

Money matters to **people**. People matter to **us**.

MoneyMatters



Your Debit Card for Daily Spending

Why debit beats cash, checks, and credit

Generational Approaches to Finances

Tips from the Silent Generation through Gen Z

Common Trust and Estate Planning Mistakes

Secure your family's financial future

Family Lessons in Personal Finance

Financial wellness can be relevant anytime, anywhere

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Add Visions to your contacts!
800.242.2120

Money matters to **people.**
People matter to **us.**

Visions Cares

\$10 Million in Ten Years

While our Visions Cares initiative has only been around for six years, we have been giving back to our community as long as we've been around – since 1966! Over the last decade, though, we've really expanded contributions. From volunteer hours to donations to seasonal giveback campaigns, our community impact has totaled over \$10 million in less than ten years.

The cornerstone of Visions' charitable giving initiatives, Visions Cares contributes to registered nonprofits and community causes through grants, in-kind donations, and volunteer efforts. Last year, Visions Cares approved requests from more than 1,000 organizations throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. We give to a variety of causes, but our core impact areas are animal welfare, the arts, civic and community engagement, economic development, education, and health and wellness.

Other notable programs in recent years include:

The Big Give



Each year, we make a Big Give to an organization with significant reach throughout Visions' communities. In the first two years of The Big Give, Visions donated \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity and \$50,000 to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Project Education



We pledged a total of one million dollars to the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) by 2030 through annual donations of \$100,000. These dollars are directed towards initiatives where the NJEA sees the most need.

Gift Match



We contribute a matching donation of up to \$100 per Visions employee per year and have extended a gift match option to members, too, during special campaigns through Givio in digital banking. In 2023, we've offered gift matches in Givio during February for Black History Month, May for Mental Health Month, and July to combat food insecurity.

Denim Days



Employees can donate \$5 or more per paycheck in exchange for permission to wear jeans each week on Friday. These donations are gifted to a rotating selection of community organizations each month. Each year, we donate nearly \$200,000 to local causes as a result.

For more information about our commitment to community, or to request support for your nonprofit, visit us at visionsfcu.org/cares.

Employee Volunteer Spotlight



Visions donated \$250 to Tatiana's nonprofit organization of choice:

PASSAIC-CLIFTON LIONS CLUB
passaic-cliftonlions.org

"I volunteer because I know that the impact volunteers can have on peoples' lives could stay with them and change their lives forever."

Which charities/organizations have you supported?

"Since I began volunteering back in high school, I've supported many charities and organizations – more than I can recall! The organizations I've continuously supported through the years are The Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women and the Passaic-Clifton Lions Club."

Any notable projects or stories you'd like to share?

"A special project that always brings a smile to my face is a donation drive that I spearheaded for Wynona's House in Newark, NJ. Our efforts focused on collecting baby products to support young, expectant mothers who had faced domestic challenges including abuse and neglect. We drummed up a huge buzz in the local community, who showed an overwhelming support for the cause and donated everything from diapers to infant car seats."



I'll always remember how one individual, a young soccer player, saw what we were doing for these young mothers and stepped up to help. Not only did he return with his own donations, but he also gathered items from his teammates because he understood the importance of our mission and was proud to be part of it."

YOUTH MONTH

Youth Month is back, featuring a \$25 bonus and cash prizes – just in time for those back-to-school expenses!*

Now is the perfect time to introduce your child to savings, the cornerstone of financial wellness. Throughout August, each new member age 19 and under will receive a \$25 bonus and a chance to win our grand prize of \$250, deposited directly into their new account. Even better, we'll pick TWO grand prize winners and TWENTY MORE winners for our other cash prizes.

Here are the cash prizes available for Youth Month:

- (1) \$250 grand prize for ages 12 and under
- (1) \$250 grand prize for ages 13 to 19
- (4) \$100 cash prizes
- (6) \$50 cash prizes
- (10) \$10 cash prizes

Plus, with the \$25 new member bonus, everyone is a winner during Youth Month!

For more information about our Youth Services, visit visionsfcu.org/youth.

**August is
the perfect
time to
introduce
savings**

**Visit your local
branch before the
end of August to
take advantage
of this exciting
opportunity!**

*Some restrictions apply. Must become a member to qualify for promotions. Visions membership requires \$1 minimum deposit. New member cannot have existing Visions account, been a member in the last 12 months, and is subject to membership requirements. Valid for individuals age 19 and under. Account must be opened in branch location. Mention offer or present coupon when opening new account to receive bonus offer. Bonus and prizes reportable for tax purposes; \$25 bonus will be funded at account opening. Program details subject to change. Prize winners will be selected randomly from new accounts opened 8/1/23-8/31/23 for members age 19 and younger. Winners will be contacted by phone, email, or letter by 9/30/23. Only winners will be contacted. Details subject to change. Winners limited to one prize. Odds of winning prizes dependent on number of accounts opened during the promotional period. Cash prizes will be deposited into the primary savings accounts of the winners by 9/30/23. Prize entry and bonus period is 8/1/23 - 8/31/23. Insured by NCUA.

Family Lessons in Personal Finance Talking Points

Financial wellness can be relevant anytime, anywhere. Whether you're having a family weekend, enjoying a ballgame, or spending the day with grandparents, daily situations can present excellent opportunities to share financial literacy with your family or close friends and improve everyone's financial well-being.

Here are some conversation starters, tips, and talking points for everyday lessons in personal finance.



In the bleachers at the softball game...

"It feels early to plan for college, but we're already saving for her college expenses."

When it comes to college – or other expenses like a car, wedding, or house – it's never too early to start saving. The more you're able to pay with savings, the less you'll need to rely on loans.

Paying at the concession stand...

"When you get loose change, drop it in a piggy bank or jar at home. When it's full, we'll go deposit it at Visions and see how much you've saved."

The big lesson here is that small savings can add up over time. Plus, if you're saving your change, remember that many Visions branches have convenient machines that sort, count, and deposit US coins at no cost to members.



On your evening walk...

"Do we have a plan if Lucky needs emergency vet care?"

Whenever you have financial concerns, speak with your household and budget for the unexpected. A combination of insurance and emergency savings should be part of everyone's financial plan. You may even be able to tap into your home's equity with a HELOC.

Perusing the pastries in the window...

"I'll give you a special allowance for the weekend. Here's \$20 to spend how you choose."

By giving (limited) spending power to children, you're giving them a lesson wrapped in a treat. Will they spend the total now on a big dessert, save it for the toy store around the corner, or budget the funds between two or three expenses? Personal finance is all about choice.



Meeting the folks for weekly brunch...

"I'd prefer not to discuss money right now."

Some people consider personal finances to be a private topic – and that's okay! They may prefer a different subject or a less public setting. That's why we create a safe space with free, confidential, one-on-one financial counseling.



Financial conversations like these can help families and communities to demystify financial topics, share personal insight, and support each other. They're also great ways to offer helpful resources – like the ones in this magazine! For financial products, services, and more, we've got you covered.

Social Media Scams: Care About What You Share

With social media's popularity and minimal security, your seemingly innocent post could expose more of your personal information to fraudsters than you may realize. Today's fraudsters are trained to steal information about you online – and they're able to do it in plain sight!

For example, have you ever answered one of these posts on social media?



With this type of playful questionnaire or by sharing fun photos from childhood, social media users give fraudsters their personal answers to security questions commonly used for account access. Always remember, while social media is a great platform to bring people together, it also attracts many people who have harmful or ulterior intentions.

Fortunately, your best protections are within your control:

- ✓ Keep your profiles private
- ✓ Minimize what you share online
- ✓ Only accept requests from people you know

There's more you can do "offline" from social media, too.

- Never write down your passwords
- Download the Visions FCU Mobile app to monitor your accounts in real time
- Save Visions' contact information in your phone. That's **800.242.2120** for our Contact Center and **833.224.5785** for card support
- Utilize IDnotify™ by Experian® within digital banking for free identity theft protection
- Sign up for eAlerts, which provide customizable notifications for activity on your account
- Use Card Controls in digital banking to shut down or reorder cards, 24/7
- Regularly check your FICO® Score, available for free in digital banking
- Watch out for fraudulent texts and calls (check out our back cover)

More often than not, the best protection is prevention, and that starts with increasing your knowledge of common scams.

Visit visionsfcu.org/security for a catalog of articles and resources to keep your accounts protected. Plus, rest easy knowing that we're available if and when you need us.

Still receiving paper statements?

DITCH 'EM AND GET \$10!*

Sign up for eStatements today!

- FASTER
- GREENER
- MORE SECURE

EARN \$10 FOR SWITCHING BY AUGUST 31ST!

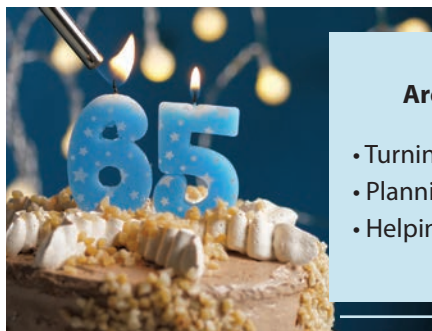
To make the switch, log into your Visions account in digital banking and select Services then Statement Delivery Preferences. You'll get to enjoy \$10 on us for keeping your mailbox clutter-free.

*Visions Federal Credit Union membership required with \$1 minimum deposit. Certain restrictions apply; ask for membership eligibility details. Must be 18 years of age or older to qualify. Must be user of Visions' digital banking services. User must enroll in eStatements via Visions' digital banking services to qualify for bonus. Bonus will be deposited into primary savings of associated account in which eStatements were enrolled within 10 business days of eStatement enrollment. Offer ineligible for members currently enrolled in eStatements or who have unenrolled and reenrolled within last 12 months. Must have valid US Social Security number to qualify. Bonus may be reportable for tax purposes. Offer valid from July 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023. Federally insured by NCUA.



Medicare Advantage

VISIONS INSURANCE AGENCY – A SUBSIDIARY OF VISIONS FCU –



Are you new to Medicare?

- Turning 65
- Planning to retire soon
- Helping a loved one with Medicare



Are you making the most of your Medicare insurance plan?

Call us to connect with one of our licensed insurance agents to discuss plan options available in your area.

If you're not sure where to begin, talk with a local, licensed insurance agent.

We're here to answer your questions and provide the information you need to make the choice that meets your needs.

Call or visit us online to learn more.

Greg Tifft | Senior Insurance Consultant
gtifft@visionsfcu.org | 800.242.2120, ext. 10473

Jen Ford | Producing Medicare Sales Manager
jford@visionsfcu.org | 800.242.2120, ext. 10869

Rob Hennessy | Diversified Financial Services Manager
rhennessy@visionsfcu.org | 800.242.2120, ext. 10662

If you want to learn more about Visions' Medicare offerings, visit us online at visionsfcu.org/medicare.

COMING SOON!

NOTICES IN DIGITAL BANKING

Stay informed about your accounts so you can respond quickly when it matters most. Instead of receiving a printed notice days after the event in the mail, you could view your digital notice quickly and conveniently in digital banking. Soon, you'll be able to sign up for information about:

- Overdue loan payments
 - Overdraft fees
 - Overdraft transfers
 - Returned checks due to insufficient funds
- ...and other notable activity on your account.**

When the time comes, enrolling is simple.

You'll be able to log into digital banking, select Notices from the Services menu, and follow the on-screen instructions.

More information is available at visionsfcu.org/notices.



— VISIONS — Voice

The Ripple of Local Elections

Presidential campaigns and the midterms tend to gain all the press, while elections that take place during off-years tend to have lower voter participation. That's a shame, though, considering their huge impact on local laws and regulations!

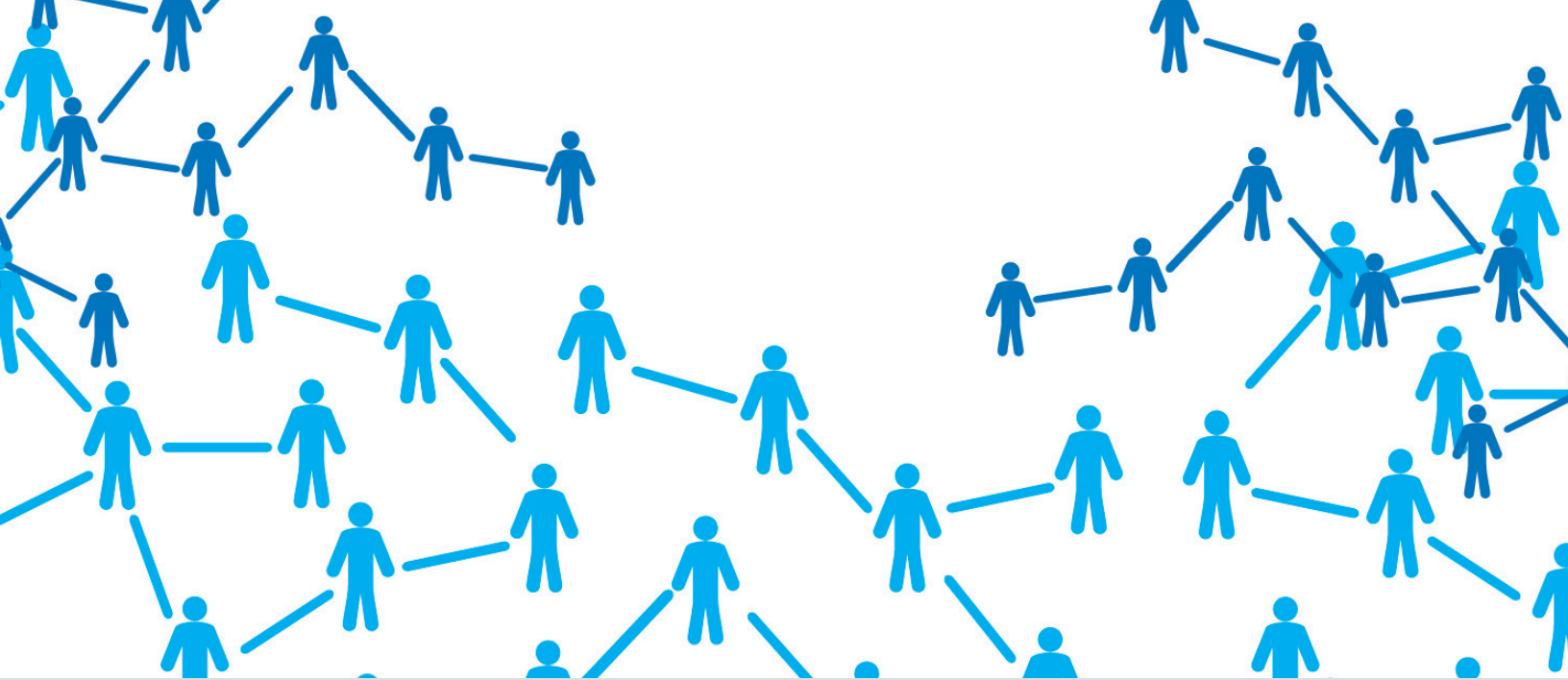
Let's look at a few reasons to participate in local elections:

- Americans are more frequently impacted by local laws and regulations than by national legislation
- More legislation passes at the state level than the federal level
- Ballots often include proposed amendments, ordinances, or bills
- In elections with lower participation, your voice has a greater influence
- Local elections impact national elections!

As elections approach in November, pay attention to your local races and research your candidates. It's important to note that redistricting has taken effect in many areas across the US, so remember to also research your current precinct or electoral district. This year, in districts within Visions' footprint, elections are being held for mayors, city councils, school boards, district attorneys, county commissioners and executives, state assemblies, state senates, and judges. That's a lot of elections – and a big civic duty!

We invite you to participate in the political process and make your voice heard in the 2023 elections. When you make your voice heard, you have the power to shape your community from the local level up to the highest offices in Washington, DC. And while it's true that voting is a key part of that power, if you're particularly engaged you may want to volunteer on a campaign or attend community meetings to make an even greater impact.

If you'd like to review your elected officials, explore current legislation, or register to vote, visit visionsfcu.org/advocacy.



COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Principle #6 – Cooperation Among Cooperatives

While we're certainly one-of-a-kind, we didn't invent the co-op. Financial cooperatives and credit unions have been around since the 1800s, evolving with a shared set of principles that govern and guide like-minded companies around the globe.

*From our commitment to community, to our unique mission in financial services, to your relationship and role as a member – the **Eight Cooperative Principles of Credit Unions** help to distinguish who we are and what we do. Take this core principle for example: Cooperation Among Cooperatives.*

*"Credit unions serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative principles by working with other cooperatives through local, state, regional, national, and international structures."
– National Credit Union Foundation*

This may seem obvious: cooperatives cooperate. Vital associations within our industry connect us to a dynamic, worldwide movement that strengthens our local impact on members and our community.

For example, we partner with cooperative trade associations like the Credit Union National Association (CUNA),

New York Credit Union Association (NYCUA), and CrossState Credit Union Association – groups that support our education, advocacy, regulatory compliance, outreach, and more. In return, we don't just represent Visions, we represent the entire credit union industry. As we grow our membership and our impact, we bolster the collective competition against predatory lending companies and commercial banks – and not only in the United States!

"Through our industry's growth on a larger scale, we all reap the benefits."

Our collective unity is bigger than our footprint and bigger than our nation. Through CUNA, we're part of an even larger collective: the World Council of Credit Unions, which works to ensure that other nations can benefit from strong credit unions in their own communities. Through

these associations, we cooperate on a regional, national, and international level to improve the community and create a better world.

This unity helps to increase our impact on you, too! Through our industry's growth on a larger scale, we all reap the benefits. That's because the credit union movement is focused on people, not profit. Robust and booming credit unions help to build supported, thriving communities. And on a more local scale, when more people join our membership or move their deposits to Visions, we're able to help more people in turn, and offer more competitive products, services, and rates.

In other words, unity is our credit union superpower. As wealth shifts away from banks and toward credit unions, more of that wealth circulates through the cooperative values, improving our services and benefiting the world around us.

For more information about Visions, our mission, and the credit union movement, visit visionsfcu.org/aboutus.

Your Debit Card for Daily Spending

Why debit beats cash, checks, and credit!

Accounting for nearly a third of consumer transactions in the US, debit cards are used more often than cash, checks, and credit cards. That shouldn't come as a surprise, though. While they've been popular for decades, debit cards have advanced with technology to make transactions faster, more secure, and easier to track.

As a smart choice for everyone's wallet, Visa® debit cards are available for new and existing checking accounts. Are you using yours for small purchases and everyday spending? You should be – here's why.



CONVENIENCE

You can't beat the convenience of debit cards. Paying with checks or credit, you'll need to wait for pending transactions to clear your account, making it hard to track

your actual remaining balance. When you run your debit card and select "debit" at checkout, your payment can clear within seconds of swiping, tapping, or chipping – giving you an accurate balance when you check your account. Before you pay, you can even check your account balance on our Visions FCU Mobile app. That way, you'll know you have enough funds to cover your transaction without the fear of overdrawing your account.

Plus, when you pay with debit, you don't need to handle loose change or unsanitary bills from busy cash registers, and you don't need to interrupt your day by stopping to make cash withdrawals at an ATM. Even better, you can load your debit card into your favorite mobile wallet. It gives you the fastest and most secure way to pay, and getting started is easy. Find out how at visionsfcu.org/mobilepayments.



SECURITY

Want peace of mind? Our debit cards come with Visa's Zero Liability Protection.* Simply put, you're not responsible for unauthorized charges. You're protected if your card is lost, stolen, or fraudulently used online or offline.

That means you can shop worry-free, knowing that, if you notice any unauthorized charges on your statement or in digital banking, you can report it ASAP by calling **833.224.5785** for a quick resolution.

Speaking of digital banking, you can utilize Card Controls to keep your Visions cards and accounts secure. If you're planning a vacation, add travel notes. If you can't locate your debit card or think it may be stolen, quickly and conveniently disable the card to prevent unauthorized transactions. If you need a new card, request a replacement. In digital banking under Card Services, Card Controls puts the power at your fingertips – power that you won't have with lost cash or stolen checks.



SAVINGS

We've already highlighted how you can save time between checkout and ATM visits, but there's more. You can save money, too. If you do need to access an ATM, you can use your debit card free of charge at Visions ATMs and any ATM within our Co-Op Credit Union network – that's over 30,000 ATMs across all 50 states!

Even better, you have no limits on how many times you can use your Visions debit card. Other financial institutions may limit your number of debit card transactions per month or charge you fees for additional usage. Not us, though. Whether you swipe your card five times this month or 25 times, we'll never charge you a processing fee.

Did you know?

Every new Americana debit card results in a \$5 donation to veterans' organizations!



PLUS

You can visit us online for more information or call our Contact Center to ask us about:

- **Monitoring your account history** in digital banking
- Peace of mind with **Visa Purchase Alerts**
- **Instant Issue** replacement cards in branch
- Tracking your cash flow with the **FinSavvy money management tool**
- Supporting veterans with our **Americana design**
- Easily switching subscriptions with **CardSwap**
- ...and more!

With integrated tools in digital banking, support at your local branch, and our partnership with Visa, your debit card is a versatile and secure solution for daily expenses.

Explore perks at visionsfcu.org/debitcards.

*Visa's Zero Liability policy does not apply to certain commercial card and anonymous prepaid card transactions or transactions not processed by Visa. Cardholders must use care in protecting their card and notify Visions immediately of any unauthorized use. Contact Visions for more detail.



GENERATIONAL APPROACHES TO FINANCES

Tips from the Silent Generation through Gen Z

You may not have the same financial habits as your parents or your grandparents – and that’s no surprise! From economic factors to global events to technology, countless circumstances in your lifetime can impact the ways you learn to save, spend, and plan.

Take a cue from these generations and consider applying them to your own personal finances.

These are generalized ideas of each generation, but the lessons and tips can be useful. It’s important to find your own approach to finances that works for you, your priorities, and your lifestyle.

If you need guidance or help honing your financial style, remember our Financial Wellness Team offers free one-on-one financial counseling. For details and additional tips, visit us online at visionsfcu.org/walletwellness.

THE SILENT GENERATION born 1928-1945

Following economic uncertainty from both world wars and The Great Depression, the Silent Generation tends to be financially conservative and committed to long-term savings. To take a chapter from their book, think about the wealth, equity, and financial stability you get from homeownership, establish a trust or estate plan, or take advantage of low-risk savings like share certificates.

BABY BOOMERS born 1946-1964

Historically career-minded and optimistic with their investments, Baby Boomers pioneered early computers and embraced employer-based retirement plans, ATMs, and credit cards. Like Baby Boomers, try adapting to new financial technologies, investing in your career, or making the most of employer benefits.

GENERATION X born 1965-1980

This generation tends to value independence and balance. They veer away from traditional structures while seeking work/life balance and a range of investment options. With a diversified portfolio, a family budget, and a side job you’re passionate about, you could find your own financial balance.

GEN. Y/ MILLENNIALS born 1981-1996

Oversaturated with commercialism, television, and student loan debt, most Millennials are disinterested in spending money on material goods, opting instead for experiences, social impact, or environmental causes. By aligning your investments with your values, chipping away at student loans, or saving up for a “bucket list” vacation, you could embrace the Millennial mindset.

GEN. Z/ ZOOMERS born 1997-2013

Laptops, search engines, and smart phones have made information hyper-accessible for this generation. They avoid unnecessary expenses and debt, prioritizing affordable solutions in technology and online platforms, which also makes them tech-savvy entrepreneurs and freelance workers. In the style of Zoomers, tune up your self-learning and app usage with digital resources like Zogo, FinSavvy, and the Visions FCU Mobile App.



5 Common Trust and Estate Planning Mistakes

Trust and estate planning is an important part of ensuring the security of your family's financial future. Unfortunately, it's easy to make mistakes that can have serious consequences down the line. To help avoid these errors, here are five common trust and estate planning mistakes and how to prevent them.



1. Not Planning ahead

Ultimately, failure to plan ahead can result in considerable financial losses and unnecessary stress on loved ones during an already difficult time.

Setting up a will or trust is essential to good financial planning. You could also consider assigning an executor or trustee for your estate plan and adding beneficiaries for any retirement accounts, insurance policies, and other assets you have in your name.



2. Failing to update your plan

Laws and regulations tend to change over time, and changes in life circumstances may change your preferences or priorities. Without updates, parts of an older estate plan could become invalid or ineffective as a result.

Rather than "set and forget" your estate plan, you should review it! Revisit your trust and estate planning documents at least once every three years, especially in the event of major life changes, such as marriage, divorce, birth, loss of a child or beneficiary, or the purchase or sale of real estate.



3. Not including funeral and burial wishes

If you do not include funeral and burial wishes in your estate plan, your family may struggle to make important decisions about your service or memorial. Without these instructions, family members can feel overwhelmed, unsure about how to honor their loved one's memory, or become burdened by the expenses.

If you want the process to go smoothly for your loved ones, you should include detailed funeral and burial details in your estate plan.



4. Neglecting tax considerations

When it comes to trust and estate planning, one of the most important considerations is taxes. Making gifts or charitable contributions that are tax-exempt is a popular strategy used by people who want to minimize taxes on their estate.

Be sure to consult with tax and wealth management professionals to determine your risks and rewards – as well as how your contributions may impact gift recipients and your other beneficiaries.



5. Failing to plan for incapacity

Without an incapacity plan in place, you could be leaving your loved ones with a difficult decision if you're unable to make decisions for yourself.

You could plan for incapacity by creating a power of attorney (POA) for someone to manage financial and legal decisions on your behalf, by establishing guardianship for your children, or by drafting healthcare directives to guide medical professionals through your end-of-life decisions.

Avoid mistakes and set up your estate plan the right way.

Trust and estate planning can be complex. It's important to approach the process with a trusted financial advisor.

If you would like us to help review your documents and assets – and see how they currently fit into your own estate plan – give us a call or email us to schedule a meeting. By reviewing your estate plans often, you'll have peace of mind that your plans align with your wishes and that they'll be effective when needed.

Please give us a call to schedule a meeting or email us at trust@visionsfcu.org for more information.

Sharon Burghardt, CTFA/Senior Trust Officer
800.242.2120, ext. 10684

Laura Maerkl, Trust Administrator
800.242.2120, ext. 10805

This article is for informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide specific legal or tax advice. For specific legal or tax advice, please consult with your attorney and/or accountant. Trust and Investment Products are uninsured, not guaranteed by Members Trust Company, any credit union or any federal agency. Any investment exposes an investor to investment risk, including the possible loss of principal.



Powered by NFL Players Association's Former Players Chapter of NJ and NY

Learning about personal finances is not a one-size-fits-all kind of journey. For many high school students, when a lesson comes from an athlete, coach, or celebrity, it can reinforce the idea in a fun and memorable way. That's why we partnered with Athletes for Vets to create our **Game Plan for Success**, an educational conference where students from Passaic County (NJ) had the opportunity to meet with former National Football League (NFL) players to learn about financial literacy and leadership. Former players in attendance included Dereck Faulkner, Sean James, Steve Maneri, Geoff Pope, Carlos Perez, and Lew Toler.

Sophomores and juniors of Manchester Regional High School and Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology attended the free event, where they learned about credit, preparing for college, and budgeting for financial fitness. Instead of learning from their teachers, the students enjoyed personal stories and financial concepts shared by Visions' Financial Wellness team.

Faulkner, Executive Director of Athletes for Vets and President of the NFL Players Association's Former Players Chapter of New York and New Jersey, also hosted a panel discussion about the importance of leadership and legacy, followed by an informal meet and greet for the students. Some of the students even received Amazon Fire tablets as prizes during the event!

At the center of our school relationships is the Visions Business Academy, which provides internships, in-school financial wellness centers, and fun, educational events like Game Plan for Success. By strengthening students' financial wellness education, we're setting a strong foundation for their future financial well-being.

We're here to support yours, too! To access our online financial wellness resources, visit visionsfcu.org/walletwellness.



VISIONS LOVES EDUCATORS

Classroom Funding Program

We're proud to be entering the fifth school year of Visions Loves Educators! Since 2018, we've supported educators and schools in our communities through initiatives like our Classroom Funding Program.

We introduced the Classroom Funding Program, the flagship of Visions Loves Educators, because too many educators spend money out-of-pocket for classroom projects and supplies. In fact, it's estimated to be about \$450 per year!

During the 2022-2023 school year, we granted over \$100,000 to fund classroom projects in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Our grants, up to \$500 per project, have helped to fund everything from sensory enrichment supplies for pre-kindergarten students to fitness equipment for physical education to technology for Advanced Placement courses.

This year, we look forward to continuing our support! To learn more about the Classroom Funding Program, apply for a classroom grant, or discover our other awards and bonuses available through Visions Loves Educators, visit us online at visionsloveseducators.com.



Insured Savings at Visions

We'll care for your savings at every stage in life.

As a member of Visions Federal Credit Union, you and your financial well-being are at the center of our mission. You can trust us for all your savings needs, including:

- Short term savings
- Share certificates with higher returns
- Youth Services
- Individual Retirement Accounts
- Trusts and beneficiary accounts

Plus, with Share Insurance Coverage from the National Credit Union Administration, you can rest easy knowing your deposits are protected. In fact, no member of a federally insured credit union has ever lost one penny of insured savings.

To learn more about your deposits at Visions, your share insurance, and our savings options, check out visionsfcu.org/deposits.



VISIONS

INVESTMENT SERVICES

LOOKING FOR A SECOND OPINION ?

With all the recent activity in the markets, it may be time to review your portfolio to make sure it's still aligned with your financial goals. Let us build a risk analysis profile designed specifically for you, with you.

Utilizing our Second Opinion tool, which features the latest technological risk analysis software, we can:

- Evaluate your risk tolerance, time horizon, and asset allocation
- Review existing accounts and consider guidance if your portfolio is not aligned with your investment goals
- Provide you with an easy-to-read report and your personal risk score



Ask the experts.

Remember, we're here to help you plan! If you have questions about this content, your finances, investments, or retirement distributions, please reach out to our team of Licensed Financial Consultants.

Visions Investment Services
800.242.2120, ext. 10469
visionsfcu.org/investmentservices

Have you joined us for a seminar?

We offer free, informative seminars designed to benefit people in all stages of life – regardless of age or income. For a list of upcoming seminars or to watch a video of a past seminar, please visit us at **visionsfcu.org/wealthmanagementevents**.

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker/dealer. (Member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products offered through LPL Financial or its licensed affiliates. Visions Federal Credit Union (VFCU) and Visions Investment Services **are not** registered as a broker/dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using the name Visions Investment Services, and may also be employees of VFCU. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from and not affiliates of VFCU or Visions Investment Services. Securities and insurance offered through LPL and its affiliates are:

**Not Insured by NCUA or Any
Federal Government Agency**

**Not Credit Union
Guaranteed**

**Not Credit Union Deposit or
Obligations**

**May Lose
Value**

Your Credit Union ("Financial Institution") provides referrals to financial professionals of LPL Financial LLC ("LPL") pursuant to an agreement that allows LPL to pay the Financial Institution for these referrals. This creates an incentive for the Financial Institution to make these referrals, resulting in a conflict of interest. The Financial Institution is not a current client of LPL for advisory services. Please visit <https://www.lpl.com/disclosures/is-lpl-relationship-disclosure.html>.

LPL Tracking #1-05374216

Read, Solve, WIN!

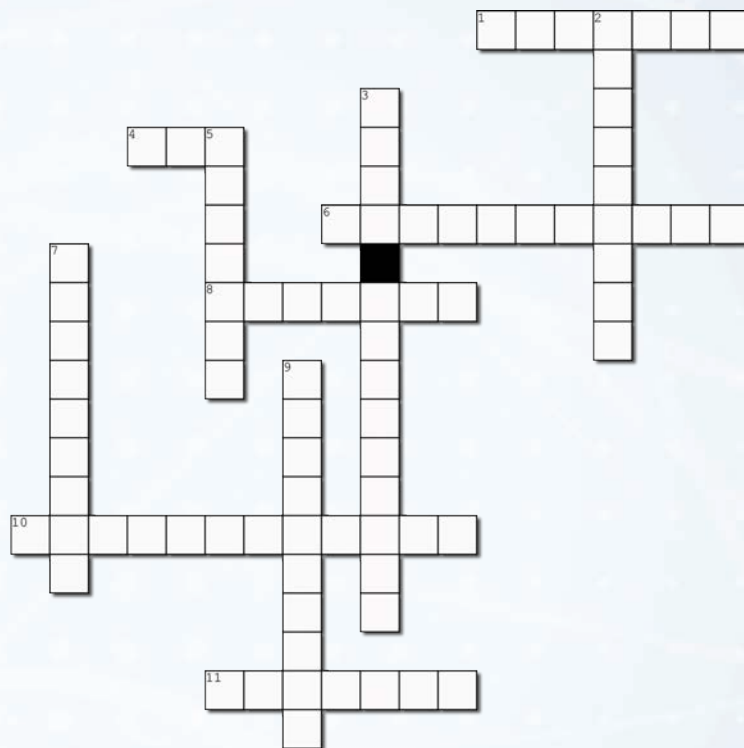
Complete this crossword puzzle, submit your answers at visionsfcu.org/puzzle, and you could be eligible to win one of five Dunkin'® gift cards!*

Across

1. More legislation passes at the state level than the _____ level.
4. For Youth Month, we'll pick _____ grand prize winners.
6. Robust and booming credit unions help to build supported, thriving _____.
8. Without updates, an older estate plan could become _____ or ineffective.
10. We create a safe space with our free, _____ one-on-one financial counseling.
11. You'll soon be able to sign up for convenient, paperless Notices in _____ banking.

Down

2. Through financial wellness _____, we set a strong foundation for students' future financial well-being.
3. With Visa's _____ protection, you're not responsible for unauthorized card charges. (two words)
5. Visions Investment Services offers risk analysis and portfolio review utilizing a Second _____ tool.
7. During the 2022-2023 school year, our _____ Funding Program provided over \$100,000 in grants.
9. Gen Z tends to prioritize affordable solutions in _____ and online platforms.



CONGRATS, Q2 WINNERS!

David R.	Marcia B.	Beatrice V.	Ron M.	Joan B.
Endicott, NY	Milan, PA	Harvest, AL	Binghamton, NY	Ledgewood, NJ

Thank you to all our members who participated.

*Visions Federal Credit Union membership required. Visions membership requires a \$1 minimum deposit; certain restrictions apply, ask for membership eligibility details. Must be 18 years or older. Answers must be submitted at visionsfcu.org/puzzle by 08/31/23; no alternate methods of entry apply. Limit (1) entry per person. Winners will be chosen at random; odds of winning based on total number of entries. Winners may only win one prize. Winners will be notified by mail by 09/20/23. Winners consent to have Visions Federal Credit Union use their first name, last initial, city, and state in social media posts or future advertising and promotional materials. Promotion sponsored solely by Visions Federal Credit Union.

Our Member Saved WHAT?!

Nothing makes us feel better than helping our members, which is why we're always looking for opportunities to improve your financial well-being. Sometimes it's as easy as balancing a checkbook, other times it's saving you money on loan payments or helping you save your credit score. Here's a great story from Deiredra:

A young couple had both lost their employment around the same time and began to struggle financially. As a result, their credit scores dropped below 600. The gentleman and I talked about restoring his credit, as they decided to open a business together and wanted to have their business accounts at Visions. I advised him to open a Secured Credit Card and a Credit Builder Loan, which he opened on the spot. Later, he spoke to his girlfriend about the options and we did the same for her, too. We also worked through additional changes that could help to increase their score. Now married, the two of them have a small business and a new home, thanks to their improved credit scores and a mortgage with Visions.

NEED TO Know



OFFICE CLOSINGS AND EVENTS Mark Your Calendars

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

All Offices Closed

.....

Monday, October 9

Columbus Day/ Indigenous People's Day

All Offices Closed

.....

Visit visionsfcu.org/events for upcoming seminars, activities, and more.

Prefer a Digital Copy?

All member households will receive a mailed copy of MoneyMatters each quarter. If your household prefers to reference this financial magazine online, please complete the unsubscribe form at visionsfcu.org/moneymatters or call our Contact Center at 800.242.2120.

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John K. Koniuto, Alternate

Mary Anne Benedict, Alternate

Holiday Club Reminder

Funds from your Holiday Club account will be disbursed on November 1. The money will be automatically deposited into your primary savings or elected share account.

Interested in opening a Holiday Club? Stop into any Visions office or learn more at visionsfcu.org!

Location Updates

**Our new branch in
Oneonta, NY at 5001 NY-23
is now open!**



New offices opening this school year:

- **Jefferson High School** – Oak Ridge, NJ
- **Manchester High School** – Haledon, NJ
(students and faculty only)

Renovations complete in:

- **Sayre, PA** – 2121 Elmira Street
- **Newark Valley, NY** – 7198 State Route 38

Save the Date!

November 6th, 2023

The 2nd Annual VETERANS EXPO

**Visions Veterans Memorial Arena
1 Stuart St, Binghamton, NY 13901**

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

In honor of Veterans Day and in partnership with the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, we're excited to announce our second annual Veterans Expo. Join us in Binghamton, NY for this FREE community resource fair to help veterans and their families connect with the important services they need.

Visit visionsfcu.org/events for details.



Audit Verification Notice

As part of our annual Supervisory Committee audit, randomly selected members will receive letters requesting they confirm a loan or share balance with Visions. These letters will be sent in late October and will be signed by our Chief Audit Executive, Betty McQuay. Responses are to be sent to the CPA firm conducting the audit, Clifton Larson Allen LLP, 901 North Glebe Road, Suite 200, Arlington, VA 22203.

If you receive a confirmation letter, please respond as quickly as possible.

All loan types referenced in this publication are subject to Visions Federal Credit Union's standardized policies including, but not limited to, lending, membership, and creditworthiness. Please contact a credit union representative for more information regarding application requests.



Federally insured
by NCUA.



Watch out for this scam!

When you receive a text message claiming to be from Visions – or any company – remember: it could be a scammer trying to trick you!

Here's how the scam works:

1. You receive a text message claiming there's an unauthorized charge on your account
2. When you respond, the scammer knows that you're using a valid phone number
3. Next, they call you pretending to be Visions and requesting your username, password, and one-time passcode
4. By sharing this information, you'd be giving the scammer access to your account – and your funds!

Remember, we will ***never*** call or text you requesting account specific information including usernames, passwords, or one-time passcodes. ***Never*** share this information.

Our Fraud Monitoring short code is 23618.

Save this number to your contacts. When we send text messages to verify transactions on your Visions debit cards or credit cards, we only use this short code. If you receive a text message from any other phone number, asking you about suspicious transactions, it's not us!

Curious if a message from Visions is legitimate?

You can easily verify the message by stopping into your local office or by calling our Contact Center at **800.242.2120**.

