



For more information:

Greg Davis

Ascend FCU Public Relations Coordinator

1-931-454-1117 or 1-800-342-3086 ext.1117

gdavis@ascendfcu.org

November 16, 2009

ASCEND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION RETURNS ANOTHER \$8 MILLION TO MEMBERS

Ascend Federal Credit Union is once again returning \$8 million to its members.

That's the second consecutive \$8 million return for Ascend's members, and it brings the five-year total return to more than \$26 million.

"To actually be able to return money in an economy like we are experiencing speaks highly of the stability of this credit union and the loyalty of our members," Ascend President and CEO Caren Gabriel said.

It seemed that each passing day in 2009 saw another of this country's largest and most prominent financial institutions in turmoil. Gabriel explained that the member return is an exclamation mark at the end of a year that has set Ascend in stark contrast to its competitors.

"At the start of this year, Ascend promised to be the Personal Economic Recovery Kit, or PERK, for our members, and we've delivered," she said. "When others were not lending money for mortgages, Ascend was. Credit card rates rose and fell, but Ascend kept offering a low, fixed-rate Visa. When members needed low-rate financing to buy a vehicle, they turned to Ascend. More members registered for Ascend's free and secure electronic services this year. And, when families needed to tighten their financial belts beyond the last notch, they turned to Ascend's BALANCE program for help making a budget."

As in previous years, the return will be calculated as a percentage of total year-to-date dividends, including IRAs, and total year-to-date interest paid on all loans. The period covered is Jan. 1 through Nov. 30, 2009. The more savings a member has, the higher his bonus dividend, and the more loans he has, the larger his loan interest refund.

Members will see their return on their December statements. The return excludes business accounts.

Ascend Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution with 15 locations in Middle Tennessee. Federally insured by the NCUA, membership is limited.

###