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**For immediate release**  
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## **Coastal Community employees spread Holiday cheer all year.**

**VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC CANADA** – Employees of Coastal Community Credit Union and its family of companies are stepping up to the plate to help the less fortunate through the current economic downturn.

Coastal Community staff swelled the United Way's coffers by over \$12,000 for 2009 through the Payroll Giving Plan. "Although one-time donations help too, per-paycheque giving makes it easier for non-profits to budget for the year," says Lynne Brown, CEO of United Way Central and North Vancouver Island. "Like you or I, charities can more easily plan knowing how much money they have coming in over the course of the year."

"We more than doubled our United Way contributions from 2008," said Garth Sheane, President and CEO of Coastal Community Credit Union. "In an economy where people are tightening their purse strings, charities and their clients are the first to feel the effects of the recession. Our employees care deeply about the communities where they live and work. They feel a responsibility to do more, in difficult times, to help."

United Way payroll giving is just one of the ways that Coastal Community staff give back to their communities. Across Vancouver Island, Coastal Community employees are going all out to help local charities. They are adopting families, filling food hampers, holding raffles, collecting for food banks, and in many cases, topping up corporate and member donations with money from their own pockets to ensure that no one in the community goes without this holiday season.

Employees at Coastal Community's Chemainus branch have caught the Christmas spirit big time! They are donating the money budgeted for their staff Christmas party to Harvest House, the local food bank, and having a pot-luck get-together instead. As if that weren't enough, they've also adopted a single mom with five children for the holidays. Over at Coastal Community's Discovery Harbour branch in Campbell River, staff are sponsoring children from both the Christmas Tree Angel program the Salvation Army Christmas program, as well as helping the Knights of Columbus Christmas hamper program and the local food bank and transition house.

At Coastal Community's Bowen branch in Nanaimo employees are auctioning 37 collector dolls generously donated by a member for the benefit of the Canadian Cancer Society. Instead of buying gifts for each other, employees at the Bowen branch buy gifts for the charity that they're supporting. Meanwhile in Courtenay, the Fourth Street branch is contributing to their local food bank, buying Christmas Dinners from Thrifty Foods for needy families, as well as toys for children who would not otherwise have a Christmas. And at the Ryan Road branch in Courtenay, staff are sponsoring a family of four and fundraising for the SPCA.

These are just a few examples of the many ways Coastal Community and its employees support Vancouver Island communities. To learn more about these and other community investment initiatives, visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

**About Coastal Community Credit Union** - Proudly serving Island communities for over 60 years, Coastal Community Credit Union is Vancouver Island's largest regional Credit Union. With more than 80,000 members, 650 employees, and \$1.5 billion in assets, Coastal Community offers complete smart financial solutions and services through an extensive network of personal banking, insurance, investment and business services centres across Vancouver Island. Passionate about the communities it serves, Coastal Community offers support to community organizations through various programs and committed employees. For more information, visit [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

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