

Sarah Mason
St. Cloud Federal Credit Union
(320) 258-2161
smason@stcloudfcu.coop
3030 First Street South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

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St. Cloud Federal Credit Union Sponsors Changemaker Awards Ceremony

Central Minnesota Award Recipients Receive Changemaker Awards with Cash Prizes

St. Cloud, Minnesota: St. Cloud Federal Credit Union was proud to sponsor and host a community recognition program, *ChangeMakers: Giving back to those who make a difference*, on October 23 with the St. Cloud Times. The partnership between St. Cloud Federal Credit Union and the St. Cloud Times was created to highlight people who take their own initiative to do great things in the community, showing their service efforts are on-going.

Nominations were submitted over the course of four weeks, with the winners being chosen by a panel of judges. Each winner received an award and a highlighted article in the St. Cloud Times. In addition, the first place winner received \$3,000, with the two runners-up receiving \$1,000 each for their great work:

First Place: **Cortez Riley** uses his birthday as *Loving Thy Neighbor Extravaganza*, coordinating large groups for service work projects directly affecting the homeless. Mr. Riley also puts together events that motivate others and leads a financial health group to empower others to achieve financial freedom.

Runner-up: **Jody Barth**, a volunteer for three decades focusing on training students to make healthy social, emotional, and physical choices. Ms. Barth supports teens as a mock interviewer, contributed to the Non-Traditional Career Conference for Girls as a lead mentor, and trained Girl Scouts in goal setting.

Runner-up: **Melanie Wander** started *The Weekend Project: Feeding Young Minds*, with the mission of providing weekend food packs to students in need at Sauk Centre elementary schools.

An award event was held on October 23 at St. Cloud Federal Credit Union honoring all nominees, nominators, and guests with over 50 people in attendance. "There are so many selfless people making a difference in our communities, and we're proud to sponsor an awards program that recognizes and highlights their hard work," stated Sarah Mason, EVP/Chief Administrative Officer for St. Cloud Federal Credit Union. "In a world where we often focus on the negative, it was inspiring to see and learn more of people who create positive change out of the goodness of their hearts, and at the expense of their own pockets," stated Mason.

"The St. Cloud Times/LOCALiQ is proud to partner with the St. Cloud Federal Credit Union on their "ChangeMakers" program, it is heartwarming to see and acknowledge the great work being done by the citizens in our community," stated Marilyn Birkland, Director of Sales.

While the Changemaker program is on its third year running, this year marked the first of a formalized program and is anticipated to grow in 2019.



About St. Cloud Federal Credit Union: St. Cloud Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative founded in 1930. Currently with over 19,000 members and over \$170 million in assets, the credit union is proud to serve members in Central Minnesota with branches in St. Cloud and Sartell (Sauk Rapids to open spring of 2019). The organization prides itself on making a meaningful difference for members and their local communities.

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