

The GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment is the charitable and volunteer arm of the Great Lakes Credit Union. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we are committed to building financial well-being for our members, employees, and communities. Our goal is to effect positive change; financially empower everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status; and make a tangible difference.

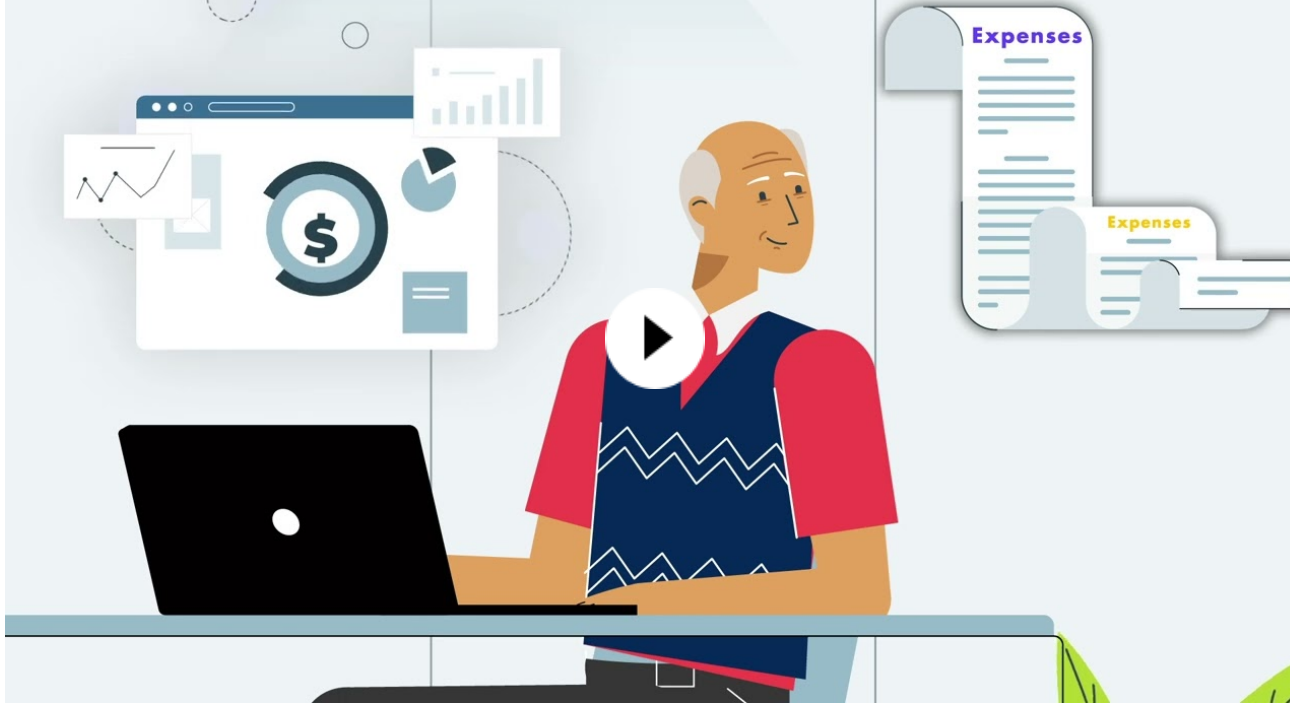
## A Hail Mary at the 11th Hour



Divorce, illness, and loss of income due to COVID made up the triple-threat that nearly caused Pablo to lose his home. Learn how a six-year battle in foreclosure court resulted in a win for Pablo at the last minute – thanks to the help of the GLCU Foundation.

[READ MORE](#)

## Did You Know?



GLCU members and non-members alike can take advantage of our "Great to Know" videos, a series of financial tips that break down everything from how credit cards work to building good credit. Check out our latest [video on budgeting](#) as you prepare for holiday shopping.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

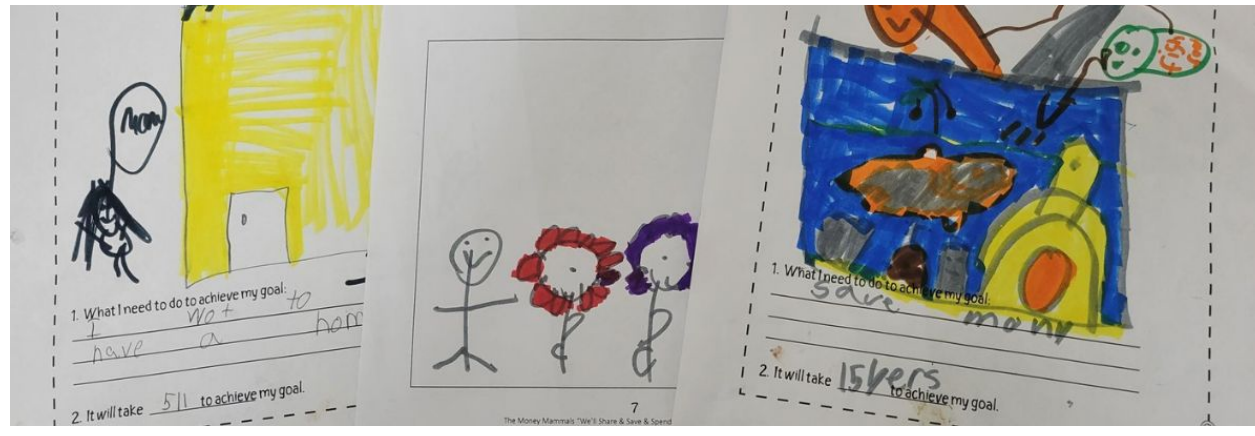
## Volunteer Spotlight

### Partnering with Bernie's Book Bank



The GLCU Foundation is proud to support [Bernie's Book Bank](#), which shares the credit union philosophy of "people helping people." This year, GLCU employees have volunteered more than 80 hours helping sort and package donated books for distribution to our local communities. Just as the Foundation supports financial education, Bernie's Book Bank empowers nearly 300,000 Chicagoland children to enhance their education by exploring new ideas and strengthening their reading skills.

## Educating Our Youth with Money Mammals



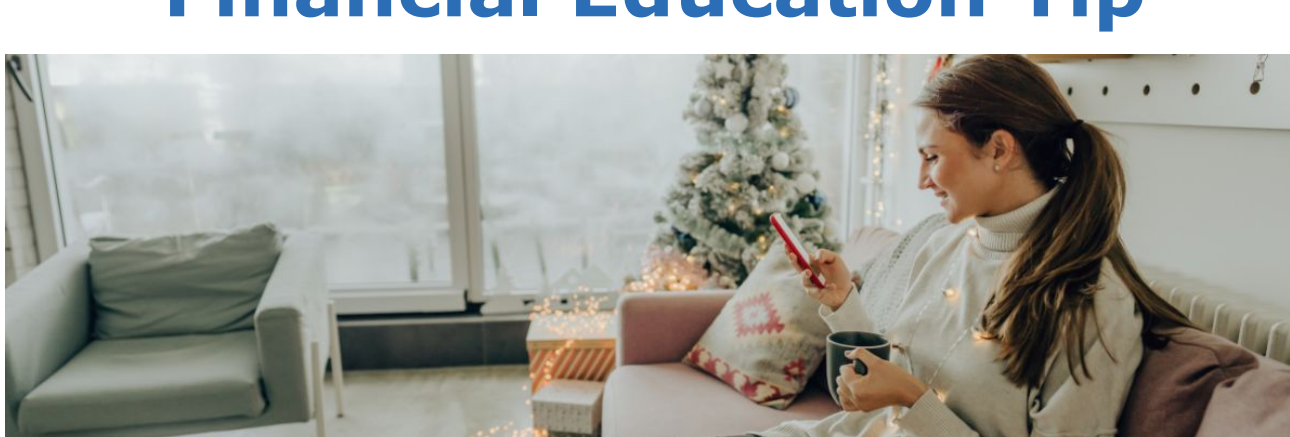
The GLCU Foundation actively engages community partners to bring financial education to youth. We recently partnered with the Waukegan Park District and Emmons School in Antioch to bring a fun and engaging curriculum, Money Mammals® Saving Money is Fun Club™, to Kindergarten through third graders. Through this curriculum they are learning about saving, sharing, and spending smart.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## By the Numbers - Our Community Impact



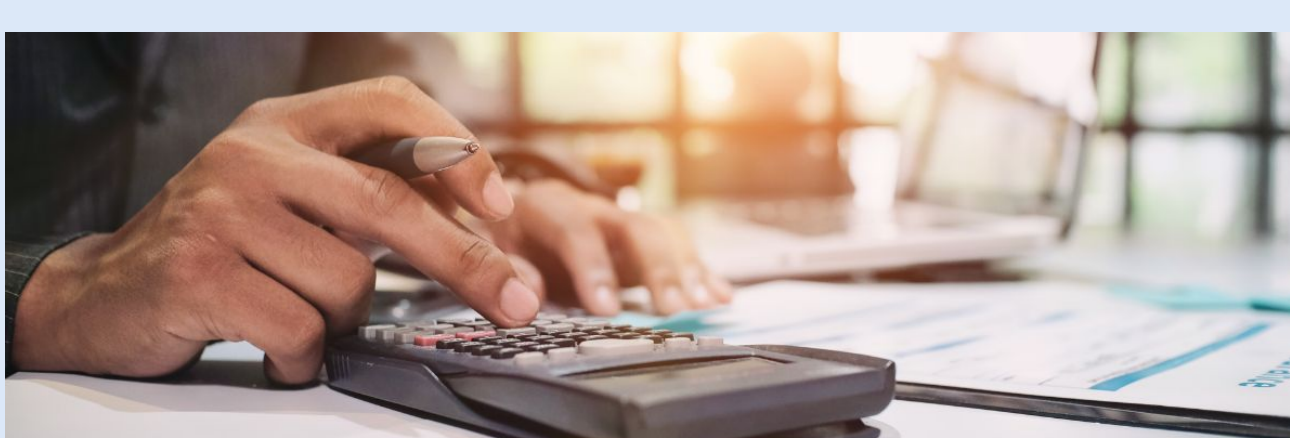
## Financial Education Tip



Learn strategies on how to stick to your budget around the holidays with our new blog post.

[READ MORE](#)

## Crush Medical Bills



Dollar For believes that a medical crisis shouldn't mean a financial crisis. The national nonprofit reduces or eliminates medical bills by helping patients access "charity care," which is bill forgiveness based on income. Dollar For empowers patients and advocates on their behalf.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## FOUNDATION EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Name:** Jeanette Velazquez  
**Position:** Senior Manager, Housing and Financial Counseling

Jeanette Velazquez has long worked in housing, initially serving as a case manager for an interim housing program for women and families, where she helped participants obtain permanent housing. During her tenure, she was able to help the program achieve one of the highest permanent housing rates in Chicago. Later, she served as a financial coordinator, where she developed a multi-generational family financial program called "Money and Us." This program is still used today by various schools and non-profits.

Bringing this experience to her role at the GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment, Jeanette has expanded the foundation's housing counseling agency, making it one of the largest in the state, now serving southern Cook County, Lake County, McHenry County, and Chicago's West side. She finds inspiration in providing opportunities to offer housing and financial services to new and underserved communities, expressing that she loves "celebrating with her team as they partner with clients to achieve their goals."

Outside of her role at GLCU, Jeanette is a physique competitor for the nation's premier bodybuilding organization. She holds the second-place title for 2022's Midwest Gladiator and is preparing to compete again next summer.



## 2024 Partnership Proposal Process



The GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment is pleased to announce our 2024 partnership proposal submission process. We are looking for nonprofit partners that align with our mission of financial empowerment and are working to impact and empower local communities.

Please click the button below to learn more about our partnership guidelines and to submit a proposal. Donations will be awarded on a quarterly basis. First quarter applications will be accepted from January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024, and will be awarded by April 30, 2024.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Give the Gift of Financial Empowerment

By donating to the GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment, you become a critical part of a powerful mission to promote economic stability and financial literacy. Your generous contribution directly helps us provide invaluable resources, education, and tools for individuals striving to secure their financial future. By supporting our foundation, you can truly make a difference, enabling people to transform their lives through improved financial awareness and independence.

Checks can be sent to:

**Great Lakes Credit Union**  
**Attn: GLCU Foundation for Financial Empowerment**  
**2111 Waukegan Rd**  
**Bannockburn, IL 60015**

Qualification required for membership, loans, financing, and select products & services. GLCU is federally insured by NCUA. NMLS #: 528665.

(800) 982-7850 [www.glcu.org](http://www.glcu.org)  
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