

## Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids Committee 2009 Year In Review



After working hard to exceed the \$145,000 set in 2008, Minnesota Credit Unions for Kids (MnCU4Kids) committee set the 2009 fundraising goal at \$150,000. The 2009 fundraising totals will be available in early 2010.

Jeff Schwalen of Hiway Federal Credit Union was elected to serve as the committee's junior co-chair, assuming the role in late April, serving with Katie Grindeland of Star Choice Credit Union.

### Fundraising Packet

In May, MnCU4Kids made its annual fundraising packet available on its web site ([www.mncu4kids.org](http://www.mncu4kids.org)). Credit unions received a postcard announcing the availability of the packet and were directed to visit the web site to access a variety of fundraising ideas.

### Committee Fundraisers

**Chain of Hearts** – The 2009 Chain of Hearts fundraiser took place in the first quarter of 2009, with nearly 30 credit unions taking part Jan. 7-Feb. 27. Final totals will be available in late 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

**Annual Meeting** – The Annual Meeting fundraiser, held April 17, featured team relay races through an inflatable obstacle course. The event raised more than \$9,000 plus an anticipated 150% match from CO-OP Financial Services. The evening also featured an awards presentation and a special guest, CMN Champion Child Nik Nelson and his family.

**Golf Tournament** – Held Wednesday, June 24, at the Refuge Golf Club in Oak Grove, the 2009 Credit Unions for Kids golf tournament was a tremendous success. The tournament welcomed 95 golfers and raised \$23,746 for kids at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. The 2010 golf tournament will be June 23.

- **Bowl-O-Rama** – MnCU4Kids held the second annual Bowl-O-Rama on Oct. 28 at the Stars & Strikes Entertainment Center in Wyoming. Nearly 100 credit union representatives took part, raising more than \$4,600 for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare. Gillette patient Alex Schiefelbein and his mom spoke at the end of the event about their experience with the hospital and expressed appreciation for credit unions' continued support of Children's Miracle Network.

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- **Big Buck Contest** – Over the last few years, a quiet competition has been brewing in Central Minnesota where a handful of credit unions have been participating in a friendly hunting contest. Each fall credit union deer hunters compete to see who can bring home the biggest bucks and receive bragging rights for the year. This year five credit unions accepted the challenge, which runs Sept. 19-Dec. 13. A winner will be announced in late December. The event is expected to raise about \$1,700 for MnCU4Kids.

### Volunteer of the Year

**Steve Oien** was named MnCU4Kids' 2008 Volunteer of the Year and was recognized at MnCUN's 2009 Annual Meeting. The award is based on a points system that includes involvement in committee activities and fundraisers throughout the calendar year. Oien joined the committee in 2003 and served as the committee co-chair from 2004-2008.

### Credit Unions Recognized with Awards

A number of credit unions were recognized in April for fundraising excellence. Each year, MnCU4Kids calculates which credit unions in the state raised the most money per member. The 2008 honorees were:

1. **South Metro Federal Credit Union**
2. **Pipefitters Steamfitters Credit Union**
3. **Accentra Credit Union**

Additionally, Gillette presented awards to credit unions that had reached various fundraising milestones since MnCU4Kids was established in 1998.

**Hiway Federal Credit Union** eclipsed the \$200,000 fundraising mark in 2008 and over the past 11 years has raised \$229,522 for Credit Unions for Kids.

Three additional credit unions surpassed the \$50,000 mark last year. They include:

**US Federal Credit Union** for raising \$97,278 since 1998;  
**Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union** for raising \$97,243 since 1998;  
**Minnco Credit Union** for raising \$57,473 since 1998; and  
**Greater Minnesota Credit Union** for raising \$53,197 since 1998.