

February 16, 2009

**Community Financial and Silver Springs Elementary in Northville host
Grand Opening for Student-run Credit Union**

Silver Springs Elementary in Northville recently held a grand opening for the school's new student-run credit union, including student volunteers, school staff and Community Financial team members.

Silver Springs becomes the fifth elementary school in Northville to partner with Community Financial's student-run credit union program. Northville Public Schools Education Partnerships Facilitator Jan Purtell expressed her appreciation for the wonderful opportunity that this credit union partnership is giving to the school's first through fifth graders, who are learning about the importance of saving.

Student volunteers from Teacher Kathy Barcelona's fourth grade class have been trained to help other students at Silver Springs make deposits to their individual accounts.

"Enthusiastic is the best way to describe our 4th graders who participated in opening day," said Debbie Grant-Kelterborn, Silver Springs PTA president and parent volunteer. "They have taken on their roles as marketing representatives, branch managers, tellers, bookkeepers and computer operators with great excitement and a huge sense of responsibility. The credit union is a wonderful way to introduce the value of savings to students and teach them how their money will grow over time."

Mary Kerwin, education partnership coordinator at Community Financial, explained how the students build on their financial skills as they progress from elementary school to upper grade levels in middle school and high school. The Silver Springs students will move on to Meads Mill Middle School and then to Northville High School—all of which have student-run credit unions in operation.

The student-run credit union is part of Community Financial's financial literacy program which also includes classroom presentations to students about saving basics, various economic concepts and skills for making educated financial decisions.

Membership in Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency. With more than 40,000 members, Community Financial provides financial services to members at eight branch locations and through a variety of automated and online services. For more information, visit the credit union web site at www.cfcu.org or call (248) 34-8458.

Photo Caption: Silvers Springs' four grade volunteers in Northville help Principal Scott Snyder and Community Financial Education Partnership Coordinator Mary Kerwin cut the ribbon for the school's new student-run credit union.

