



# HCU

member  
NEWSLETTER

## 2020 Scholarship Recipients

Hometown Credit Union supports community youth by offering four \$500.00 scholarships to high school seniors who are within the credit union's field of membership. Applicants are selected on the basis of their outstanding academic achievements and personal excellence. Congratulations to our 2020 scholarship recipients Maren Berntson, Kristie Carpenter, Winter Malone, and Caitlin Molter!

Maren is a Kulm High School graduate who has distinguished herself in academics, music, and sports. One notable achievement for Maren is placing 2nd in the high jump competition at the 2019 ND State Track Meet. She plans to attend NDSU, majoring in Precision Agriculture. She is the daughter of Lowell and Carol Berntson.

Kristie graduated from Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock. Besides participating in school activities, she was selected to attend ND Girl's State. Kristie has been involved in the Emmons County 4-H for eleven years. She is the daughter of Dave and Vicki Carpenter and plans to major in Political Science at the University of Jamestown.

Winter graduated from Kulm High School and is the daughter of Kevin Malone and Fawn Greydanus. She has participated with music, sports, and academics in her school, and has been involved in several mission trips. Winter plans to major in Education at Mayville State University.

Caitlin Molter is an Ashley High School graduate. The achievement she is most proud of is being elected the FFA President for her senior year. She volunteers for many local community projects, works part time, and was still able to maintain a 4.0+ honor roll student though her high school years. Caitlin plans to attend the University of Mary, majoring in Elementary Education. Her parents are Lisa and Clarence Gilstead, and Terry Molter.

## Attention Members: Change in Terms

Effective July 1, 2020 our Funds Availability policy will be changed to the following:

We are increasing the amount available for withdrawal by checks not subject to next day availability from \$200 to \$225. In addition, the amount available for withdrawal on exception holds for large deposits, new accounts and the amount for determining a repeat overdraft, increases from \$5,000 to \$5,525.

**OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR HOMETOWN COMMUNITIES MEANS SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST, WHEN AND WHERE YOU NEED IT MOST—WE'LL GO THE EXTRA MILE FOR YOU.**



*Maren Berntson*



*Kristie Carpenter*



*Winter Malone*



*Caitlin Molter*

Congratulations  
**2020**  
Graduates

Laugh *a little*

My housekeeping style is best described as "There seems to have been a struggle".

*and*

Every day we lose five thousand brain cells, or is it five million? I used to know.

# FIVE WAYS GOOD CREDIT IS YOUR SAFETY NET

A healthy savings account is your best defense against life's curve balls. But sometimes setting aside some money every paycheck isn't enough — particularly when you just starting out in life.

A good credit score can be an additional safety net, providing you access to low-interest credit options that can help cover any expenses your emergency savings can't. Here are your options:

**1. Credit cards**—Can be useful for relatively small purchases. Of course, this requires that you haven't maxed out your credit card on espresso and concert tickets. Keeping a decent chunk of your credit limit available will not only offer you a good life line, but can also boost your credit score. Plus, a good credit score can earn you the best rates.

**2. Signature loans**— Also called personal loans, can be used for making purchases, like car repairs or for doing projects like updating your kitchen. Signature loans are good for moderate-size projects.

**3. Car equity loan**— Did you know that if you have paid off your car or you owe less than it's worth, you can often take out a loan against your equity. If your car is newer than ten years old, these loans usually offer significantly lower rates than signature loans or credit cards. Just keep in mind that you no longer own the car outright—you will have to pay off the loan if you want to sell the car.

**4. Home equity loan**— If you own your own home and have available equity in it (you owe less than your home is worth) you can take out a home equity loan. This is a one-time lump sum loan, usually of a sizable amount. This can be used for big projects such as remodels, additions, building a shop, or paying off your other higher rate debt.

**5. Home equity line of credit**— These are much like a home equity loan, except instead of taking out one big lump sum, you can use the line of credit like a credit card. You can make purchases, pay the balance down and make new purchases. This is great for regular projects or sizable emergencies.

Your lender may be able to offer you other options, but these are the main tools you can use to build a safety net. Even better—by using your available credit options, making payments on time, and paying things off, you are continuing to build your credit score.

*A positive attitude may not solve all your problems but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort!*



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## **Kulm Office**

PO Box 310 | Kulm, ND 58456 | 701.647.2448

Fax: 701.647.2449 | 877.304.0035

Steve Anderson, *Sr. VP of Lending*  
Betty Gunderson, *Sr. VP of Finance*

Mavis Brosz

John Elhard

Steve Gebhard

Lisa Irion

Layton Johnson

Joleen Kinzler

Brandy Klusmann

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Angela Mahin

Julia Mathern

Marsha Nitschke

Heather Palmer

Daphne Schlepp

## **Ashley Office**

PO Box 230 | Ashley, ND 58413 | 701.288.3439

Fax: 701.288.3430 | 877.588.3439

Pamela Schnabel, *Branch Manager*

Deanne Bertsch

Terry Mettler

Paul Nies

Megan Rau

Ermalene Schlepp

Abby Wolf

## **Hazelton Office**

PO Box 225 | Hazelton, ND 58544

701.782.6841 | Fax: 701.782.6831

866.782.6841

Patty Flegel, *Branch Manager*

Holly Bender

Tammy Fode

Gretta Grenz

Will Mastel

Charles Steinberger

## **Lincoln Office**

109 N McDougall Drive, Ste. 5

Lincoln, ND 58504 | 701.751.1613

Fax: 701.751.3224 | 877.304.0035

Sheree Bertsch, *Branch Manager*

Stephanie Azure

Karla Glass

Connie Hummel

Aspyn Mees

Lisa Vetter



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