

Members Newsletter

FirstFedCU.com

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Our Members are First

Text Us for Information

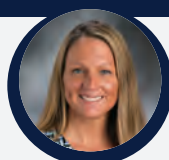
Introducing our newest service: TextCU. Using your mobile phone, members can obtain information by using our new text communication platform we call TextCU. Simply send a text message to our First Federal phone number, 319.743.7806 and we will provide a prompt, informative response to you! No worries, we're not going to text any personal information or account numbers. TextCU is safe, secure, and convenient! Plus, if you know the specific office phone number of one of our employees, you can use TextCU and send a text message directly to their office! Start trying TextCU today (message data and rates may apply).

Chat with Us

For members that access us online, we are now offering ChatCU a live chat option on our website. This service lets you connect to a Contact Center employee as you access our website. You can chat in real time about your account, our products and services, or any other First Federal related issue you have questions about while online. If you have a specific question that needs a personal touch but don't want to pick up the phone, ChatCU is just the thing! ChatCU is available Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. – Noon.

Employee Spotlight

Traci Yordi



Tracy Yordi has been our key mortgage loan processor since 2011. In the past five years, Tracy has helped us originate over \$90 million in home loans for First Federal members!

Hometown: Conroy, Iowa

Work: First Federal, previous experience in Hospitality Management, Owner of a Tanning Salon, Mortgage Service

Education: Electricity and Electronics at Indian Hill Community College, Ottumwa Iowa

Family: Husband Dennis, Daughter Ella, 2 Cats Chex and Raven

Hobbies/Things You Like To Do: Cycling, Swimming, Volunteering, and Spending time with my family

Fondest First Federal memory: The fact that I am able to volunteer and support our community while representing First Federal Credit Union

Spencer Spotlight

Justin DeFord, Market Manager



Over 30,000 Free ATM's

As a First Federal debit cardholder, you have access to thousands of FREE ATMs across the country. In the state of Iowa, look for the pink and black Shazam Privilege Status logo; this means there is no fee to use the ATM. When traveling out of state, avoid the irritating surcharge fees by using an ATM belonging to the MoneyPass network.



First Federal Foundation Scholarships

The newly-formed First Federal Credit Union Foundation is providing two, \$1,000 scholarships to a graduating high school senior attending school in Linn, Clay, Dickinson or Buena Vista counties in Iowa. The winners chosen will be selected based on academic success and activity participation and must be a member, or the son or daughter of a member of First Federal Credit Union. Information and applications can be found online at FirstFedCU.com/scholarship. Hurry! Deadline to accept applications is May 1, 2019!

Mortgage Advice

A question we are often asked is how do most people finance a home remodel? As a homeowner, this can be done in several ways, from using savings to obtaining a construction improvement loan. Here are the most common avenues to pay for your dream remodel.

- 1. Cash-out Refinance:** A common approach is through refinancing your existing mortgage. A standard guide is that most lenders will be willing to lend you up to 80 percent of your home's value, minus whatever you still owe on your mortgage. You will get a lump sum to pay for the improvements plus you may be able to lower your current rate. Keep in mind, you will usually have to pay closing costs.
- 2. Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC):** A HELOC allows you to keep your original mortgage and allows you to borrow only what you need. During the remodeling period, you will make interest-only payments on the amount you've borrowed to date. This is followed by the repayment period (typically 10 to 15 years). Closing costs, if any, are typically lower than a cash-out refinance.
- 3. Home Equity Loan:** Instead of a line of credit, you will be borrowing a fixed amount for the remodeling work as a lump sum. You can keep your original mortgage, which may be beneficial if it has a very low interest rate.
- 4. Remodeling Construction Loan:** If you are making major renovations and do not have enough equity in your home to pay for them, you may want to explore a construction loan. Your building plans must be finalized before you can be approved. The lender will appraise the house based on its future value after the remodel is complete.

It may be worth exploring several options to determine what's best for you. Start a conversation with us at the same time you start exploring remodeling options. Knowing from the start what funds you have available to you will help make the design process smoother and allow you to avoid surprises down the road. Call or email us today to find a mortgage solution that is right for you!

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Bigger and Better

Spring has arrived – and it's time for baseball! Big Screen Thursday returns to the Cedar Rapids Kernels and this year will be bigger and better than ever! At select Thursday home games we will be giving out three free 50" Big Screen TVs. Stop by our table on the main concourse right after entering the ballpark to collect your ticket for a chance to win. Join us to watch the Kernels – and you might win! Big Screen TVs will be given away on these nights:

- April 4
- May 2, 23
- June 13, 27
- July 4, 11, 25
- August 29

If you're planning a trip to the ballpark, stop by our Cedar Rapids office at 425 1st Avenue to see if any tickets are available for a Kernels game. We have four seats for each home game available on a first come, first serve basis.



In the Community

Tracy Yordi was recently presented with the 2018 Volunteer Hours Award as the First Federal employee that contributed the most volunteer hours in 2018. This is Tracy's third straight year for the award. Greta Hart was recognized as the 2018 Volunteer of the Year for her contributions in the community. Each award-recipient named a favorite cause to receive a \$500.00 contribution from First Federal Credit Union. Tracy selected the SAINT Cat Adoption Center and Greta split her award between the Crisis Center of Johnson County and Cedar Rapids Animeals. Congratulations to Tracy and Greta for making our community a better place!



Message from the CEO

Making a difference...I think we all want to feel like we are making a difference in the lives of those around us. Whether it's at home, school, work, etc. I think a part of our Midwestern heritage is that we often feel driven to help our neighbors. Our First Federal directors and employees have made volunteering an important part of our mission. We like it when our employees volunteer, we want our employees to volunteer and we want to be an active supporter of our employee/volunteers. We encourage our employees to choose the activities they want to participate in and use their individual talents in order to make an impact. I am so extremely proud to share that in 2018, 25 First Federal employees combined for over 900 volunteer hours! Our employees volunteered in a variety of ways: church groups, school groups and activities, civic organizations, non-profit groups, youth sports, and events such as United Way Day of Caring, Toys for Tots, and our HomeRun for Hunger program. Our employees delivered Meals on Wheels, answered the phone for the Crisis Center, and made stuffed animals for cancer patients. From housing to food packaging, teaching personal finance skills, or leading a fund-raising event, more than 75 different organizations were touched by a First Federal volunteer last year. Chances are you will see one of our employees volunteering at a school activity, or a charity event, or somewhere in the community; just know we are making a difference.

As always, stop in and say hi, introduce yourself, or even comment on what you want First Federal to do for you!



Tom Chalstrom
President & CEO
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