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For Immediate Release

**IL CU raises nearly \$35K
in 'Big Give' fundraising effort**

Naperville, IL., July 21, 2008 – Getting their inspiration from Oprah's Big Give TV show, Financial Plus CU (FPCU), Ottawa, IL, has raised \$34,781 for local individuals in need as part of its own 'Big Give' fundraiser.

At a recent staff meeting, each branch and department was given \$100.00. They were told that they had 30 days to make the money grow and to find ways to give back to organizations and people in its communities. A total of 65 employees participated and grew their seed money through a number of raffles of goods and baskets (many items were donated by local businesses), a bake sale, a car wash, washing windshields at the drive-up facility and guest bartending and waitressing at various places.

"It's not unusual for FPCU staff to want to be helpful. We're a service organization that still believes in providing 'Exceptional Service to Members'," said Jack Teasant, FPCU CEO. "The Big Give seemed to compliment the credit union philosophy of members helping members."

The enthusiasm that this project generated during the subsequent 30 days was extraordinary. FPCU employees were busy having meetings and deciding who would benefit from the Big Give. It was deciding who and how to help that became overwhelming at times. Recipients selected by FPCU's departments and branches included:

- The Teller Department helped a family with the purchase of a service dog for a young autistic boy.
- The Loan Department donated their money to the Kyle Lowe Memorial Fund. Kyle was a young man that lost his life a year ago in a motorcycle accident. This Memorial Fund donates money throughout the year to local organizations and worthwhile causes such as Toys for Tots.
- The Peru Branch donated their money to the LaSalle County Veteran's Home.

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- The Mendota Branch decided to divide their money to the Mendota Food Pantry and they planted flowers at the Senior Center. They also decided to help a mother with several children whose husband passed away unexpectedly.
- The Operations Department contacted the Easter Seals Treatment Center in Ottawa and was told about a family that was in need. They have six children and the mother is on a transplant list.
- The Member Service/Marketing/Human Resources Department contacted the Youth Service Bureau of LaSalle County. They helped a homeless family that included three young children.

“The creativity and resourcefulness in making that initial \$100.00 grow was heartwarming,” said Betty Frey, FPCU’s vice president of member/ employee relations. “Staff volunteered many hours during these 30 days to make the ‘Big Give’ the single most successful fundraiser in the history of Financial Plus Credit Union.”

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Note 1: The Illinois Credit Union League (ICUL) is the primary trade association for credit unions in Illinois, which provides members with information, legislation and education. Membership is open to any credit union operating in accordance with the Illinois Credit Union Act or the Federal Credit Union Act. There are 434 credit unions in Illinois with more than 2.7 million members.

Note 2: Financial Plus Credit Union is an affiliated credit union of ICUL with nearly 19,500 members and more than \$150 million in assets. With offices in Ottawa, Peru and Mendota, Illinois, the credit union is open to anyone living or working in the Illinois counties of LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam or Grundy.