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OPPORTUNITIES CREDIT UNION

Financial and Social Impact

- Over \$450 million in loans provided to low-income Vermont residents since our founding in 1989
- Over \$20 million in mortgages lent to immigrants and refugees
- Over \$4.6 million lent to immigrant and refugee-owned businesses
- Over \$43 million lent in small and micro business loans
- Over \$5 million lent to people with disabilities
- Over \$70 million lent to low-income families

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Opportunities works with low-income residents of Vermont in their efforts to build small businesses, buy affordable homes, finance vehicles, and work toward financial health. In addition to traditional financial products, Opportunities is proud of its work undoing damages done by predatory lenders and credit companies, utilizing creative underwriting solutions to provide loans to members that could not receive financing elsewhere, and serving a member base that is more than five times as diverse as the population of the larger community. In 2020 alone, the credit union has provided financing to businesses that have retained over 450 jobs and provided loans to many women, minority, and immigrant/refugee owned businesses in Vermont. Opportunities believes in the inherent worth and dignity of all our members and does everything it can to not only help them succeed, but empowers them to help others in their diverse communities to succeed, as well.

CDFI Story – Daisy, Vermont

Daisy, a 58 year old widow, struggled with financial decision-making. After her husband died, she moved from out of state to a house they had owned in Vermont. She had a college degree but wasn't sure if her pension and savings were enough to afford the mortgage. The cost of renting similar space was even more expensive. After meeting with a member of our Money Sense program for several months, Daisy built up her financial confidence, made a budget and has found work. The new job has helped her qualify for refinancing her home loan which is helping her save on her monthly housing costs. Daisy now has a way to live affordably in the house she owned together with her late husband.

