



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: **February 23, 2007** Contact: **Jan Nienow-(414) 297-1096**
Release Number: **07-04**

SBA Honors Wisconsin's First "Preferred Lender" Credit Union

Appleton: Community First Credit Union was honored on Wednesday, February 21, 2007 as the first credit union in Wisconsin to attain SBA Preferred Lender status from the U.S. Small Business Administration, delegating loan approval, closing, and most servicing, liquidation authority and responsibility to the credit union.

In a ceremony at Community First's Board Meeting, SBA District Director Eric Ness and Lead Business Development Specialist Jim Simelton presented a plaque reflecting CFCU's new PLP status to Catherine Tierney, CEO and President, and Debrah Dribin, SVP Business Services.

Because of Community First's vision to deliver superior business services to its clients through experienced lenders and strong support staff demonstrating expertise in SBA lending, they have become one of SBA's most active participating lenders. CFCU was also the first credit union in Wisconsin to attain CLP status.

Debrah Dribin said, "The Preferred Lending Program designation, that enables CFCU to underwrite and approve certain SBA loans, will afford us the opportunity to respond even faster to our member requests for SBA guaranteed programs."

Founded in 1975, Community First has been doing SBA lending since 1999 and is state chartered financial cooperative serving more than 76,000 member/owners from 20 locations throughout Northeastern Wisconsin. CFCU offers a broad range of business related services, from business loans and lines of credit, commercial deposit products, to business insurance and investment related services.

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“We are extremely proud to recognize Community First Credit Union as Wisconsin’s first SBA preferred credit union and look forward to a continued rewarding association with them in serving the small business communities within their markets,” said Ness.

According to Catherine Tierney, “Through our partnership with the SBA, we are able to help many more people start their own businesses, which in turn helps the economy and our member-owned financial cooperative. We’re proud to be a valued partner of the SBA.”

For more information about all of the SBA’s programs for small businesses, visit the SBA’s Web site at <http://www.sba.gov> and Wisconsin SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi

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