

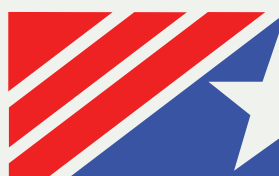


# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**P4** | Celebrate National Credit Union Youth Week

**P5** | Why an IRA Might Be Right for You

**P6** | Common Credit Report Misunderstandings



**Barksdale Federal  
Credit Union™**

*Your Financial Partner for Life™*

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### Barksdale Federal Credit Union Financials

	January 2012	January 2013
Loans	496,245,828	535,223,493
Assets	1,055,125,344	1,105,670,535
Deposits	951,026,749	994,899,141
Reserves	99,630,163	105,424,944
Members	100,791	104,585

All financials are rounded to the nearest dollar.

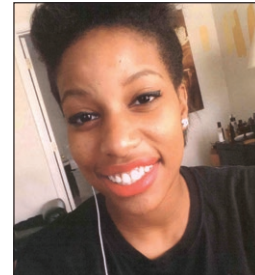
For more information, center locations and hours,  
visit [www.bfcu.org](http://www.bfcu.org), or call **318-549-8240** or  
**800-647-BFCU (2328)**. CUSCs can be found  
at [www.cuservicecenters.com](http://www.cuservicecenters.com).

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## Congratulations to Our Four Scholarship Winners!



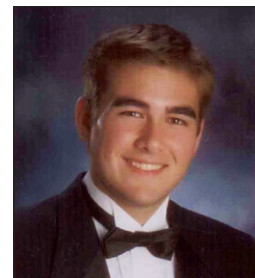
Derek Axelson  
from Airline  
High School



Brenda Barbee  
from Lovejoy  
High School



Kelly Dickson  
from Airline  
High School



Garrett Littrell  
from Loyola  
College Prep



## Grand Opening of the Stockwell Road Center

Please visit our newest location at  
551 Stockwell Rd.,  
Bossier City, LA 71111.

# Making a Difference in Our Community

Here at Barksdale Federal Credit Union we care about strengthening our community. That is why we work to make a difference through a variety of programs.

## Ways Barksdale Federal Credit Union Gives Back

• **Financial donations to charitable organizations.** We are fortunate to have so many great charitable organizations in our region, which is why we make financial donations to organizations such as the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Goodwill Industries, Toys for Tots, Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, the American Heart Association, the Northwest Food Bank, and we are proud of our new commitment to the Children's Miracle Network.

• **Employee volunteer hours at local charities.** In addition to our financial contributions, our employees also volunteer their time at great charities. In 2012, employees volunteered more than 3,000 hours to give back to our areas. Our employees can be found teaching financial classes, picking up garbage in our region or painting the home of a less fortunate neighbor. They also participate at charitable walks for autism, Alzheimer's disease, cancer awareness, heart disease and strokes, premature babies, and veterans. Employees donate more than 250 school uniform pieces each year to help families who cannot afford them for their children. We raise funds with our staff through raffles and sales to help children struggling from

muscular dystrophy, those suffering from hunger, children without school supplies, the elderly in need of fans to cool their homes and "new home starter packs" for those leaving homelessness behind. Barksdale Federal Credit Union is also one of the largest corporate contributors to Goodwill Industries with our annual clothing donation in October. At Christmas we fire up our ovens to make sure every Barksdale Air Force Base Airman living in the dorms has homemade baked goods and knows that we appreciate all they give up to protect our country. We feel our responsibility to our community is great, and we strive to be a great asset to those around us. We were honored in 2012 with the Better Business Bureau's Good Neighbor Award. This award recognized the incredible hard work our employees contributed in volunteer community service.

• **Financial literacy programs to educate members and nonmembers.** Here at Barksdale Federal, we work hard to help everyone in our communities make sound financial decisions for their lives. That is why we offer seminars and workshops to help individuals navigate through a variety of financial decisions. We realize that the basics of financial security can be taught at any age, and enjoy visiting the classrooms of local elementary, middle and high schools as well as adult community centers. We also partner with Shreveport Job Corps to help economically disadvantaged youth realize the importance of

living within a budget and maintaining a balanced account. By forging ahead in financial education, we hope to assist our community in becoming more aware of the benefits of becoming financially secure citizens.

• **Scholarship programs.** Education is essential to continuing the strength of our local businesses, which is why we invest in helping our neighbors who are pursuing higher education. Each year we award four of our college-bound members \$1,500 scholarships. The students can use the money toward any of their college needs. Congratulations to our 2013 scholarship winners (featured here in this issue of **Membership Matters**.)

Barksdale Federal Credit Union is connected with the community. Our employees are your neighbors. We invest in families and local businesses by helping you borrow and save for the future. Visit our website at [www.bfcu.org](http://www.bfcu.org) to learn more about how we are working to give back to our community and friend us on Facebook to follow our community progress.



Sincerely,

Rod Taylor  
CEO of Barksdale  
Federal Credit Union



# Celebrate National Credit Union Youth Week

This April come celebrate National Credit Union Youth Week with Barksdale Federal Credit Union (BFCU). From April 21-27, credit unions all over the country will be celebrating our youngest members under the theme of “Savings Sleuth – Solve the Mystery.” The “Savings Sleuth” theme is meant to encourage youth to visit their credit union and solve the mystery of how to save for things they want. Kids will also be encouraged to “stash their cash” at the credit union, which plays off of the secondary theme: mustaches.

In conjunction with your credit union, this is the perfect time to help your children become smart money managers. Here are some ways to start:

- **Explain the basics.** Use basic examples, like coin jars or piggy banks, to explain the difference between a savings

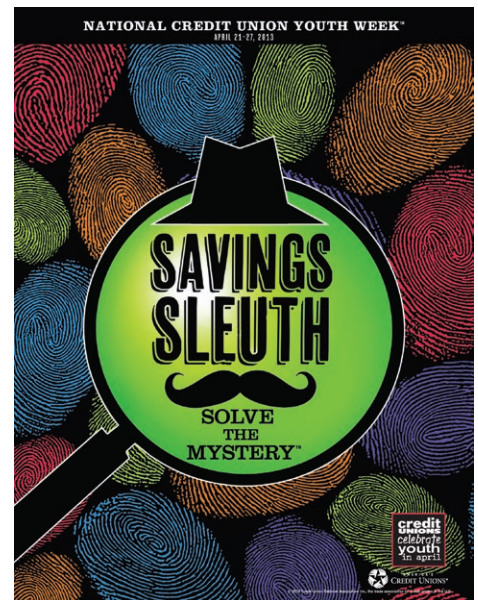
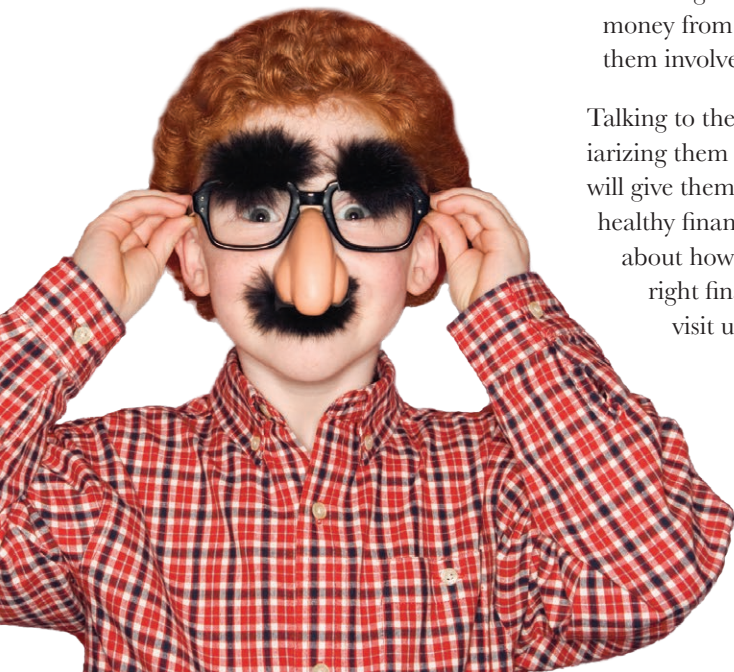
account and a checking account. Be sure to cover how each is important to a healthy financial future.

- **Discuss wants vs. needs.** Explain that the difference between a financial want and a financial need and that it is better to put needs first. Emphasize that only after paying all of your financial needs should you put money toward a financial want.

- **Teach ways to save.** Everyday practices like cutting coupons and comparison shopping can save a lot of money in the long run. Show your children where to find coupons, both online and in the newspaper, and where to start when comparison shopping.

- **Open a savings account at BFCU.** Start your children’s financial future off on the right foot. Take them in to deposit money from their piggy bank and get them involved in their savings.

Talking to the youth in your life and familiarizing them with the basics of finances will give them the tools they need for a healthy financial future. To learn more about how you can set your kids on the right financial path stop by BFCU or visit us online at [www.bfcu.org](http://www.bfcu.org).



**BFCU**  
members  
could get a  
**Special Discount**  
on car insurance.

Get a quote.  
**GEICO**  
[www.geico.com/cu/bfcu](http://www.geico.com/cu/bfcu)



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or in all GEICO companies. See [geico.com](http://geico.com) for more details. GEICO and Affiliates. Washington DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2012 © 2012 GEICO

*Directors' Corner*

# No Joke: Why an IRA Might Be Right for You



Board of Directors: (Back row) Arno Easterly, Keith Fontenot, Al Oar, Bernie Hawk (Front row) Roy Walling, Virgil Barnette, Charlene Ringler

If you're at the very beginning of your career — or still job surfing to try to figure out what kind of career will be a good fit — thinking about retirement is totally ridiculous, right?

Wrong! In reality, the younger you are, the more benefit you can gain from starting to save for retirement in a tax-advantaged account like an individual retirement account (IRA). That's because time is the most powerful element of long-term tax-deferred compounding.\* And while you're young, it's working in your favor.

With compounding, your savings generate earnings, which are then reinvested to generate their own earnings. Tax-deferral means that you don't have to pay taxes on the earnings in the account every year, as you would in a regular savings or investment account. If two accounts pay the same rate of return, but one is taxable and the other is tax-deferred, the money in the tax-deferred account will grow faster.

## Enjoy the Ease and Flexibility of an IRA

If you're new at your job, you may not qualify to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Or your employer may not offer one. But opening an IRA is simple, and

doesn't depend on where you work. You can open an IRA at Barksdale Federal Credit Union and get a great start on retirement savings.

To open an IRA, you must have earned income or be married to a wage-earner. Annual contributions are limited to the following amounts or your taxable compensation for the year, whichever is less. (Those age 50+ can make an additional \$1,000 catch-up contribution.)\*\*

- Tax year 2012: contributions of up to \$5,000 can be made until April 15, 2013.
- Tax year 2013: contributions of up to \$5,500 can be made Jan. 1, 2013, to April 15, 2014.

## Get Started Today

Contact a service representative at Barksdale Federal today to open an account or learn more about how an IRA can benefit you. Call **800-647-2328, option 4**, or visit **[www.bfcu.org](http://www.bfcu.org)**.

\* Taxes will be due at ordinary income tax rates upon withdrawal from a traditional IRA. Withdrawals from a Roth IRA are tax-free if the account holder is at least age 59½ and has held the account for at least five years. Premature withdrawals from either a traditional or Roth IRA are subject to ordinary income tax and a 10% tax penalty.

\*\* These limits are indexed to inflation for future years.

## Compare the Benefits – Traditional and Roth IRAs

	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
Contributions tax-deductible?	Sometimes — depends on participation in an employer plan and income if you or spouse participate	No
Earnings tax-deferred?	Yes	Yes
Distributions tax-free?	No	Yes, if account has been held at least 5 years and owner is 59½ or older



# Common Credit Report Misunderstandings



Here are some common misinterpretations people make about their credit reports and how to clear them up.

## **They have too many student loans listed for me.**

Student loans are often listed as separate loans for each semester of school instead of as one big loan.

## **I must be a victim of ID theft because someone else's name appears on my report.**

Errors in information gathering commonly result in someone else's data being mistakenly listed on your credit report. This is just a mistake, not ID theft.

You can always dispute this information on the website of the particular credit bureau.

## **I paid that collections account, it shouldn't be on my report anymore.**

Collections agencies aren't required to remove a collections account from your credit reports once you have paid it if the information is still timely. All they are required to is list that the account has been satisfied.

## **All these inquiries count against my score.**

Keep in mind that the only inquiries that are ever factored into your credit score are ones that happened in the past year and

that were for the purpose of you applying for credit, financing or some other type of financial contract.

Have questions? A BALANCE<sup>SM</sup> counselor will be happy to guide you through any personal finance topics you wish to discuss. It's free of charge because your financial institution pays the fees for you. Call **888-456-2227** to talk with a counselor or visit [www.balancepro.net](http://www.balancepro.net) to chat online.

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 [lovemycreditunion.org](http://lovemycreditunion.org)

## talk about savings.

say hello to the Sprint Credit Union Member Discount.

- **10% off\*** select regularly priced Sprint service plans
- **15% off\*** select regularly priced Sprint business service plans
- Waived activation fee on new activations
- Waived upgrade fee

Tell them you're a  
**Credit Union Member**  
to get this exclusive offer.

Ask them to be attached to the  
**NACUC\_ZZM Corporate ID.**



Click [www.LoveMyCreditUnion.org/Sprint](http://www.LoveMyCreditUnion.org/Sprint)  
Call **877.SAVE.4.CU.** (877.728.3428)  
Visit **your local Sprint retail location.**

2012 Sprint Item #800-22 ©2012 CU Solutions Group 03/12 567  
\*Application of discount requires 2-year contract extension on existing plans.  
Verification of membership is required at time of activation/upgrade.  
Discount does not apply to secondary lines.  
All rights reserved. Sprint, the logo, and other trademarks are the trademarks of Sprint Nextel.  
For a complete update on the rules of the Sprint Credit Union Member Discount program,  
please visit [www.lovemycreditunion.org/Sprint](http://www.lovemycreditunion.org/Sprint).

BFCU

# Community News

**We wish we had room to list all of the community events – thank you for letting us be your community partner!**

**12/3** Financial education was taught to carpentry students at Shreveport Job Corp.

**12/3** Blanchard Center sponsored the local Red Hat Ladies with BFCU items.

**12/3-7** Employees volunteered at the JS Clark Elementary and taught students to show community support to our youth.

**12/4** Employees donated cookies to the Airmen of BAFB to show our appreciation.

**12/5** Barksdale Airmen were shown the benefits of membership at Right Start.

**12/6** Supported the Second Logistic and Readiness Squadron Christmas Party.

**12/6** Alexandria Area Chamber of Commerce Table Sponsor.

**12/7** Employees donated comfort items for local heroes at the VA Medical Center.

**12/8** Market Center employees rang bells for the Salvation Army.

**12/8** Sponsored Benton Christmas on the Square Festival.

**12/8** Mansfield Road employees had a float in the Christmas in the Hills.

**12/8** Southern region employees gave out candies to the children of soldiers at the Fort Polk Snowflake Festival.

**12/10** Financial education was taught to administration students at Shreveport Job Corp.

**12/11** Blanchard employees judged Student of the Year for Blanchard Elementary School.

**12/12** Sponsored Elm Grove Middle School Basketball Tournament.

**12/12** Southern Region employees participated in Blanket Drive. Blankets were donated to the elderly and Veterans.

**12/13** BFCU joined with the Marines to support Toys for Tots.

**12/13** Hodge Center employees delivered Christmas Blankets to the clients of ParcWay Industries in Jonesboro.

**12/14** Hodge Center employees managed the “Santa Shack” located for the Jackson parish Chamber of Commerce.

**12/17** Southern Region employees participated in Toy Drive, to give toys for less fortunate children in our communities.

**12/18** Santa visited with the boys and girls of our Blanchard Center.

**12/18** Southern Region employees taught Fort Polk Budgeting Class.

**12/20** Donations were made to the inpatient children of Shriner’s Hospital.

**12/28** Blanchard employees delivered donuts and coffee to Caddo Fire District #1, Blanchard Town Hall and Blanchard Police Department.

**12/28** Sponsored Advocare V100 Independence Bowl.

**1/1** Renewed our annual sponsorship for VA Medical Center, where newspapers are delivered daily to hospitalized veterans and Shreveport Chapter of the LA Engineering Society.

**1/8** Southern Region employees donated money to purchase 32 blankets for the elderly.

**1/9** Partnered with KTBS for One Class at the Time and awarded Sun City Elementary teacher Ms. Pingel.

**1/14-1/31** Hodge Center employees raised money for St. Jude’s.

**1/16** Blanchard employees judged the Science/Social Studies Fair at Blanchard Elementary School.

**1/16** Fort Polk Commanding General’s Breakfast Sponsor.

**1/17** Blanchard employees sponsored Project Linus, which provides handmade blankets and afghans to seriously ill and traumatized children.

**1/17** Staff welcomed the incoming Board of Directors at the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce and learned of the Chamber’s goals for the upcoming year at the Shreveport Chamber Annual Meeting.

**1/19** Southern Region employees participated in the National Day of Service at the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

**1/19** Sponsored the Valley Open Karate Tournament at the North Webster Upper Elementary Gym.

## Welcome New SEGs

Simpson 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly of God –  
Simpson, LA

Lagniappe Porta Johns, LLC –  
Glenmora, LA

Gearhead Outfitters – Shreveport, LA

GE Energy – Shreveport, LA

The Cake Shed – Jonesboro, LA

The Women’s League of DeRidder –  
DeRidder, LA

**1/22** Barksdale Federal was recognized for our investment in the Bossier Chamber and greeted the new Chamber Board of Directors for 2013 at the Bossier Chamber Annual Meeting.

**1/23** Employees learned of Mayor Glover’s initiative to reach those who are either under-banked or un-banked and the need to spread financial education to those in our community at the City of Shreveport’s “Bank On” Initiative.

**1/31** Showed support at the LSUS SHRM Dress for Success Shreveport-Bossier’s “The Red Hanger Fundraiser Luncheon.”



## Rates and Dates

Account	Rate	APY*
Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Sp. Purpose Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Children's Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Christmas Club	1.50%	1.50%
IRA Prime Savings	0.25%	0.25%
Regular Checking	0.10%	0.10%
Plus Checking	0.20%	0.20%
High Five Checking	0.10%	0.10%

\* Annual Percentage Yield.

Rates effective March 1, 2013. Rates subject to change without notice.



Federally Insured by NCUA



2701 Village Lane  
Bossier City, LA 71112

**318-549-8240**  
**www.bfcu.org**

## Holiday Closings

Barksdale Federal Credit Union will be closed for the following holidays:

**Memorial Day**  
May 27

**Independence Day**  
July 4

Report lost or stolen Credit cards: **800-543-5073** or **727-570-4881** after hours.  
Debit cards: **800-472-3272** or **973-682-2652**.

## Building a New Home? Be Prepared

Building your dream home is exciting! However, there are many unknowns, some of which are beyond your control. How long will construction take? Will the builder complete everything according to the plan? What will the final cost be? Securing financing for your construction project is a critical step in the process – and it's something you *can* control.

### New Construction Loans

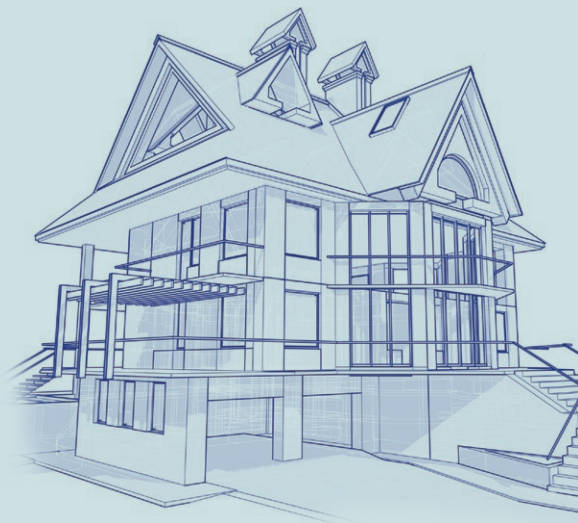
Getting financing for new home construction is slightly different than getting a mortgage for an existing home. Here's what you need to know:

- A construction loan is typically set up as a loan used during the construction period.
- BFCU doesn't require payments to be made during the construction period, which can range from six months to a year.

- A draw schedule for the loan is agreed on by the borrower, the contractor and the lender. This ensures funds will be available during each phase of construction.
- If the borrower owns the land, the lot may be considered equity for the construction loan.
- A certificate of occupancy is issued when the home has been inspected and meets certain building codes. At this stage the home is considered livable, which means financing can be obtained with a mortgage loan.

### Construction-to-Permanent Financing

When the principal balance comes due at the end of the construction phase, a new mortgage pays off the existing construction loan. Permanent financing after the construction period is available



with a new loan giving you the flexibility to choose a mortgage program that fits your long-term needs. Doing so makes it possible to lock in a low, fixed rate for your permanent financing.

At Barksdale Federal Credit Union, our mortgage experts can help you explore financing options carefully so you can begin the construction phase with confidence.