Application Deadline Nears for Coastal Community Credit Union's 2008 Coastal Spirit Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2008 – Attention Vancouver Island registered charity and non-profit groups! You only have until Wednesday, October 1 to apply for funding through Coastal Community Credit Union's Coastal Spirit Fund.

"Time is running out," said Joe Cristiano," Coastal Community's Senior Vice President Marketing. "We want to make sure that all eligible candidates get their applications in by the deadline."

Since it's inception in 2006, the Coastal Spirit Fund has targeted the unique needs of the diverse communities Coastal Community serves, and has helped over 100 community groups. Last year alone, over 40 Vancouver Island community groups benefitted, sharing in a total of more than $150,000 in grants, ranging from $1,000 to $20,000.

From the Vancouver Island Arts Festival Society, to the Cowichan Independent Living Society, to the Wichaninnish After-School Program, to the Sointula Youth Resource Program, to the North Island Family Place Partnership Program, and everything in between; the Coastal Spirit Fund has helped to fund worthwhile initiatives and deserving community groups across Vancouver Island.

One such group to have benefitted from the Coastal Spirit Fund is the Opportunities Career Services Society. The group applied for support to help fund their Asset Building project, a unique community-based career management program that teaches savings and budget planning skills to lower income and under-employed individuals, empowering them to take control of their personal finances.

According to René Quintin, Executive Director of Opportunities Career Services Society, Coastal Community's support extends well beyond the money.

"In addition to the funding, Coastal Community Credit Union has helped to make the project a success in numerous ways," says Quintin. "They've been very supportive of the program: helping us with marketing; providing free banking services for participants; allowing us the use of their facilities for meetings; and conducting free financial management workshops on credit, personal banking, budgeting and investing. It's a true partnership and we are extremely grateful for their support and expertise."

"The need in our communities is great. In the past two years, we've had over 200 groups apply representing over $2.2 million in requests," adds Cristiano.

Funding is available to local groups in the areas of: Arts & Culture; Community Service; Education; the Environment; Health, Sports & Recreation; and Youth. The grants are allocated by region and funding decisions are made locally, with the help of the Credit Union's volunteer Community Connection Councils, which help direct funding based on community needs and issues.

In addition to funding from the Coastal Spirit Fund, Coastal Community provides support to Island communities through a variety of other initiatives through its comprehensive Community

Investment Strategy. "Supporting community passion is at the heart of our business," said Garth Sheane, Coastal Community's President and CEO. "When our communities thrive, so do we."

Funding guidelines and applications to the Coastal Spirit Fund are available at any Coastal Community location or by visiting www.cccu.ca.

About Coastal Community Credit Union
Serving Island communities for more than 60 years, Coastal Community Credit Union is Vancouver Island's largest regionally-based credit union. With more than 80,000 members, over 600 employees, and $1.5 billion in assets, Coastal Community offers complete financial services and solutions through a growing network of credit union, insurance, investment and business services locations across Vancouver Island. Passionate about the communities it serves, Coastal Community supports community through various programs and dedicated employees. For more information, visit us on the web at www.cccu.ca.

For more information:

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