

CURRENCY



A Quarterly Publication of Novartis Federal Credit Union

SUMMER 2016

Credit Union Membership Is Worth Hundreds

Did you know you're saving money – maybe hundreds of dollars a year – just by being a Novartis Federal Credit Union member? Credit unions typically charge fewer and lower fees than other financial institutions, according to the Credit Union National Association's (CUNA) latest membership benefits report. Of course, the amount you save has a lot to do with your financial habits and the number of Novartis FCU products and services you use. On average, credit union member households in the U.S. save about \$159 a year. Check the list of products and services below to see how well you are taking advantage of your NFCU membership.



- **Checking with a Rewards Debit Card – plus access to over 55,000 surcharge free ATM's nationwide**
- **Online Banking for 24 hour account access**
- **Mobile banking to put the credit union right on your smartphone or tablet**
- **Bill Pay (ARROW) to handle monthly expenses with ease**
- **PopMoney to transfer funds person to person with just an email address or mobile phone number**
- **Low interest rate loans for autos, vacations, bill consolidation and practically any other need**
- **Mortgage and Home Equity loans**
- **VISA Platinum Rewards Credit Card**
- **VISA Gift cards and Reloadable Travel Cards**
- **Shared branch access at over 5,000 locations nationwide**
- **Financial Planning Services – strategies to reach your long-term goals**

See something on the list you're not taking advantage of? Stop by one of our branches to see one of our knowledgeable staff or give us a call to get more information. We are here to provide you with superior service to manage all your financial needs.

Congratulations to Amanda Flanagan

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce this year's Youth Involvement Board Scholarship winner is Amanda Flanagan, daughter of Josephine and Francis Flanagan. She was selected from a group of high school seniors who demonstrated excellence in academic performance, leadership and community service. Amanda will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Novartis FCU towards her education at University of New England. Congratulations to Amanda and all our applicants and best wishes for future success!



Inside This Issue:

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Federal Credit Union
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Teach Your Children Financial Independence

Are your kids on the right track to financial independence? For many of today's young adults, the weakest link lies in learning the basics. Achieving economic prosperity is difficult, and it's especially hard for young people who've never learned how to manage money.

Your credit union is ideally positioned to respond because we believe in the power of education. We're here to help you launch the youth in your life toward financial independence, and here's how:

JOIN. For starters, open a credit union savings account for each child in your family. As soon as your children can write, have them fill out deposit and withdrawal slips. Guide teenagers through using a debit card and tracking transactions.

SHARE. Include your children in household money discussions. Show them how you budget income and expenses. As their skills improve, give them challenges—such as finding a better cell phone plan, calculating the total monthly cost of owning a car, or sticking to a budget for back-to-school or holiday spending.

COACH. Remind your children to ask for help when they need it. And turn to your credit union when you want help. Our tradition of service and philosophy of self-help make Novartis Federal Credit Union a natural partner in pursuing financial security. We're here to help. For more information on opening an account and to learn about all of our services, contact us at 973-947-1000 or visit our website at www.novartisfcu.org.



Make it a Great Vacation



Plan your next vacation ahead to ensure that you get the most for your money without sacrificing a good time. Then relax, knowing that you might even have funds left over when you get home. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. Airfare – Check carrier websites as well as travel aggregators like Expedia, Travelocity, Yapta and Airfarewatchdog and sign up for alerts to let you know if fares change. Use a regional airport – low-cost airlines often don't service the large international airports. If you have a Rewards card like the Novartis FCU Platinum VISA check if you have enough points to cover a ticket.

2. Lodging – After checking rates online call a property directly to see if they will beat the rate or have any special promotions. Or consider an apartment or home rental instead of a hotel – you'll save even more by cooking your own meals. Consider booking a place to stay through airbnb.com.

3. Food – Make lunch your main meal. Lunches often are 30% cheaper than the same entrées on a dinner menu. Stock up on snack foods before you leave home and replenish your supply at local grocery stores rather than convenience marts.

4. Search for vacation package deals – Package deals often give great discounts. Find them on sites like Expedia and Priceline, or daily deal sites like Groupon Getaways and LivingSocial Escapes.

5. Use a prepaid travel card – Load the card before you go to help stay on budget, but if you do run short you can reload by phone or online 24 hours a day once you have registered the card. Purchase your Novartis FCU Travel Card through the link on the On-line Services page of our website.

6. Book by your budget – If your budget is more important than a specific destination, use the flexible dates options available on many travel sites and search different cities to find a trip that inspires.

7. Travel off-season – If you're flexible, travel in the shoulder seasons – just before or after peak season depending on your destination. Prices are low, the weather could be really nice, shops and restaurants are open, and there are fewer tourists.

8. Open a Novartis FCU Vacation Club – saving every paycheck will add up and give you the perfect start to your next vacation.

Taking Care of Aging Parents and Relatives

If you live long enough to watch your parents or other relatives grow old, your responsibilities in those relationships are likely to shift. Sooner or later, you're likely to move from continually receiving their gifts – emotional, physical, or financial – to giving of your own time and effort to help meet their changing needs.

Be Realistic Experts say most people are overly optimistic about their ability to remain fully independent as they age. Many people eventually need some type of help, ranging from occasional home maintenance to nursing care. When people wait too long to discuss long-term care options, they sometimes can't find the right level of care at the right facility when their need becomes urgent.

Time to Talk Start talking now to learn about your aging parents' desires and options. One way to get started is looking for conversational "triggers," such as chatting about a neighbor's move to an assisted living facility or sharing a brochure about elderly housing options. Next, shift the conversation to your parents' plans and preferences by asking "gentle" questions while avoiding the alarming words "nursing home." Instead, learn about local options and then visit facilities with your parents. Figure out what they can afford by looking at their budget. If necessary, decide how much you can contribute. Talk to siblings to gain their input and learn whether they can help.

Watch and listen *Seek answers to these questions:*

- Are my parents handling financial paperwork, or is it stacking up?
- Do my parents need help with everyday tasks they used to handle themselves?
- Are my parents taking care of their health? Are there signs of incontinence?
- Are my parents able to get around, both within their home and in their community?

When adult children live far from their parents, getting answers may require an extended visit or talking with siblings who live nearby or with the parents' neighbors.

Plan ahead As parents' needs increase, adult children may need legal authority to act on their parents' behalf. A health care power of attorney and a durable power of attorney typically provide this authority. You also should gather information about parents' financial accounts, assets, insurance, wills, and health care directives. Throughout the process, remember to listen carefully to the wishes of elderly parents and then respect their desires as much as possible. By showing respect for your parents' preferences now, you'll be better prepared to someday share your own wishes with the next generation of caregivers.

When it's time to start making financial decisions about the changing needs of your family, a professional at Novartis Federal Credit Union would be happy to speak with you. Contact us at 973-947-1000.



Time for Summer Homework?

School may be over for another year but now it's time for a different kind of homework! The Credit Union has designed home equity loan programs to turn the equity you have built into cash to help make your home work for you.

Whether you have a do-it-yourself project or a major renovation planned, we can help you by providing the financial tools you need to complete your "to do" list.

Maybe your plans include a vacation, financing college expenses or consolidating high interest rate debt into one affordable payment – whatever your need, use the value in your home and the expert guidance of your Credit Union to get the job done.

Log on to www.novartiscfu.org and click on Rates/Apply for a Consumer Loan to access our Home Equity loan application, call our mortgage experts today at 973-947-1000, Option 2 or email loans@novartiscfu.org to start your home work with Novartis Federal Credit Union.



We are everywhere you need to be.

At more than 5,400 CO-OP Shared Branch locations in all 50 states, you can conduct transactions just like you would at your home credit union. That's because we're part of the CO-OP Shared Branch network. So you can make deposits, transfers and account inquiries, and get person-to-person assistance with your accounts, even when you're far from home. Simply look for the CO-OP Shared Branch logo.



Your Privacy is Important to Us

Novartis Federal Credit Union is committed to providing you with competitive products and services to meet your financial needs and goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. You entrust us with valuable personal information and we have put controls such as multi-factor authentication to access online and mobile banking, in place to help your data remain secure. You can find our privacy statement and notice of how we handle the personal information we collect and disclose by clicking on Privacy Policy from the home page of our website, www.novartisfcu.org.

While we work hard to protect your information there are important steps you can take as well.

- Always keep PINs and passwords confidential and change your passwords on a regular basis.
- Use complex passwords that include letters, numbers and special characters and are not easy to guess.
- Use different passwords for each application – tough for you but also tougher for the identity thief who could



compromise a great deal at once if all passwords are the same!

- Never respond to email or text requests for account credentials – the credit union will not contact you in this way asking you to reset your access to online or mobile banking.
- Sign up for e-statements – an electronic record delivered directly to you lessens the chance of lost or discarded paper statements falling into the wrong hands.
- Keep your anti-virus / anti-spam / anti-malware protection updated on any device you use to access accounts or store personal information – this includes mobile phones!

NOVARTIS Federal Credit Union



Loan Department

973.947.1000 – FAX: 973.947.0999

East Hanover Office (Bldg. 315)

One Health Plaza, East Hanover, NJ 07936
862.778.8160 – FAX: 973.781.6877

Home Loan Department

877.885.4044 – FAX: 973.240.2201

Ridgedale Avenue Office

124 S. Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936

e-C.U.P.I.D. & A.R.R.O.W.

www.NovartisFCU.org

Novartis Federal Credit Union is registered with the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System (NMLS). Our NMLS Registration Number is 422379

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Ridgedale Avenue Office is open Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM; the Drive-Thru is open 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM.

The teller windows in East Hanover are open Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM for conducting financial transactions.

Other office hours can be found on our website at www.NovartisFCU.org – “about us”.

Member Service Representatives are available to answer questions and assist in loan processing at our Ridgedale and East Hanover offices from 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Labor Day
Monday, September 5, 2016

Start Saving for Your Next Vacation Today!

A Vacation Club Account is a great way to start planning for next year's getaway! Easily get a start on next year's adventure by joining our Vacation Club today. For our current Club members, checks will be issued the week of July 4 and available for pick up in the Ridgedale and East Hanover Campus branches. Any checks not picked up by July 8 will be mailed to the address of record. Members who have arranged to have their club disbursements automatically transferred to their savings or checking will have the funds available by July 2. Please check e-CUPID online banking for more information.

*Have a Safe &
Relaxing Vacation!*

