

From the President

It was nice to see so many of you in person at our recent Annual Meeting. The staff served up a delicious spaghetti dinner for our members, door prizes were awarded, Ending Hunger donations were disbursed, and Board elections were held. I would like to welcome our new Board Members, Marjorie King and Patrick Sturtevant. Welcome!

As many of you already know, FA Peabody has acquired the insurance business of Katahdin Gateway Insurance, LLC. KGI customers can rest assured that they will continue to receive the same level of service from the same trusted insurance agents. If you have any questions, please contact the FA Peabody office in East Millinocket, 207-746-3687.

For members in the Island Falls area... we will be sponsoring our "Small Town Fun" Member Appreciation Day to kick off Summerfest on July 28th from 11-1. We will have refreshments and door prizes. We hope to see many of you there for this fun event!

Have a great summer, and if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tina Jamo
President/CEO

2023 Scholarship Recipients

KFCU is pleased to announce our 2023 KFCU scholarship recipients. Scholarships totaling \$9,500 were awarded to area high school seniors.

Schenck High School

Wyatt Stanley
Kaydence Pelkey
Randi Richards

Stearns High School

Victoria Blanchette
Cote Briggs
Connor Burke
Sydney Campbell
Kelly Farber
Rhiannon Gardner
Isaac-Andrew Hakes
Daniel Hallett
Aidan Sanders
Jamie Yang

Katahdin High School

Isiabelle Brownlee

Southern Aroostook Community School

Jennah Brooks
Alyssa Crandall
Callie Russell

Mattanawcook Academy

Griffin House

At Large Scholarship

Harrison Tapley
Sydney Fogler

Annual Meeting Update

On May 9, 2023, Katahdin Federal Credit Union held its Annual Meeting in Millinocket. Joe Clark, Patrick Sturtevant and Marjorie King were elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors, the following Directors were elected as officers: Rodney Daigle, Chairperson; Bernadette Friel, Vice Chairperson; Joe Clark, Secretary; and Gary Dumas, Treasurer.



Board Recognition

It isn't often that we have the opportunity to recognize a Board Member with 30 years of credit union expertise! This year we do! We would like to recognize Theresa Coffin for her hard work and dedication over the years. After a thirty-year run, Theresa decided not to seek re-election. Theresa not only served over 30 years on the Board, she also served as Supervisory Committee Chairperson for many years. Her dedication and loyalty to the credit union movement is certainly admirable. She was the recipient of the 2018 Maine Credit Union League's Alexander Ferguson Award for Outstanding Credit Union Volunteer. At a recent Board meeting, Theresa was awarded the title/position of Honorary Director. Congratulations Theresa and thank you for all of your years of service!

What You Should Know About Synthetic Identity Fraud

Fraudulent attempts and scams to steal non-public personal information are consistently on the rise, and with an increasingly digital world, they can be more and more challenging to recognize. Fraudsters are becoming trickier, attempting to seamlessly integrate scams into our day-to-day lives. This means the risk of exposing personal financial information—even unintentionally—grows daily.

An increase in scams also means there is an increase in the type of fraudulent attacks used by schemers. Synthetic identity fraud has begun posing a serious threat, specifically to the financial industry.

What Is Synthetic Identity Fraud?

According to Equifax, “synthetic identity fraud is a form of financial fraud in which a real person’s information, such as their social security number (SSN) or date of birth, is stolen and combined with other falsified personal information to create a new identity.” Typically, the SSN is stolen—either by the fraudster stealing it themselves or purchasing a stolen SSN from the dark web—and then a name, date of birth, mailing address, email account, and phone number are made up and associated with the legitimate SSN, creating a new identity. This process is known as identity compilation, but identity manipulation is when a fraudster also steals the victim’s actual personally identifiable information and alters it slightly to try and “become” a new person. A false identity can also be created through identity fabrication, where the fraudster completely falsifies all identity information. The process of creating a fake identity can be lengthy, sometimes taking years to build a full, believable credit history.

Who Do Fraudsters Generally Target?

This type of fraudulent activity can be far more difficult to identify, as traditional fraud monitoring processes may not detect it. Even financial institutions and lenders have trouble detecting these scammers because of the solid credit report they present. Most commonly, criminals who utilize this method of fraud will target children, the elderly, and the homeless population, as they are the least likely to use or monitor their credit and credit history.

What Is the Goal of Synthetic Identity Fraud

More often than not, this type of fraud is associated with financial fraud. With these newly created identities, the scammer can apply for and obtain loans, bank accounts, credit cards, and more. They could also file tax returns, receive medical care, and apply for unemployment benefits.

Fraudsters may seek this method out as a way to obtain false accounts to store illegally obtained funds in, to evade persecution and hide from authorities, and even to receive loans/walk away with money.

What Happens if You’re the Victim

If the scammer uses your SSN, it can lead to a split or fragmented credit file, meaning another person’s information is linked to your credit history. This can be harmful to your credit if the other person defaults on loans, makes late payments, and takes other negative, careless actions because it will lead to a (sometimes very significant) drop in your credit score. It can be an extensive, time-consuming process, but it is important to sort through and separate legitimate and illegitimate information on your credit history to determine where the false information is coming from.

How To Protect Yourself from Synthetic Identity Fraud

One of the biggest ways to stay on top of attempts of synthetic identity fraud is to consistently monitor your credit report. If you notice suspicious activity, report it to any of the three main credit bureaus (Equifax, TransUnion, or Experian) or on the Federal Trade Commission’s website.

It is crucial to be careful with your personal information. Keep your SSN card at home and safely stored away, along with any other documents that have personal information, such as tax/credit union statements. Shred or black those documents out when disposing of them. Understand the signs of phishing and be extra cautious with emails, texts, and phone calls from unknown and unsolicited sources, especially if they begin asking for your information under the guise of someone else.

www.maineicul.org

Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger



For a number of years, Katahdin FCU has been raising funds to help end hunger insecurity in the greater Katahdin region. In 2022, Katahdin Federal Credit Union raised over \$17,000 to contribute to the Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger. Recently, funds raised were presented to Katahdin area food pantries. Area food pantries and service organizations receiving over \$2,800 each included Christ the Divine Mercy Parish, I Care Ministries, Agape Food Pantry, Chester Baptist Food Pantry, Tri Town Baptist Church, and the Eastern Agency on Aging.

The Social Responsibility Committee and staff supported this project through a golf tournament, raffles, May basket sales, popcorn sales, book sale, Omaha Meat Package Raffle, and a Superbowl Snack Raffle. Contributions to the Maine Credit Unions’ Campaign for Ending Hunger are returned to the local community at the end of the campaign year. A golf tournament will be held in September to benefit 2023’s campaign. If you would like to participate or donate to this worthy event, please give us a call!

Maine credit unions contributed \$1,000,434 to end hunger in 2022 and supported 260 organizations across Maine, including local food pantries, meal sites, and schools. People Helping People since 1990 with over \$12.3 million raised to combat hunger in Maine.



Representatives from Agape Food Pantry, I Care Ministries, Christ the Divine Mercy Parish, Eastern Agency on Aging and representatives from the KFCU Social Responsibility Committee.

Going on a summer vacation? Make sure to take your KFCU Visa Card with you!

The Bottom Line

4 Priceless Money Lessons For Kids

Financial Literacy is a Gift That Lasts a Lifetime

Financial tradeoffs, interest rates and the importance of having an emergency fund: Our current economic circumstances are full of teachable moments we can and should share with our children. After all, they're probably not learning these topics in school. Only 1 in 6 students will be required to take a personal finance course before earning a high school diploma, according to nonprofit Next Gen Personal Finance.

That's why we're equipping you with money tips and topics to discuss with the children in your life, plus independent study materials (ahem, videos and games) that will hold kids' attention while teaching them money management. Keep reading to get to the head of the class.

Being in Charge of the Budget

Are your children constantly asking you for money? One Florida father found a way to nip that in the bud: He had his teen and preteen sign a contract stating what expenses he would pay for, then gave them a set amount of money to spend each month for clothing, cellphone bill and extras. "My son's hard lesson came when his friend pushed him into a pool along with his cellphone. He learned why it's important to build a reserve for unexpected expenses," the father said. Giving your kids a paycheck allows them the chance to make financial decisions – and experience the consequences firsthand.

The Economics of Higher Ed

We've all asked a kid, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Instead ask what their interests are and help them explore how they might be applied in a future career. This teaches them adaptability, something of value in a changing economic landscape.

As they get closer to making a decision about whether to attend college or trade school, help them think through the costs and benefits. Junior Achievement's Access Your Future app can help them crunch the numbers. And if you have a child already attending college, know that timing is everything. Yale researchers have found that graduating from college in a bad economy has a lasting negative impact on wages – and many students are considering gap years and grad school because of this.

Certified Teller Graduates

We are pleased to announce that four of our tellers have completed the Maine Credit Union's League Certified Teller Program. This program consisted of workshops spanning several months. The training covered teller operations, credit union principles, regulations, cash handling and member service. Tellers graduating from the program include Felicia Ball, Madyson Brown, Judy Michaud and Katie McVey. Congratulations to all of you!



The Roots of Retirement

Raise your hand if you want to raise a child who will hit the ground running when it comes to saving for retirement. Personal finance experts say we should let our children know that retirement is the biggest expense they'll ever save for, and it's important to start early. To help them understand the value of compounding, help them open a savings account (or guardian-type brokerage account) where they can experience the power of this phenomenon for themselves.

Extra Credit Knowledge

When you're young and don't have much money, it's easy to rely too much on credit and jeopardize your financial future. Help your child understand the importance of a good credit score, and explain how you keep yours up. Share stories about how you financed your first car or house, and explain in concrete terms how the interest rate affected the overall purchase price. Finally, consider adding your teen as an authorized user on your credit card and teaching them how to read a statement and pay the balance in full each month.

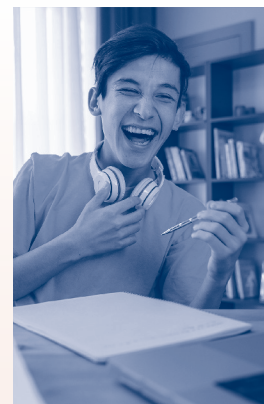
Homeschool Resources for Teens:

- Search ngpf.org/arcade for web-based games like "Money Magic," "Payback," "Stax" and "Credit Clash"

For Younger Kids:

- Schoolhouse Rock! vintage videos like "Budget" and "Dollars and Sense"
- Cha-chingusa.org offers Money Smart Kids videos like "Do it Passionately" and "Saving for Success"

In giving your child the gift of financial literacy, you're helping set them up for a brighter future. Through a purposeful approach, we can all do our part to raise the next generation of resourceful citizens.



Next Steps:

- Have family or friends share stories of how they thrived during a recession or found creative ways to stretch a budget.
- Consider helping your child get started with investing, keeping in mind their investments will change calculations for college aid.
- Introduce your family members – even the younger ones – to your advisor, who can act as a teacher's aide for financial literacy.

Single Source



Financial Centre

Thomas W. Duff

Financial Advisor

Single Source Financial Centre

1000 Central Street

Millinocket, ME 04462

207-723-5264 or 888-925-5264

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Services

Savings

Share Accounts
 Club Accounts
 Share Drafts
 Share Certificates
 IRA Accounts
 Roth IRA Accounts
 Coverdell Education Savings Acct.
 IRA Certificates
 Roth IRA Certificates
 Money TrekSM Youth Savings Program
 Health Savings Accounts

Loans

New & Used Auto & RV Loans
 Cottage Loans (including on leased land)
 Land Loans
 Computer Loans
 Real Estate
 Home Equity Loans and Lines of Credit
 Share Secured-Certificate Secured Streamline (Line of Credit)
 Unsecured Loans
 Visa[®] Classic[®] Cards
 Visa[®] Gold Cards

Other Services

CU24SM Visa[®] Check Card
 Direct Deposit/Payroll Deduction
 Money Orders
 Wire Transfers
 Night Deposit
 Safe Deposit Boxes
 24-Hour ATM
 Notary Services
 CUSO-Single Source
 Financial Centre
 Visa[®] Prepaid Gift Cards
 Katahdin Connection
 Home Banking Solution
 Bill Pay
 Mobile Banking
 Remote Deposit Capture

Locations

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 Millinocket, ME 04462
 207-723-9718
 800-451-9145
 Fax 207-723-8426
 1068 Crystal Road
 Island Falls, ME 04747
 207-463-3661
 www.katahdinfcu.org
 NMLS # 784803

Hours

8:00 am – 5:00 pm Drive Up
 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Lobby



Shred Event

In May, KFCU sponsored a Shred Event at the main office. Many members took advantage of this opportunity to eliminate sensitive documents safely and securely. During the Shred event, 3800 pounds of paper were shredded. KFCU plans to make this an annual event for our members—the next scheduled event is May 10, 2024. Thank you to all who participated!

Left: Records Management employee and James (Stearns High School Student) working on the shred event.

Financial Literacy Workshops

In March and April, KFCU collaborated with the Millinocket Memorial Library to sponsor a Financial Literacy Series. In March, KFCU staff held a session on Fraud Protection focusing on how to keep yourself safe from fraud. The session also gave some tips on spotting elder abuse. In April, Paul Dillon of Dillon Law presented a session on wills, estate planning, POAs and Trusts. The following week, Tom Duff held a session on retirement, 401Ks, pension and Social Security. All sessions were well received, and we hope to hold more sessions like this in the near future.

Right: Tom Duff workshop



Fun at Granite Street School

KFCU, along with other area businesses and organizations, donated picnic tables to the Granite Street School for staff and students to enjoy during the warmer months. The picnic tables were delivered shortly before Field Day and were put to good use as the “popsicle stand.” KFCU staff helped the youngsters celebrate by serving popsicles during the Field Day event.

Left: The second-grade class, teachers and staff having fun at the new picnic table.

Win \$50

What is Synthetic Identity Fraud?

Answer: _____

If you know the answer, please fill out this coupon and submit your entry by August 15, 2023. A winner will be drawn at random. Last quarter's question was “What is vishing?” The answer was “A voice version of phishing on the telephone ”

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____