

# InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Spring 2021

**Scholarship  
Essay Topic**

*Plus*

**Refer a  
Friend—Get \$25!**





**James Hollingsworth**  
Chairman,  
Board of Directors

**M**y sincere thanks to all who joined us online for the live presentation of the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting on March 23. Despite last year's unprecedented challenges, we were pleased to report a great deal of positive news about Keesler Federal's financial and operational performance. Much of the credit belongs to you, our valued members, because your loyalty and enthusiasm for our services and products enables us to fulfill our purpose: To build a better community, one member, one relationship and one financial solution at a time. For highlights of your credit union's accomplishments in 2020, please refer to the infographic below. You may also view the recorded version of the annual meeting and download the full annual report at [kfcu.org/annual-meeting](http://kfcu.org/annual-meeting).

Spring has arrived with a renewed feeling of optimism and opportunity. No doubt we are all eager and welcome a return to normal activities. If you have been thinking about a new boat, RV,

ATV, or other vehicle, Spring is a great time to make your dream come true. When you're ready, come talk to us – we have affordable loans with flexible options available to make your plans for outdoor adventures a reality.

Are you or your dependent pursuing an undergraduate college degree? Keesler Federal would like to help! Ten \$1,000 scholarships are up for grabs through the annual Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship essay contest. For this year's essay topic and information about how to apply, please see the article in this issue.

By the way, if you enjoy being a Keesler Federal member, let your friends and family in on the secret! Remember, new

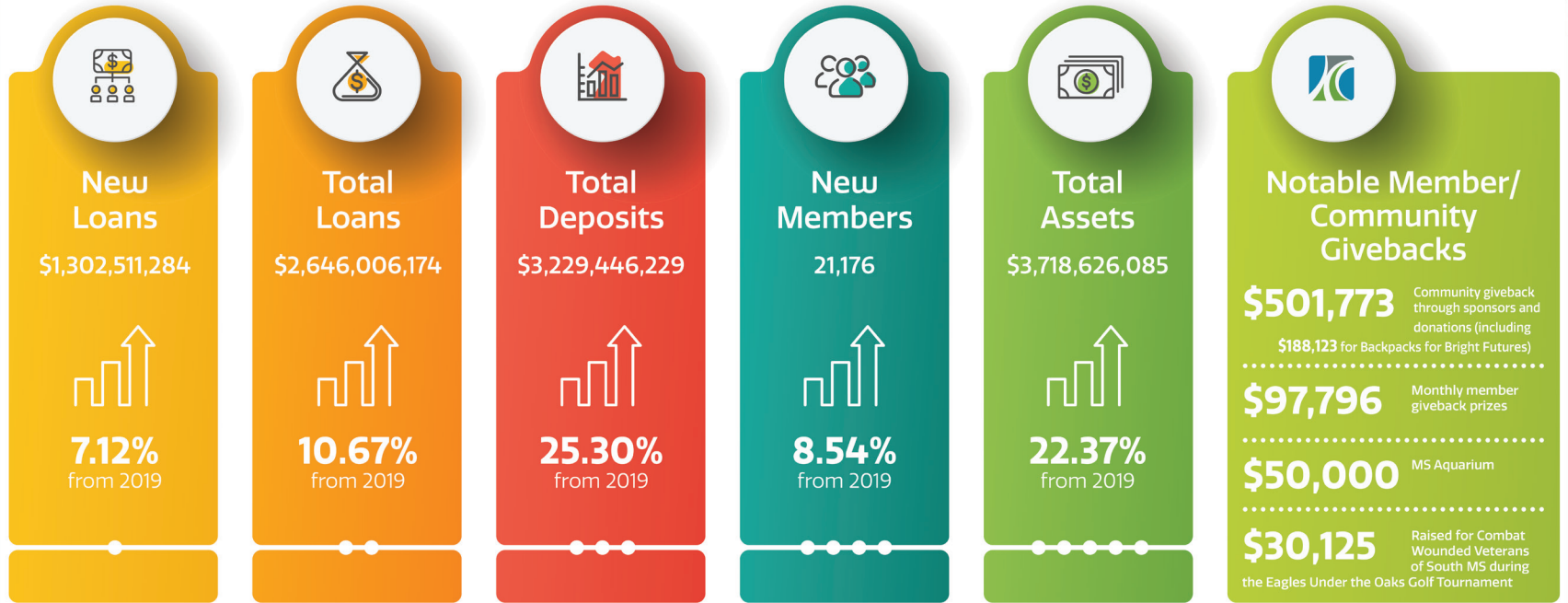
members do not have to be affiliated with the military to join. Find out how you (and they) can get rewarded when you refer new members who meet simple criteria upon joining the credit union. The more you refer, the more you could earn!

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for choosing Keesler Federal as your financial partner. We wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy spring season.

Yours in service,

James Hollingsworth

## Key Highlights of 2020







# Annual Lisa J. Stubbs Memorial Scholarship Contest

**Here's your chance to win \$1,000 towards your education!** Once again, we will award six undergraduate dependent students and four adult students \$1,000 scholarships for winning entries in an essay contest.

## ALL APPLICANTS

- The contest is open to Keesler Federal members in good standing who will be full-time college students in the upcoming school year. Employees and officials of Keesler Federal and their dependents are not eligible to compete in the scholarship contest.
- Applicants must submit an entry of 500 words or less that is typed in the space provided through the online application.
- School classification for the upcoming school year will be college freshman, sophomore, junior, senior or graduate.

## ADULT APPLICANTS

- Adult students must not be dependents of their parents and must be at least 21 years old and in good standing with Keesler Federal.
- Your entry should include your name, address, phone number, major, school name and school classification for the upcoming year.

## DEPENDENT APPLICANTS

- Dependent applicants and at least one parent must be members in good standing with Keesler Federal.
- Your entry should include your name, address, phone number, major, school name and school classification for the upcoming year and your parent/guardian's name.

The 2021 essay topic is:

**"Describe a topic, idea or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose track of time. Why does it captivate you?"**

**All entries must be submitted no later than 11:59pm June 18.**

**All applications must be submitted online.** We will no longer accept printed applications. Simply visit our website at [kfcu.org/scholarship](http://kfcu.org/scholarship) or click on the Scholarship Contest banner on our homepage at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org).

In 1992, the scholarship program was dedicated to Lisa J. Stubbs, a Keesler Federal employee of over 8 years. While employed full time at the credit union, Lisa attended night classes, working toward her degree. Lisa died at the age of 25 after a lifelong struggle with cystic fibrosis. Since Lisa's courage and determination were an inspiration to all who knew her, the scholarship program was renamed in her honor in hopes that her spirit of achievement would inspire others to reach new heights.



## A Commitment to Member Service

**Extraordinary Employees.  
Extraordinary Credit Union.**

Keesler Federal team members believe in the credit union philosophy, and it shows in their tenure. Our team members are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of members, and, in turn, Keesler Federal has made a difference in their lives. This may explain why so many people begin and end their careers with Keesler Federal.

Keesler Federal team members are recognized for service in 5-year increments (3-year in the UK). We are proud to recognize the following team members who have service anniversaries during the first quarter of 2021:

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Marianne Weaver**, Teller Service Rep III, Bay/Waveland

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Teresa Necaise-Waggles**, Consumer Loan Underwriter II

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Audrey Beard**, Teller Service Rep III, Long Beach

**Debbie McVadon**, VP of HR

**Carmen Moffett**, Titles/Insurance Rep II

**Tammie Clark**, Mortgage Loan Closer

**Glenda Fuller**, Teller Service Rep III, D'Iberville

**Mary Hunter**, Member Contact Specialist II

**Connie Kuhagen**, Mortgage Loan Set Up Specialist

**Jackie Necaise**, Teller Service Rep III, Stennis

**Lekeeshia Newsome**, Member Records Clerk II

**Allie Williams**, Member Records Clerk I

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Chris Krohn**, Commercial Loan Officer

**Kristal Langley**, Consumer Loan Underwriter I

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

**Felicia Augustine**, Director of Training

**Cassandra Banks**, Bank Secrecy Specialist I

**Brian Bates**, Branch Manager, Mobile Westwood Plaza

**Jessalyn Molero**, Staff Development Specialist II

**Andrea Gray**, Internet Mortgage Loan Officer

**Stephanie Jacobs**, Financial Service Rep II,  
Ocean Springs

**David Morris**, Maintenance Technician

**Caitlyn Mount**, Digital Support Rep II

**Dustin Necaise**, Consumer Loan Underwriter I

**Breann Langley**, Financial Service Rep I, Lakeview

**Ivonne Williams**, Sr. Internal Auditor



## Refer Your Friends and Get up to \$500 Annually

Now, you can share your love of Keesler Federal and literally get paid for doing so! Through Keesler Federal's refer a friend program, you and a friend can each earn \$25 each initially and up to \$500 a year for additional referrals.

**It's easy too.** You can share with friends via Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, WhatsApp, or email. Once your referred friend opens a Keesler Federal account and meets the qualifications,\* you and your friend will receive a

\$25 Visa® digital gift card. Then, you can both keep referring friends and earning additional cards up to \$500 per year. All friends you refer, the friends they refer, and so on are eligible for the program.

### So, what are you waiting for?

If you're happy with your credit union, chances are that your friends and family will be too. Here's how to get started:

Go to [refer.kfcu.org](https://refer.kfcu.org) and begin sharing Keesler Federal with your friends on any of the above listed digital platforms.

Membership eligibility required. Referred friends must be a new Keesler Federal membership. Existing members cannot be referred. Keesler Federal employees are not eligible for referral reward. \$25 digital Visa gift card paid within 45 days of account opening when criteria is met. No cash reward. Maximum annual reward \$500. Non-commercial accounts only. Only available on referrals after March 1, 2021.

### \*Once they become members, your friends then only need to meet one of the following qualifying actions:

- Open a new loan with a minimum balance of \$5,000
- Receive approval for one of Keesler Federal's credit cards
- Open a certificate with a minimum of \$1,000 balance
- Open a checking account and make 5 debit card transactions or one direct deposit within the first 30 days.

**Remember: Friends don't let friends go without the opportunity to enjoy the Keesler Federal experience!**

## The Art of Allowance Project



Our Money Mammals® Saving Money Is Fun Kids Club™ has helped many young members at Keesler Federal Credit Union learn to share, save and spend smart. Now there are even more tools you can use to teach kids money smarts! That's right—our Kids Club now includes great content for kids of all ages with materials for tweens and teens and lots more helpful resources for you, parents.

The money-smart journey doesn't end when your kids reach age 11. You can now enroll your tweens and teens into our youth program. We've created a special portal on the new site (now called The Art of Allowance Project™). This area, which we've aptly named Adolescent\$, is just for them, featuring tween- and teen-centric content in the form of articles, social media-worthy images and videos. These resources will help them learn to use money as a tool to craft a life they love. **To check out our new site, go to <https://kfcu.theartofallowance.com/>.**





# How Does Your Garden Grow?

## Everybody wins

A home vegetable garden, in beds or pots, can be rewarding in many ways. First, there is the incomparable taste and healthy goodness of fresh, homegrown vegetables added to your daily meals. Then, there's the money saving aspect of not having to pay supermarket prices for produce preserved to make the journey from Peru to your refrigerator! Finally, by eating what you pick and sharing any overabundance with your friends, neighbors or charities, you're cutting out food waste.

## Money matters

Sure, there is some investment required initially for seeds, plants, soil, and fertilizer. However, this pales in comparison to the potential cost of food purchased and not eaten.

Each day in the United States approximately one pound of food per person is wasted. This equates to 103 million tons (81.4 billion pounds) of food waste generated in America in 2017, or between 30-40 percent of the food supply, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In terms of produce alone, that translates to about \$1,600 per family, per year.

## Peace of mind

Now, think about the satisfaction (and bragging rights) of growing your own food, knowing where it came from and how it was cared for; not to mention its fresh taste, nutrition and the tasty savings of perhaps hundreds to thousands of dollars. That's an investment with far-reaching dividends.

Sources: [nutritionconnect.org](http://nutritionconnect.org)

# MEMBER giveback

More than your average giveaway!



If it were not for extraordinary members like you, Keesler Federal wouldn't have a reason to exist. So, we express our appreciation in a big way through the innovative Member Giveback program— monthly random

drawing for 36 awesome cash prizes that frankly put the tchotchkes from other financial institutions to shame! Plus, you're automatically entered to win just by doing ordinary things like using the mobile app or online bill pay, making a transaction at a branch, having direct deposit or a certificate, or making a payment on your credit card or loan. Pretty easy, right? Take a look at the breakdown of prizes you could win. All you need to do is keep being a loyal Keesler Federal member and you just might find an unexpected bonus in your account—a big, heartfelt thank you from us to you!

## Monthly Prizes Share Certificate

1 member will receive \$3000

## Direct Deposit

1 member will have their deposit matched up to \$2000

## Credit Card

1 member will be reimbursed for a payment up to \$1000

## Auto Loan

1 member will be reimbursed for a payment up to \$1000

## Mortgage

1 member will be reimbursed for a payment up to \$1000

## Personal Loan

1 member will be reimbursed for a payment up to \$1000

## Branch Transaction

10 members will receive \$100

## Mobile App

10 members will receive \$100

## Bill Pay

10 members will receive \$100




# First Responders of the Year 2020

For the past six years, Keesler Federal has asked neighboring response agencies to name a recipient to honor for their outstanding service. In 2020, we were pleased to recognize 79 dedicated first responders with an award to commemorate the occasion.



**SSGT TRAVIS J. WILLIAMS**  
2020 FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR  
81ST SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



**STEVEN GAUDET JR.**  
RECEIVED BY LANY GAUDET  
2020 FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR  
PEARL RIVER POLICE DEPARTMENT



The event originally began on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and historically featured a gala dinner; however, COVID-19 necessitated a change of plans. Presenting the awards at each recipient's duty location became an opportunity to expand the program to other communities located in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, within a 15-mile radius of all Keesler Federal Credit Union branches. Please join us in thanking all first responders, including our award recipients (some of whom are pictured here) for their bravery and sacrifices on behalf of the communities we call home.



**ANDREA SMITH**  
2020 FIRST RESPONDER OF THE YEAR  
PAFFORD EMS



**THOMAS HAMILTON**  
**DARRIS ECHOLS**  
**JEREMIAH BEARD**  
2020 FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE YEAR  
MS HIGHWAY PATROL







## What's in Your Digital Wallet?

Digital wallets offer a convenient way to pay by allowing you to simply use your phone to pay instead of cash or your plastic credit card via apps like Apple Pay,<sup>®</sup> GooglePay<sup>®</sup> and others.

### How do you use it?

Load your Keesler Federal Visa<sup>®</sup> Signature and Visa<sup>®</sup> Platinum information into the digital wallet app on your phone.

To make a mobile payment you simply have to authorize the digital wallet and hold it close enough to the card reader so that your information can be transmitted.

When shopping online, some sites let you select a digital wallet as your payment option at checkout instead of having to enter your card information each time you make a purchase.

In-App: Use it for ride shares, food delivery services or payment apps like Venmo<sup>®</sup> or PayPal<sup>®</sup>



You can also store boarding passes, hotel reservations, concert tickets, coupons, gift cards and loyalty rewards cards in your digital wallet.

### How Secure is it?

To many users' surprise, digital wallets are actually more secure than your physical cards. That's because mobile payments are heavily encrypted and tokenized, meaning that none of your actual card or account numbers are stored within the digital wallet. So, your information is protected, even if your phone is lost or stolen. Ultimately, your information is useless and unreadable to fraudsters when encryption and tokenization are used together.

**Make sure your Keesler Federal credit and debit cards are in your digital wallet to make the most of your rewards and cash back programs!**

## Checking Accounts Worth Checking Out



Think all checking accounts are created equally? Think again. At Keesler Federal, we have four choices to fit every member's lifestyle and needs. Whether you're into earning cool rewards or prefer something more low maintenance and no-frills, the right checking account is a solid foundation for the rest of your banking.

Best of all, every account features a free debit card, free access to online and mobile banking, no monthly service charge, no minimum balance requirement and no per-check fee!

### KASASA Cash

Get rewarded by earning higher dividends on your balance when certain criteria are met each month. Eligible for optional KASASA Saver deposit account.

### KASASA Cash Back

Get rewarded with cash back for debit card purchases when certain criteria met each month. Eligible for optional KASASA Saver deposit account.

### KASASA Tunes

Get reimbursements for online purchases from iTunes, Amazon or Google Play when certain criteria are met each month.

### Free4all

A simple, no-strings attached checking account that satisfies your need for everyday convenience.

**Get all the details for each account type at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org) or stop by your nearest branch.**

# KASASA<sup>®</sup>

Ask about adding Ultimate Benefits for extra perks and Kasasa<sup>®</sup> Protect for identity protection to any Keesler Federal checking account!

## What is an Annuity? What you should know about them.

A Message from the Keesler Federal Financial Group

Individuals hold about \$2.2 trillion in annuity contracts; a tidy sum considering an estimated \$9.2 trillion is held in all types of IRAs.<sup>1</sup>

Annuity contracts are purchased from an insurance company. In exchange, the insurance company makes regular payments to the buyer—either immediately or at some future date. These payments can be made monthly, quarterly, annually, or as a single lump sum. Annuity contract holders can opt to receive payments for the rest of their lives or a set number of years.

The money invested in an annuity grows, tax deferred. When the money is withdrawn, the amount contributed to the annuity will not be taxed, but earnings will be taxed as regular income. There is no contribution limit for an annuity.

**There are two main types of annuities.** Fixed annuities offer a guaranteed payout, usually a set dollar amount or a set percentage of the assets in the annuity. Variable annuities offer the possibility to allocate premiums between various subaccounts. This gives annuity owners the ability to participate in the potentially higher returns these subaccounts have to offer. It also means that the annuity account may fluctuate in value.

**Indexed annuities are specialized variable annuities.** During the accumulation period, the rate of return is based on an index. Annuities have contract limitations, fees, and charges, including account and administrative fees, underlying investment management fees, mortality and expense fees, and charges for optional benefits. Most annuities have surrender fees that are usually highest if you take out the money in the initial years of the annuity contract. Withdrawals and income payments are taxed as ordinary income. If a withdrawal is made prior to age 59½, a 10% federal income tax penalty may apply (unless an exception applies). The guarantees of an annuity contract depend on the issuing company's claims-paying ability. Annuities are not guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency.

Variable annuities are sold by prospectus, which contains detailed information about investment objectives and risks as well as charges and expenses. You are encouraged to read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money to buy a variable annuity contract. The prospectus is available from

**Keesler Federal Financial Group**

**Call (228) 385-4558 for your no-cost, no-obligation appointment today!**

William E. Morrison,  
Dennis Liverett,  
Ron Weatherly and  
Nathan Roberts are  
Financial Advisors  
with Keesler Financial  
Group located at  
Keesler Federal CU.

the insurance company or your financial professional. Variable annuity subaccounts will fluctuate in value based on market conditions and may be worth more or less than the original amount invested when the annuity expires.

**Case Study: Robert's Fixed Annuity.** Robert is a 52-year-old business owner. He uses \$100,000 to purchase a deferred fixed annuity contract with a 4% guaranteed return.

Over the next 15 years, the contract will accumulate, tax deferred. By the time Robert is ready to retire, the contract should be worth just over \$180,000.

At that point, the contract will begin making annual payments of \$13,250. Only \$7,358 of each payment will be taxable; the rest will be considered a return of principal.

These payments will last the rest of Robert's life. Assuming he lives to age 85, he'll eventually receive over \$265,000 in payments.

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AdTrax FR-3504396.1-0321-0423

Citations.  
1 - Investment Company Institute, 2020.

## Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

### Shares

#### Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.15%	.15%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.20%	.20%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

#### High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500—\$9,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$10,000—\$49,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$50,000—\$99,999.99	.35%	.35%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.40%	.40%

*\$2,500 minimum to open account and to earn dividends*

#### Checking Accounts

##### Kasasa Cash Checking (qualifying accounts)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balances up to \$25,000	2.96%	3.00%
Balances over \$25,000	.40%	.40%
Non-Qualified	.05%	.05%

#### Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Traditional	.75%	.75%
Roth	.75%	.75%

**IRAs are federally insured separately up to \$250,000**

**View current rates at  
[www.kfcu.org/rates](http://www.kfcu.org/rates)**

Share rates listed above are effective as of April 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice. See your Mar. statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending Mar. 31, 2021.

**Federally Insured by NCUA**

### Loans

#### New Auto Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 24 months	as low as 2.14% APR
25-36 months	as low as 2.24% APR
37-48 months	as low as 2.44% APR
49-60 months	as low as 2.59% APR
61-72 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 3.04% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$28.78 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 2.24% for 36 months.*

#### New RV/Travel Trailers

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
37-48 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 5.00% APR
49-60 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 5.25% APR
61-72 months (\$20,000 & over)	as low as 5.50% APR
73-84 months (\$25,000 & over)	as low as 6.24% APR
85-144 months (\$35,000 & over)	as low as 7.25% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$23.09 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 5.00% for 48 months.*

#### Credit Cards

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Visa Signature	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Platinum	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Classic	as low as 3.25% APR

*Transaction fees per transaction: cash advance 5%; ISA fee on international transactions 1%.*

#### Signature Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 36 months	as low as 8.24% APR
37-48 months	as low as 8.74% APR
49-60 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 9.24% APR

*Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$31.55 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 8.24% for 36 months.*

#### Share Secured Loans

2.00% above prior quarter share dividend rate  
(Up to amount of available balance – up to 120 months)

**Apply for your loan by phone,  
1-888-KEESLER (533-7537), online at [kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org),  
or visit any branch location.**

Rates marked "as low as" vary based on credit history. Certain restrictions may apply. Rates are effective as of April 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice.





# Get out there

If you're looking for an RV loan that's the perfect fit, visit Keesler Federal. Our great rates, easy online loan applications, flexible terms and pre-approval options will get you and your family on the open road in no time.

[kfcu.org](http://kfcu.org) 1-888-KEESLER

Special rate as low as

**6.24% APR\*** for up to 15 years

Available on all RVs year 2016 to the present.



Membership and credit eligibility required.

\*APR is annual percentage rate. Example: Monthly payments are approximately \$8.60 per month per \$1,000 borrowed at 6.24% APR for a 180 month term. Minimum loan amount \$50,000, maximum \$250,000 to qualify for promotional rate and term. Rates are subject to change without notice. Offer good through 7/31/21.



**Your Kids.  
Money-Smart.**

Give kids the money  
know-how they  
need to succeed.



**Saving  
Money  
Is Fun!**

**KIDS  
CLUB!**

Learn more at [kfcu.theartofallowance.com](http://kfcu.theartofallowance.com)

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CREDIT UNION

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