



Contact: William Wille, (630) 983-3216

For Immediate Release

**Local credit union chapter  
receives award for best community involvement**

Southwest Suburban Chicago, IL., September 18, 2008 – The Joseph S. DeRamus Chapter of Credit Unions has received a Chapter Eagle award for best community involvement project. The award was recently presented at the Illinois Credit Union League's (ICUL) Chapter Leaders Conference held this year at Starved Rock State Park in Utica, Illinois.

The annual Eagle awards recognize credit union chapters for quality programs they provide their communities. The Joseph S. DeRamus Chapter was honored for its work with Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn.

For the project, the chapter collected donations and purchased 10 Spinoza Bears, which were donated to the hospital. These special bears provide comfort and friendship to terminally ill children.

The Joseph S. DeRamus Chapter of Credit Unions is comprised of credit unions and credit union officials in an area of Cook County bordered by North Avenue on the north, the DuPage/Cook County line on the west, the Cook/Will County line on the south, and Pulaski/Crawford Road on the east. In the chapter, there are 27 credit unions with \$528.8 million in assets and 100,843 members. As an integral and functioning part of the ICUL, credit unions are united into chapters defined by geographic boundaries. There are 26 credit union chapters throughout Illinois.

A credit union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that is owned by the members it serves. There are about 8,500 credit unions nationwide, counting more than 90 million consumers as members, and collectively hold about \$800 billion in assets. In Illinois, there are more than 430 credit unions with \$20.8 billion in assets, serving more than 2.7 million members.

# # #

**Note:** 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.