



*Welcome  
Spring*



## Project **Spotlight**

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### **\$22,750 to be Awarded to Local Organizations**

For the last 14 years we have enjoyed being able to shine a light on those that work so hard in our communities. You are appreciated. We know that many times volunteers and organizations go unnoticed for the hard work and time they put into their communities. Let's change that. Start nominating those that deserve to be recognized!

Through Project Spotlight, our goal is to be able to support community projects both large and small, and to bring awareness to the many helpful organizations in our communities. Visit our website or any Member Center location to submit a project for Beacon to support.

Nominations for 2024 began March 19 and will end May 31 and voting will begin July 1 and end July 31.

Submit your nominations online at [beaconcu.org](http://beaconcu.org) or at your local Member Center.



# There's an App for that!

**Fraudsters have found a way** to develop fraudulent crypto investment apps. Those apps are being used to bilk millions of dollars from scam victims. The majority of these scams start on dating sites or social media platforms.

Fraudsters have learned to create fictitious profiles filled with stolen images, personal details and layers of information. Those things make it more difficult for a victim to detect the manipulation scam.

Most often, the fraudster will lead their victim out of the dating site or social media platform to other apps or chat groups. Fraudsters use these types of apps or chat rooms because it's more difficult to trace back to a specific person or location. Examples of those would be Signal, WhatsApp, Google Hangouts, Telegram. If the person you met on a dating site or social media asks you to use one of these apps or chat groups, be cautious.

Before long, your new found love interest says they can help you make a lot of money by investing in virtual currency. They claim to have insider knowledge of that industry and to have doubled their own investments in a short amount of time. They can help you do the same with your investment.

Once they've convinced you to invest, they'll send you a link to a site or an app to download. Unbeknownst to you, that site or app is entirely fraudulent. The fraudster may encourage you to make a small initial investment and guarantee you a quick return on that investment. Because the fraudster controls the app or site, they can make it look as if your investment is quickly doubling. As a result of seeing that quick return, you make additional investments. Each time, the fraudster is controlling the app and creates screens that reflect a large balance in your 'wallet'. This goes on until you want to withdraw from your 'wallet'.

At that point, the fraudster says you'll have to pay fees or a percentage of your investments to make the withdrawal. Once you pay the fee or percentage, the fraudster and your access to the site/app will disappear. Taking with them all of your money.

## How can you spot an investment scam?

- The person contacting you only wants to communicate outside the dating/social media site where you first met (luring you to leave the date/social media site and chat via text or another chat forum).
- The person you're talking to claims they can't call you and talk directly because they are overseas working for the government or a freelance contractor in a foreign country.
- Claims to be American but makes frequent spelling or grammatical errors that an English speaking person would not typically make.
- Do they tell you to keep the investment a secret and/or your relationship with them a secret?

## What can you do to prevent becoming a victim?

- Only use well-known dating sites and follow their safety tips.
- Only chat with the person on the dating site.
- Don't profess love too quickly (or accept someone professing love too quickly).
- Don't send money to anyone you've met online (no matter how badly you feel about their situation).
- Practice due diligence. You should always do your own research before making any investments. Ask close friends and family for their perspective. Do your friends and family have concerns about you or the situation?
- Be cautious how much personal information you share with people you've just met and especially those you have just met online.
- Don't give out your online banking login credentials, account numbers or personal identifiers. Fraudster are taking over their victim's accounts and using them to launder funds.



# Scholarship Winners

**\$12,500 Awarded to Local Seniors**

In 2024, Beacon awarded five \$2,500 scholarships to financially assist students pursuing higher education. To be eligible, all applicants must be entering their freshman year of college and be a BCU member. We congratulate the following students and wish them well in their continuing education:



**Anna Clifton**  
*Maconaquah High School*



**Audra Brandenburg**  
*Whitko Jr/Sr High School*



**Isaac Schweitzer**  
*DeKalb High School*



**Kaitlin Traylor**  
*DeKalb High School*



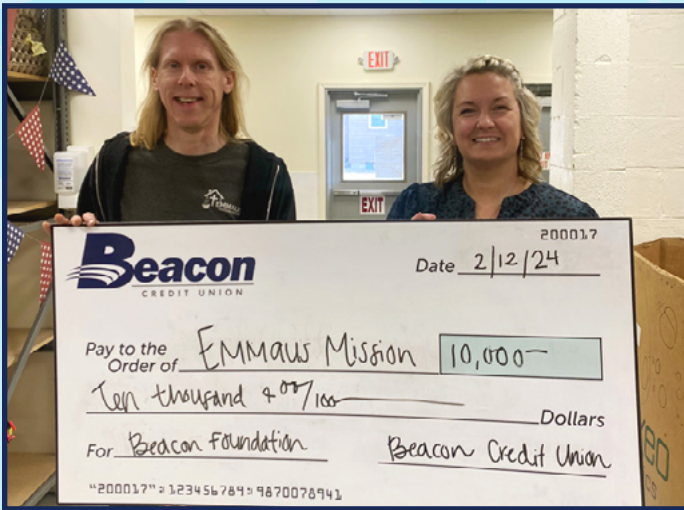
**Kalah Osborn**  
*Rochester Community  
High School*

# GIVING

## Foundation Winners

Over \$44,000 Given in Grants

The Beacon Credit Union Foundation presented three charitable organizations within our communities with grants. These organizations show a focus on improving the lives of our members, friends, and neighbors in the communities that we serve.



**Emmaus Mission Center**  
\$10,000 - Cass County



**Pipe Creek Township VFD**  
\$24,600 - Miami County



**Rushville Fire Department**  
\$10,000 - Rush County

## Minimize Credit Card Debt When You Retire

When it's time to retire, it's important to find ways to minimize your debt – including reliance on credit cards.

**Credit card usage** is ubiquitous for Americans. Online purchases are just a click away when paying with a card, while other transactions — car rentals, for instance — require a credit card for both payment and security.

Commensurate with credit card usage is carryover debt that accumulates each month, a financial strain for those entering retirement. There are a few key considerations for using a credit card once you're relying on a fixed monthly income.

When living on a fixed income, using a credit card as if it is actually income may deliver a short-term benefit — i.e., that big ticket item that looked too good to pass up. However, it comes at a long-term cost: an inability to sustain your standard of living.

Paying for groceries and other necessities may seem convenient with just a swipe or tap at the register. But, unless you can pay off the balance each month, you'll incur a credit card bill that accumulates finance charges each month, making it an increasingly formidable debt to discharge.

### What to Consider When Selecting a Credit Card

Not all credit cards are alike. When assessing whether to sign up for a card, consider your intended use. Cards with enticing rewards programs may be appropriate if you're paying off the balance each month, though these programs typically come with hefty annual fees. Also, if the cards include a high interest rate, it's financially prudent to turn down the potential rewards and instead look for a card with a lower interest rate.

### Nurture Your Credit

You can receive a lower interest rate on a credit card if your credit score is strong. To improve your rating, pay your bills on time and minimize your debt.

### Chipping Away at Debt

While doing away with all credit cards may be impractical, reducing your debt will help keep your finances in order and your fixed income more predictable.



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CFP®,  
Financial Advisor



**Matthew S. Anderson**  
Financial Advisor

- <https://www.gallup.com/workplace/231587/millennials-job-hopping-generation.aspx>
- <https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/401ks/articles/what-happens-to-your-401k-when-you-leave-your-job>
- <https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/plan-participant-employee/retirement-topics-termination-of-employment>

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Not Insured by NCUA or Any Other Government Agency	Not Credit Union Guaranteed	Not Credit Union Deposits or Obligations	May Lose Value
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## INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

# Advantage Plus Checking

### It's Your Money — Let It Work Hard for You

Are you looking for a rewards checking account that offers more than the basics? With Advantage Plus from Beacon Credit Union, we've got you covered. A high return and ATM refunds help you put more money back into your pocket. Check it out today and upgrade to Advantage Plus Checking!

- No monthly service fees
- No minimum balance requirements
- Protection with Courtesy Pay
- Free mobile deposit capture

[Learn More](#)



# Home Equity Loan

### Make Your Dreams a Reality

Are you looking to plan that next vacation, remodel the kitchen, or make other home improvements? A Home Equity Loan from Beacon may be the solution you need! How does a Home Equity Loan help you? Whether it's renovations that will increase your home's value or large, unexpected expenses, a Home Equity Loan uses your home as collateral for a loan. With personal service and professional experience, Beacon Credit Union offers solutions that are best suited for your needs. For many, the Home Equity Loan is the best option. Throughout the application process, we will help you understand all your options. We pride ourselves on offering competitive rates, fast approval times, and exceptional customer service.

[Learn More](#)



# Member Perk. File Today and Save Big!



**File by 4/15**

SCAN CODE TO GET DISCOUNT OR VISIT  
[taxservices.lovemycreditunion.org](https://taxservices.lovemycreditunion.org)



## INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

# Money Market

### What are the Benefits of the New Advantage Money Market?

- ▲ Earn more - Rates increase as your balances increase. Dividends are calculated daily and compounded monthly. Earn up to 3.30% APY.\*
- ▲ Easy to Open - Open online or in person at your local Member Center.
- ▲ Safe and Secure - Deposits are insured up to \$500,000 per account.\*\*
- ▲ Easy Access - Transfer money from your Advantage Money Market to your checking account.

\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) as of 1/1/24; subject to change. No minimum balance required to open or maintain account. Access via ACH debits, debit cards or checks (paper or electronic) not permitted. Limit of 8 withdrawals per calendar month; withdrawals over the limit will be assessed a fee. eStatements required with this account.

\*\*Advantage Money Market (MMS) and Business Advantage Money Market (BMMS) accounts at Beacon Credit Union are insured up to \$500,000. This exceptional level of coverage is attained through a combination of \$250,000 of primary insurance from American Share Insurance (ASI) and \$250,000 of excess insurance from Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI).



[Learn More](#)

# Youth Checking

### Empower Tomorrow's Savvy Spenders

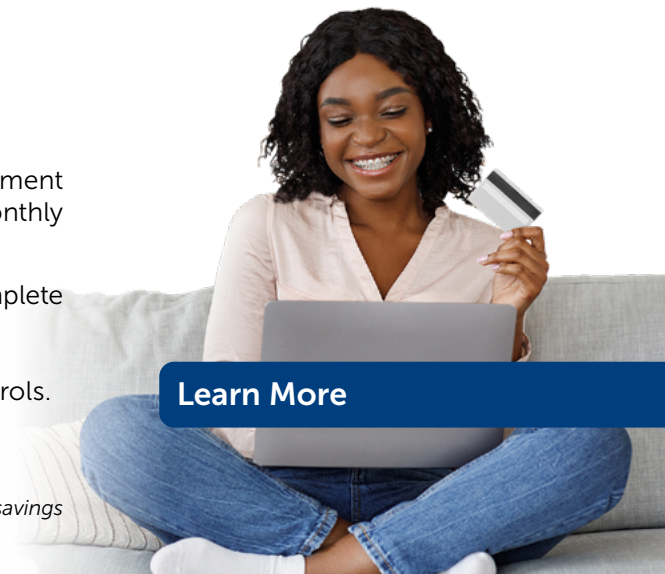
Youth Checking\* provides ages 12-17 the ability to learn money management and establish good financial history, all with no minimum balance or monthly account fees and free eStatements.

Earn \$5\*\* for opening a new Youth Checking account when they complete the following:

- ▲ Open a new Youth Checking account at any Member Center.
- ▲ Download the Beacon Mobile app and activate CardSmart card controls.
- ▲ Load their debit card into their digital wallet.
- ▲ Deposit their \$5 check via mobile deposit capture.

\*eStatements required and account is not eligible for courtesy pay or draw path to a savings account. Debit card limit of \$200 (POS and ATM).

\*\*Limited time offer; subject to change.



[Learn More](#)

## Beacon Credit Union Member Centers

### Auburn (both locations)

(260) 925-0800

### Crawfordsville Ag

(765) 364-1023

### Garrett

(260) 357-0400

### Huntington

(260) 359-9680

### Logansport (Mall Rd.)

(574) 722-2161

### Logansport (W. Market St.)

(574) 722-6395

### Marion (N. Baldwin Ave.)

(765) 664-9537

### Marion Ag (S. Branson St.)

(765) 662-1990

### New Haven

(260) 493-0725

### North Manchester

(260) 982-7551

### Peru (N. Broadway)

(765) 472-3472

### Peru (W. Main St.)

(765) 472-1214

### Peru Ag (Old Key Dr.)

(765) 472-1022

### Plymouth

(574) 936-2150

### Richmond Ag

(765) 935-2222

### Rochester (Main St.)

(574) 223-1504

### Rochester (Rouch Pl. Dr.)

(574) 223-4871

### Rushville (152 E. US Highway 52)

(765) 932-1801

### Rushville Ag (210 E. US Highway 52)

(765) 932-2750

### Seymour

(812) 522-9527

### Wabash (all Member Centers)

(260) 563-7443

### Warsaw

(574) 268-1276

### Washington Ag

(812) 257-8801

### Department Extensions

Collections.....ext. 2044

Beacon Inv. Services.....ext. 6415

Beacon Trust Services.....ext. 2013

Contact Center....."0" or "3"

Email: [beaconcu@beaconcu.org](mailto:beaconcu@beaconcu.org)

Do not include confidential information such as account numbers in email correspondence.



AMERICAN SHARE INSURANCE

Each account insured up to \$250,000.

By members' choice, this institution is not federally insured.