



Dear Credit Union Friends,

The Carolinas Credit Union Foundation will be temporarily suspending the Micro Community Grants program in order to focus more closely on our credit unions' concerns and helping your members deal with these difficult economic times. The recent economic and industry challenges have had a substantial impact on credit unions, credit union members and the foundation's ability to raise funds. As a result, in lieu of the MCG program we plan to shift our focus and funding to providing financial symposiums designed to help your members deal with financial hardship and create plans for their futures.

Through the Micro Community Grants Program, credit union have cooperatively distributed over \$800,000 to worthy, credit union endorsed charities all over the Carolinas in the past 5 years. We have helped foster children get clothes, shoes and socks; we have helped troubled and abused teens get counseling and straighten out their lives; we have helped mentally ill adults, disabled children, runaways, abused children, people dealing with addiction, as well as disadvantaged mothers and children have a place where they can go, feel safe and learn to love and express themselves again. Credit unions cooperatively and collectively have had a positive impact on many lives through this program and when the economy turns positive we anticipate this program's strong return.

These financial symposiums will be held regionally and will be sponsored by credit unions and the Carolinas Credit Union Foundation. We anticipate providing access to specialists covering topics like dealing emotionally with job loss, household budgeting, engaging financial institutions early, resume writing/resources, job hunting resources, how to search for a job online, networking, etc. We also anticipate providing entrepreneurial studies helping members who may have an interest in starting their own companies. Topics include budgeting, building a business plan, financing (credit union financing where available), and sales/marketing. These symposiums will be supported by web access to resources and webinars designed to provide greater detail to those members interested in pursuing specific topics more deeply.

As credit unions, we care about helping people and your foundation is no different. Right now our members are dealing with some difficult issues and choices. It only makes sense that your foundation would look for ways to help members deal with those issues and make informed choices. We will be rolling out the blue print for the financial symposiums over the next few weeks. Credit union participation and support will be imperative for us to reach and help as many members as possible. Please get involved both operationally and financially.

Thank you for your support and understanding during these tough economic times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Slack, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

John R. Slack, Jr.
President/CEO