

Please Donate to Help California Fire Victims



Recognizing the tragic events in Southern California, Great Lakes Credit Union and the GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment are spearheading a fundraising drive to support the National Credit Union Foundation's CUAid program. In the spirit of banking for a greater good, this vital initiative aims to help rebuild the lives of those devastated by the recent, catastrophic wildfires in California.

Please join us in contributing what you can to this worthy cause, as we come together to uplift our communities during their time of great need. Rest assured, your donations will go to those who need it most during this crisis.

[Learn More](#)

Empowering Renters Every Step of the Way



Did you know that the GLCU Foundation's housing and financial counselors offer a variety of services specifically related to renters? We can help you take charge of your finances by providing information on the following:

- Rent vs buy analysis
- Access to affordable rental resources
- Referrals to rental assistance programs
- Referrals to tenant networks and legal aid
- And more

Schedule a free consultation to talk with one of our HUD-certified professional housing and financial counselors.

[Learn More](#)

GLCU Foundation Helps Pave the Way to Homeownership



Visit our [blog](#) to see how the GLCU Foundation helped a woman get a zero percent loan to pay off an old collection and take one step closer to her dream of qualifying for a Habitat for Humanity home.

Volunteer Spotlight



In 2024, through a robust program of outreach initiatives, the GLCU Foundation made a meaningful impact empowering our local communities, solidifying its reputation as a pillar of the community. With more than 4,300 community outreach hours completed, this remarkable achievement was made possible thanks to the invaluable support and collaboration of our steadfast partners. GLCU partnered with 156 community organizations to provide financial resources, volunteers, and education to our communities. GLCU invested 167 hours with [United Way Lake County](#), 159 hours with the [Northern IL Food Bank](#) and 140 hours with [HOPE Food Distribution Services](#), to name a few.

Recently GLCU worked with the Northern IL Food Bank to share our story of partnership.

[Watch the Video](#)

GLCU Partners with Women's Non-Profit



Sarah's Circle

Ending Homelessness for Women

The GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment is proud to support Sarah's Circle, an organization that helps women in Chicago secure housing services, food and life necessities to end homelessness. Sarah's Circle provides a pathway to permanent housing to about 700 women in a year. The charity has also partnered with architects and contractors to build new affordable housing units in the Uptown neighborhood.

More than 65 women in Sarah's Circle programs attended GLCU Foundation workshops in 2024.

[Learn More](#)

Are Student Loans Keeping You From Homeownership?



Smartbuy is a program from the Illinois Housing Development Authority that provides student loan relief and closing cost assistance to borrowers who'd like to buy a home. Applicants can receive \$40,000 toward student loan payoff and \$5,000 toward closing costs. [Learn more about the program below.](#)

[Learn More](#)

Meet Jessie Flores, HUD-Certified Housing and Financial Counselor

Jessie Flores believes that everyone deserves a safe, healthy, and affordable place to call home. In her two years working as a HUD-certified housing and financial counselor for the GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment, Jessie has enjoyed helping her clients with rental and homeownership counseling. Jessie's personalized financial counseling empowers clients to gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate their finances and unlock a prosperous future in their new homes.



Jessie has more than 10 years of experience in family and financial counseling. Jessie previously worked for Habitat for Humanity, the Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, and the Family Health Partnership Clinic. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Columbia College of Missouri.

By the Numbers - Our Community Impact

2024 Year in Review	
Community Outreach Impact	Financial and Housing Counseling Impact
222 Employees Volunteered	44 Workshops
4,384 Hours	653 Households benefited from group education
156 Organizations	1,169 Households served through education and counseling services
292 Events	327 Households benefited from 1x1 counseling
96 Youth Education Events	\$7.9 million in community assets saved via foreclosure intervention counseling
GREAT LAKES credit union	GLCU FOUNDATION for Financial Empowerment

Q3 Partnership Recipient Announced

THE National Credit Union FOUNDATION

The GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment chose the National Credit Union Foundation's (NCUF) [CUAid campaign](#) as its third quarter recipient. The NCUF's CUAid program delivers urgent aid to individuals and communities most impacted by natural disasters. In 2023, the CUAid program awarded \$644,000 in grants to assist those affected by natural disasters across the U.S. Since its launch in 2005, CUAid has distributed a total of \$10.2 million in disaster relief funds, making a significant impact. This year, the GLCU Foundation donated more than \$11,000 to the CUAid campaign in support of those impacted by Hurricane Milton. This contribution reflects the GLCU Foundation's commitment to its partnership with the NCUF and its CUAid campaign, assisting communities that have been impacted by natural disasters.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal request, please click the button below to learn more about our partnership guidelines and to submit a proposal. Donations will be awarded on a quarterly basis. First quarter applications will be accepted from January 1, 2025, through March 31, 2025, and will be awarded by April 30, 2025.

[Learn More](#)

Give the Gift of Financial Empowerment

By donating to the GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment, you become a critical part of a powerful mission to promote economic stability and financial literacy. Your generous contribution directly helps us provide invaluable resources, education, and tools for individuals striving to secure their financial future. By supporting our foundation, you can truly make a difference, enabling people to transform their lives through improved financial awareness and independence. You can [donate online](#) or send checks to:

Great Lakes Credit Union

Attn: GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment

2111 Waukegan Rd Bannockburn, IL 60015

Qualification required for membership, loans, financing, and select products & services. GLCU is federally insured by NCUA.
NMLS #: 2552420.

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