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Extra Credit Union Expands Membership
Change Offers Life-Changing Services/Products to Four Counties

Warren, Mich. – Just a year ago, Warren resident Janice A. was on the verge of losing her home. She and her husband had to claim bankruptcy due to a streak of financial incidents—helping a son with a life-threatening illness pay his medical bills, auto repairs, renters who stopped paying on a second home, and other such instances—that had put them behind on bills.

Janice was financially responsible. But she was stretched thin. Luckily, Extra Credit Union was able to pick her back up, save her home, and give her hope for a stronger financial state in the near future.

Extra Credit Union prides itself on the excellent customer service and life-changing services and products it provides to members such as Janice, as well as 19,000 others annually. This year, the credit union will be able to change even more lives as it expands its membership to include individuals who reside, work, worship, or attend any educational institution within the Michigan counties of Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, and St. Clair.

Prior to this change, the [credit union's membership charter](#) was much more limited and the credit union had to turn away many interested members of the community who needed the credit union's services, said Amy Persyn, marketing manager at Extra Credit Union. Those people were forced to turn to solutions such as small car lots or payday lenders with much higher loan rates because they accept people with lower credit scores, she added.

"Thousands more in the public will now have access to a credit union that values financial education and working with people of all credit backgrounds," said Amy Persyn, marketing manager at Extra Credit Union. "Our approach to borrowing is solution based. We listen to individual stories and histories to make decisions about how to meet our members' needs, which sets us apart from other financial institutions in the area. It takes more than a credit score to determine someone's worthiness as a borrower."

Janice is proof of that. She found Extra Credit Union less than a year ago. And she found their motto—Nothing is Stopping Us from Lending to You—to hold true, even with bankruptcy on her credit report.

The first loan she received from the credit union helped her catch up on mortgage payments. The second allowed her to purchase a used vehicle to get around town. She has since paid both off and she and her husband purchased a brand new vehicle last week, thanks to another loan from Extra Credit Union.

“I had no problem being approved for the loan even though I had claimed bankruptcy, and I am thankful for that,” Janice said. “Bad things do happen to good people and (Extra Credit Union) understands that. (They) really helped us out.”

She added that it isn’t just the loans that have made her thankful for the credit union. She also is able to make weekly payments on her loans, which she wasn’t able to do at other financial institutions. This alone will allow her to pay off her vehicle a year sooner and pay less in interest. But that’s not all.

“It’s everything about the credit union, not just the loan, but the people, they’re so nice and helpful, the whole process ... You don’t judge or (belittle) because of a person’s history. You guys have just been wonderful to us,” she said.

Like Extra Credit Union’s current members, new members also will be able to enjoy the many perks of membership including insurance discounts, free financial counseling, debt services, and Love My Credit Union Rewards (discounts on auto purchases, tax services, shopping, cell phone services and more).

“This membership expansion will enable us to do more than we are already doing today with financial literacy education and scholarship and grant programs, and we will be able to deliver them to more people as the credit union grows,” said Deidra Williams, President/CEO of Extra Credit Union.

The credit union’s community initiatives also were a persuading factor for Janice.

“I like that I’m helping the community at the same time (I’m getting help),” she said. “I don’t think many people realize that credit unions are member driven, that members partly own the credit union. I’d much rather give my money to an organization that gives back to the community than a big corporation.”

Visit Extra Credit Union’s [website](#) to learn more about its products, services and history, or to [become a member](#).

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Extra Credit Union (www.extracreditunion.org) was founded in 1954 by a group of educators with \$856 in assets. Today, with two full-service offices in Warren and Sterling Heights, Mich., Extra Credit Union (ECU) has more than 19,000 members with \$200 million in assets. Extra Credit Union works with the local community and educators to provide hands-on learning, financial fundamentals, and customized services to help students and educators make good financial decisions. In addition, ECU provides solution-based lending and credit education programs to open lending possibilities to people of all credit backgrounds. Deidra M. Williams serves as President/CEO, leading the credit union in its mission.