor Street in Creston, IA, also celebrated with a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on December 9, 2021.

# **Scholarship Opportunities**

#### **C1st Scholarships**

C1st will award \$48,000 in scholarships to area members who wish to continue their education in college or vocational school.

- Four (4) \$1,000 awards will be given to non-traditional or returning college students.
- One (1) \$4,000 award will be given to the most qualified applicant who is the child of a Community 1st Credit Union employee.
- Twenty (20) awards of \$2,000 each will be given to the remaining, most qualified applicants.

This program is administered by Scholarship America, the nation's largest designer and manager of scholarships, tuition assistance, and other education support programs for corporations,

foundations, associations, and individuals. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability, or national origin.

#### C1st Scholarship Deadline is March 15, 2022 at 3:00 PM. Register online at: c1stcu.com/scholarships

#### Iowa Credit Union Foundation's Warren A. Morrow Scholarship

The Iowa Credit Union Foundation's (ICUF) 2022 Warren A. Morrow Memorial Scholarship application is now open to Iowa credit union members who are high school seniors or post-secondary students.

High School Scholarship – Designated for high school seniors planning to enter college in 2022. Post–High School Scholarship – Designated for individuals entering or attending an accredited undergraduate, graduate or vocational program in 2022.

Each applicant will be asked to answer the following: Since March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the US economy has been tremendously impacted. Describe how an emergency savings account is more crucial than ever and how someone might utilize their credit union to focus on saving. Consider sharing personal examples in this essay.

The essay must be the original work of the applicant and is limited to 500 words. Judging will be based on originality, clarity, meaningful content, accurate presentation of facts, adherence to contest rules, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Winners will be notified in April 2022 and the results will be posted to the Iowa Credit Union Foundation Website.

#### Warren A. Morrow Scholarship Deadline is February 4, 2022 at 5:00 PM. Learn more or register online at: <u>www.scholarsavvy.com</u> or <u>c1stcu.com/scholarships</u>

#### Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship

The Iowa Financial Know-How Challenge: Senior Scholarship awards a \$2,000 college scholarship to 25 Iowa high school students each year. All participants experience two online tools to help them understand ways to reduce borrowing to pay for college and receive emailed tips on planning and paying for college.

#### Iowa Student Loan Scholarship Deadline is March 11, 2022 Register online at: iowastudentloan.org/scholarships/high-school-senior-scholarship.aspx

## 'Bucks for Brains' Program Rewards Members for Good Grades!

#### **ATTENTION STUDENTS GRADES K - 12:**

We love to see students succeeding in school. Don't forget you can be rewarded for it! Bucks for Brains rewards students \$1.00 for every 'A' on their report card! (Maximum of \$8.00 per student per school quarter)



#### Here's how it works:

- Student must be present in the branch and bring in their official report card providing final quarterly grades.
- · Report card must be from the current school year and not more than 2 months old. Test, paper or assignment grades DO NOT qualify.
- Maximum of \$8.00 per student per school quarter.
- For schools that do not grade on an ABCDF scale, a 'passing', 'highly satisfactory' or 'meets expectations' report may be considered equivalent to an 'A'.
- Student must be a C1st member and have a consistent positive account balance.
- Student (member) will be required to sign their name to receive the cash reward.



## **C1st Rewards Checking**

Say goodbye to points and hello to cash. If you prefer online banking and use a debit card, you could qualify for some serious cash. And with each account, you'll enjoy unlimited nationwide ATM fee refunds when requirements are met. **Both checking accounts are free, and require no minimum balance**.



Whether you're a saver or a spender, we've got you covered. Plus, both accounts are free\* and require no minimum balance.

\*WHEN OUALIFICATIONS ARE MET: You will receive unlimited nationwide ATM fee refunds and either a premium rate OR cash back on qualifying debit card purchases, depending on your account. C1st Cash: 3.00% APY will be paid on the portion of daily balance of \$15,000 or less. Portion of daily balance over \$15,000 earns an interest rate of 0.15%, resulting in an APY of 3.00% to 0.45%, depending on the balance. The Annual Percentage Yields (APYs) are accurate as of the last dividend declaration date and subject to change without notice. C1st Cash Back: 3.00% cash back up to a total of \$300 in PIN-based and signature-based debit card purchases that post and settle to the account during that cycle period. Maximum cash back of up to \$9.00 per monthly qualification cycle. ATM transactions do not qualify. MONTHLYQUALIFICATIONS FOR BOTH ACCOUNTS: At least 12 debit card purchases posted and settled per qualification cycle, receive monthly eStatements, access digital banking at least once per gualification cycle. IF QUALIFICATIONS ARE NOT MET: ATM fees will not be refunded. For C1st Cash: Entire balance will earn 0.03% APY. For C1st Cash Back: You will not receive cash back on your debit card purchases. QUALIFICATION CYCLE: To qualify, all transactions must post and clear your account during the monthly cycle which is defined as the calendar month; beginning on the first day of the current calendar month through the last day of the current calendar month.

### **Annual Meeting Reminder**

The 2022 Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Election of Community 1st Credit Union will be held Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at our Corporate Center in Ottumwa and virtual option also available. Please contact **marketing@c1stcu.com** to RSVP.



The nominating committee has selected three candidates to fill three vacancies.

**D. David Boyer:** A resident of Ottumwa, and Tool & Die maker at John Deere Ottumwa Works. Dave has served on the board since 1995 and is currently a member of the credit & nominating committees and the membership officer.

**Tim Elliott:** A resident of Washington, and current Owner I Broker at Elliott Realty Group. Tim has served on the board since 2016 and is currently the board chair. He is also a member of the board executive & assetliability committees.



**Sandra Wirfs:** A resident of Ottumwa, and Workforce Advisor at Iowa Workforce Development. Sandra has been a member of C1st since 2015 and enjoys volunteering in the community. Currently, she is the Ottumwa LU LAC 377 Vice–President.

There will be no nominations from the floor. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting.

## Winter Coat Drive



C1st is accepting new or gently-used coats, jackets, gloves and hats now through March 1st, 2022. Drop off at any C1st location in Bloomfield, Centerville, Fairfield, Oskaloosa, or Ottumwa. All items will be distributed to families in need, through Sieda.

## **C1<sup>st</sup> Branch Locations**

Albia: 1420 S. Clinton St. Cedar Rapids: 1030 Sierra Drive NE Creston: 205 E. Taylor St. Indianola: 300 S. Jefferson Way Osceola: 714 W. McLane St. Ottumwa Penn: 739 Pennsylvania Ave. Pella: 500 Main St. Atlantic: 200 Maple St. Centerville: 999 N. 18th Fairfield: 2501 W. Burlington Knoxville: 1008 W. Bell Ave., Suite 103 Oskaloosa: 1311 A Ave. West Ottumwa Richmond: 235 Richmond Ave. Washington: 303 S. 2nd Ave. Bloomfield: 301 E. Franklin Chariton: 1934 Court Ave. Grinnell: 205 West St. Mount Pleasant: 1800 E. Washington St. Ottumwa (Walmart): 1940 Venture Dr. Ottumwa – JBS (JBS Employees Only): 600 S. Iowa Ave.



Apply Online: c1stcu.com

Toll Free: 866.360.5370

Email: memberservice@c1stcu.com

om **TEXT:** 641.638.5015

All C1st locations will be closed Monday, January 17, 2022, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.