



# Giving Back

Official Newsletter of the Illinois Credit Union Foundation

November 2025

Volume 22, Issue 11

## ICUF Hosts Exploring Why Workshop in Springfield November 19 – Register Now

The ICU Foundation is excited to bring the popular Exploring Why™ Workshop to ICUL-affiliated credit unions. The 1-Day Workshop will be held Wednesday, November 19 at the ICUL Springfield office. Exploring Why™ is an experiential training program created by the National Credit Union Foundation that credit unions can use to support and engage their employees. It is perfect for staff and board members who are new to credit unions as well as can serve as an energizing boost for people with years of experience. The engaging program covers credit union history, philosophy & principles. [Register Today!](#)

## ICUF Annual Support Campaign

The Illinois Credit Union Foundation is conducting its most important fundraiser, the Annual Support Campaign, until the end of the year. Since 1978, the ICU Foundation has provided nearly **\$5 million** to assist credit unions as they improve financial well-being for their members, staff and local communities. [Click here](#) for an Annual Fund Contribution Form, or [click here](#) to make a gift via PayPal. Contact Melanie Murphy at 224-407-0440 or [melanie.murphy@icul.com](mailto:melanie.murphy@icul.com) with questions.

## ICUF Annual Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of the ICU Foundation Annual Raffle Drawing. A huge **THANK YOU** to the 55 credit unions who sold tickets which helped raise approximately \$10,000 (net) for the Foundation!

Prize	Winner
Grand Prize \$1,500	Darrell Johnson, United Equity CU
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$500	Zachary Sparling, United Equity CU
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$250	Karen Robinson, Blackhawk Area CU
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Tom Kane, ICUL – donated back to Foundation
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	NuMark CU
6 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Nicole Vollman, Healthcare Associates CU
7 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Anna & Andrew Clark, Park Manor Christian Church CU
8 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Streator Onized CU
9 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Mae Dean, Aurora Policemen CU
10 <sup>th</sup> Prize \$100	Financial Plus CU

## NCUF Announces 2026 DE Program Dates – Registration Opens

The National Credit Union Foundation announced dates for the 2026 DE Program. Since 1982, the [Credit Union Development Education \(CUDE™\) program](#) and its international alumni network have transformed the culture, strategy, outreach and impact of the credit union movement. Upon completion of the DE Program, individuals earn their CUDE designation and join over 3,000 credit union advocates from around the world. The 2026 DE Program registration is open.

## Foundation Questions?

Contact Melanie Murphy at 224-407-0440 or [melanie.murphy@icul.com](mailto:melanie.murphy@icul.com).

## REMINDERS

### ICUF Scholarships & Grants

The ICU Foundation offers Grants of up to \$10,000 to cover a wide variety of projects to help credit unions grow and expand their services. ICU Foundation Scholarships can be used for a wide variety of education programs. All ICUL-affiliated CUs are eligible,

and applications are accepted year-round. We encourage you to apply early in the year since funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. [Check out the scholarship & grant details online.](#)

## **Reality Fair Programs**

**Teen Reality Fairs** teach students how to manage money and the importance of a budget or spending plan. The Bite of Reality program and resources, offered by the ICU Foundation at no cost to credit unions, is available in a variety of formats (app-based, computer-accessible, and paper packets). **Retirement Reality Fairs** are similar to Teen Fairs except the participants can use their real-life situations instead of pretend scenarios when planning for the future. The Retire on Track program and resources are provided by the ICU Foundation at no cost to credit unions. [Learn about Reality Fairs & Access FREE Resources](#)

## **Financial Education in Other Languages & CU Compliance**

ICUL's Director of Compliance, Shannon Basile, recently shared a blog about what credit unions need to consider when offering financial education information (presentations or materials) in other languages. You'll need to login to the ICUL website to access the [compliance blog post](#).

## **2025 Events & Important Dates**

<b>November 19</b>	<b>ICUF Exploring Why Workshop (Springfield)</b> <i>Calling all Credit Union Enthusiasts – join us for a fantastic 1-Day Workshop to dig into principles and philosophy!</i>
<b>January 1 to December 31</b>	<b>Foundation's Annual Support Campaign</b> <i>Our most important fundraiser which provides unrestricted support to the Foundation – donations accepted year-round</i>

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