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**For immediate release**  
November 26, 2008

## **Vancouver Island Youth Finish First in Coastal Community's Race**

**VANCOUVER ISLAND, BC CANADA** – Coastal Community Credit Union is sending eleven Vancouver Island youth to YES! Camp – a leadership training program for BC youth made possible through the support of the province's co-operatives and credit unions.

In celebration of Co-op Week and Credit Union Day in October, Coastal Community held an Island-wide fundraiser called the *Relay to YES! Camp* to raise money to send youth from each school district in the areas it serves to the leadership Camp in 2009. The goal was to relay a virtual CU Day Games torch 2000kms, through all Coastal Community's locations, during Co-op Week to celebrate 'the spirit of Co-ops'. During the week, Coastal Community matched donations up to \$2,000 from funds raised through the sale of torches which were available for a minimum \$1 donation at each location.

Members, clients and employees all got into the co-operative spirit, successfully raising over \$2,600 in only four days. At Coastal Community's Southgate Branch in Nanaimo employees and members were particularly enthusiastic, bringing in over \$500.00 through torch and raffle sales. "Our employees are really passionate about Vancouver Island communities and that passion is contagious," says Roberto Qualizza, Branch Manager at Southgate. "They gave 110% to the Relay to the YES! Camp."

Not to be outdone, employees at Coastal Community's Ryan Road Branch in Courtenay augmented their torch sales with a hotdog sale, raising almost \$600.00 in total. "Our members are great examples of the co-operative spirit in action," says Shauna Collins, a Member Service Representative at Ryan Road. "In fact, we ran out of torches, but people were still contributing – now that's generosity!"

Through the ongoing help and generosity of its members, clients and employees Coastal Community has raised over \$6,000 to date, exceeding its original fundraising goal by over \$2,000! Fundraising efforts are continuing through sales of Coastal Community's Island Gems Calendar, available by donation at all locations while quantities last. Those interested in helping to send Vancouver Island youth to YES! Camp can drop by any Coastal Community location to pick up a calendar – they make great stocking stuffers.

"We're thrilled by the response of our members, clients and employees across Vancouver Island! The success of this fundraiser will allow us to more than double our commitment to YES! Camp next year," enthuses Joe Cristiano, Coastal Community's Senior Vice President of Marketing. "That means even more Vancouver Island youth will have the opportunity to learn important leadership and co-operative skills."

The YES! Camp will run two basic programs in 2009—dates to be announced in April. Youth interested in attending the 2009 YES! Camp can find details and applications at any Coastal Community branch or at [www.cccu.ca](http://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 650 employees, and \$1.5 billion in assets, Coastal Community offers complete financial services and solutions through a growing 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 us on the web at [www.cccu.ca](http://www.cccu.ca).

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