

THE STRUGGLE
IS REAL™



Cornerstone Credit Union | cornerstonecu.org | January 2017

meeting our members' needs everyday with financial



SOLUTIONS

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> Debt Struggles? We have Debt Solutions!

Start the New Year off right and say goodbye to high interest debt. If you are struggling to pay your bills, our **Debt Consolidation Loan Special** can be your solution. Stop credit cards, payday loans or other high interest payments from taking a bite out of your wallet every month. Year after year, Cornerstone helps hundreds of members save money. Lower your monthly payout and have one convenient and affordable automatic payment with this loan special.

Borrow up to \$15,000 at rates as low as 7.99% APR* for terms up to 42 months**

Compare the Savings	Outstanding Balance	Monthly Payment	Interest Paid**
Credit Card 1 (21.99% APR)	\$2,500	\$86	\$1,106
Credit Card 2 (19.99% APR)	\$4,000	\$133	\$1,593
Credit Card 3 (24.99% APR)	\$3,500	\$126	\$1,785
Total of All Cards	\$10,000	\$345	\$4,484
Debt Consolidation Loan at 7.99% APR	\$10,000	\$274	\$1,496
Total Savings to You from CCU		\$71	\$2,988



Start 2017 by getting your debt under control. Let CCU representatives show you how.

Hurry! Offer ends March 31, 2017. Apply online at cornerstonecu.org/promo-landing-pages/debt-consolidation.aspx.

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Rate and terms subject to change and based on creditworthiness. Automatic payment and e-statement enrollment required. A \$30 application fee will be assessed for loans under \$3,500. Offer excludes all loans financed at Cornerstone Credit Union. Offer ends 3/31/2017.

** Based on a 42-month repayment term

> Mark Your Calendar for Cornerstone Credit Union's Annual Membership Meeting!

Please join us **Saturday, March 18, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. at the Freeport Service Center, 550 W. Meadows Drive, Freeport. It's a time to celebrate another great year and exercise your right as a member/owner. We invite you to meet our volunteer board, vote on next year's board members and enjoy some refreshments while entering to win some nice prizes! Hope to see you in March.





➤ The Founders' Scholarship is Back!

Apply Now

High school seniors, take note! Graduation is just around the corner. Imagine what a relief it would be to have assistance with your tuition. Now is the time to apply for the 2017 school year.

Once again, Cornerstone is proud to offer its coveted Founders' Scholarship to **three (3)** deserving high school seniors. Each scholarship grant awards **\$5,000** to be disbursed over four years.

Visit cornerstonecu.org/promo-landing-pages/founders-scholarship.aspx for details and to apply.

➤ Be ready for the next holiday season

Get a jump start on this year's holiday shopping by opening a **Holiday Club Savings** account today. Set aside money each week or month, and build up some extra cash, so you won't struggle with your shopping list later this year.

A **Holiday Club account** is easy to open, and there is no service fee or minimum balance. Simply join anytime, but the sooner the better to build up your savings. Make it easier with payments made through Direct Deposit or Payroll Deduction. Dividends are compounded daily and paid quarterly to add to your savings. Your funds are automatically deposited to your primary savings account on October 1st.



➤ Every Season is a Time for Giving

Giving back to the communities our members love is part of Cornerstone's promise. Not only during the holidays but throughout the year, CCU participates in volunteerism, plus corporate and individual giving, to support programs and not-for-profit organizations that make a positive impact in the places we live, work and play.

We thank our volunteer board, committee members, staff and especially YOU, our members, for making 2016 another year of generous giving and service. Some of this year's highlights include:



- **United Way of NW IL** – corporate and staff donations support area not-for-profit organizations
- **Salvation Army Angel Tree** – donations provide clothing and toys for children in Freeport and Sterling
- **Caritas Food Pantry** – donations of healthy food help So. Beloit families in need
- **Youth for Christ** – donations help support local Tutoring Clubs in Winnebago County
- **Salvation Army Food Barrels** – donations help feed the hungry in Freeport
- **Thanksgiving Baskets** – staff donations provided 14 food baskets to CCU members in need
- **Free Community Shred Day** - helps prevent identity theft
- **Northern IL Food Bank** – staff helps St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers provide food boxes to our So. Beloit neighbors in need
- **RACCU Cash Mob** – local credit unions pay it forward
- **PADS Homeless Shelter** – donations provide support for homeless persons in the Sterling area

Many of our CCU employees are also personally active in their communities from schools to churches to other service organizations. Visit our Charity/Events page at cornerstonecu.org/community/ and learn more about CCU's continual community involvement activities.

➤ EXCLUSIVE for Credit Union Members: SAVE on Auto Insurance and more!

As a credit union member, you could save hundreds of dollars per year when you sign up for the TruStage Auto Insurance Program. Cornerstone Credit Union has joined with TruStage, an experienced team of insurance professionals, to bring you a wide range of Insurance Services.

Visit www.trustage.com/auto-home/save-on-car-insurance to compare costs and benefits. For local assistance, Lori Rigotti of Liberty Mutual is happy to help with your TruStage auto and home insurance. Call her at **847.658.6067 ext. 56892** or **630.232.8100**.

In addition to auto coverage, TruStage offers an array of affordable insurance products for credit union members including Home, Life, AD&D or Health. Want to compare costs? Call **855.483.2149** or visit www.cornerstonecu.org/insurance-investing/insurance/ for a free, no obligation quote.



> Your Life Goals Are Our Life Goals



If there's ever a time that "millennials" need cooperatives, it's now.

The last ten years have been quite transformational for this generation of young adults. Younger millennials just graduating college likely saw their parents lose jobs, benefits and

pensions while bank executives lost nothing. According to a study by Filene Research Institute, millennials make about as much (rather, as little) as previous generations, but factor in the average student loan debt of \$27,000, and that take home pay is quickly eaten up.

Despite that, millennials are principled and they maintain an optimistic outlook about their financial future. Life goals and financial goals are entwined. If you're looking to firm up yours, a credit union--which is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that offers the same services as a bank--is a smarter choice.

Here are some ways Cornerstone Credit Union can help young adults achieve their life goals:

If you value open membership, a credit union is for you.

When you opened your first bank account, did you have to deposit some ridiculous amount of money or risk getting hit with a \$5 monthly fee? At CCU, all you have to deposit is a minimum of \$25 to open your membership. That money is your "share" in the company instead of money that's invested in high risk securities. The only requirement for membership is that you live or work in one of the 11 Northwest IL / Southern WI counties. Family members of current CCU members can also join.

If you value cooperation instead of competition, a credit union is for you, offering low or no fees.

Why should you have to suffer because your bank doesn't have ATMs everywhere? A \$4 fee here and there really adds up. You shouldn't have to spend \$24 to withdraw \$20. Instead, grab your smart phone, download the Co-Op ATM app and find a free ATM or shared branch to conduct your CCU business.

If you value one-on-one personalized consultation, a credit union is DEFINITELY for you.

CCU can assist with many of your financial struggles. As well, with our not-for-profit values, we can help you affect change in your community and life. Whether it's an auto loan, mortgage, small business loan or e-services, we offer smarter choices.

Set big goals in the New Year and Cornerstone Credit Union can help you achieve them. Like being a CCU member? Refer a friend!

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> e-Services - Convenience on the go!

With the flick of a finger, access your accounts, transfer funds, pay bills or apply for a loan 24/7. It's secure, easy, and green. Cornerstone's convenient e-services include:

- **Mobile Banking**
- **Online Banking**
- **e-Statements & e-Notices**
- **Online Loan Applications**
- **Text Club**
- **BillPay**
- **EARS**

Make sure we have your e-mail address and choose the e-services right for you!

Do we have your current contact information?
Go to our Online Banking site or visit us to update your email or mailing address and phone numbers.

> Ladies, join us in Freeport for the 2nd Annual Head2Toe

Our Freeport location staff looks forward to seeing you at the 2nd Annual Head2Toe event on Sunday, February 26, hosted by the Freeport Journal Standard. Last year's event was a huge success, so come early and take advantage of an opportunity to pamper yourself from head to toe! Visit local vendor booths, enter drawings for great gifts, take part in demonstrations, and enjoy lunch. Admission is free. Hope to see you there!



> How to Reach Us

24/7 Online Access
www.cornerstonecu.org

Main Phone
815.235.5855

24-Hour Call Center & Toll Free
800.711.3277

Main Office:
Freeport Service Center
550 W. Meadows Drive
Freeport, Illinois 61032

South Beloit Service Center
542 Clark Street
South Beloit, IL 61080

Sterling Service Center
615 W. 3rd Street
Sterling, Illinois 61081

24-Hour Audio Response (EARS)
800.711.3277

CU-Mobile Access Code: 59289

CU-Mobile App:
Free at your App Store

Join CCU Text Club:
Text CORNER to 43704

> Loan Rates

Annual Percentage Rates as low as*

New/Used Auto
(2016 or newer) 2.28%

Used Auto
(2009-2012) 4.74%



**Rates may vary. Subject to credit approval.
All CCU rates available at cornerstonecu.org.*

SOLUTIONS

Published five times a year for members of
Cornerstone Credit Union



CORNERSTONE
CREDIT UNION

> CCU Calendar

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 16, 2017
All locations closed

Presidents Day
Monday, February 20, 2017
All locations closed

Head2Toe Women's Expo
Sunday, February 26, 2017
Aquin High School, Freeport

Deposits are insured up to \$500,000 – the first \$250,000 is federally insured by NCUA and the next \$250,000 is privately insured by ESI. This is the highest combination of federal and private insurance available to consumers. Cornerstone Credit Union does business in accordance with the Federal Fair Housing Law and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

