

## What is a credit union?

A credit union is a not-for-profit, financial cooperative, owned by its members. Credit Unions have helped people build better lives by providing consumer education, a safe place for members to put their savings, and access to reasonable loan rates.

## How is a credit union different than a bank?

Credit Unions can offer pretty much the same services offered by traditional banks (i.e. savings, checking, loans, etc). But, there is a fundamental difference between credit unions and banks. A credit union is a **not-for-profit** financial institution chartered by people who save and borrow there.

## So what does this mean for you?

Credit Unions exist only to serve their members. Independent surveys repeatedly show that credit union members are more satisfied with the service they receive from their credit union than are customers from a bank.

And – because Credit Unions are not-for-profit, the operating income goes back to members, in the form of lower fees and better rates.

So Credit Unions not only have the reputation for offering the best service in town...but also tend to offer the best deals in town!

## Are my savings protected?

Yes, each member's share (savings) account is insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the Federal Government. At Directions Credit Union, you also receive an additional \$250,000 of savings protection for each qualifying account through Excess Share Insurance.

## How do I join?

Directions Credit Union is open for membership to persons who live, work, worship, or attend school in Ashland, Richland, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Huron, Knox, Wood, Fulton or Lucas County. To become a member, you must open a share account (i.e. savings account) and make a deposit, which represents an ownership share in the credit union. It's that easy!

**Toledo**  
1-888-508-2228

**Central Ohio**  
1-800-445-3505

**New Philadelphia**  
1-800-346-2712