



PO Box 19340 ♦ Seattle, WA ♦ 98109-1340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 2, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT:

Shannon Perry, 206-826-7637, shannonp@ghcu.org

Group Health Credit Union announces Grand Opening of its Bellevue branch

To better serve its Eastside members, Group Health Credit Union (GHCU) has relocated its Redmond branch to Bellevue. The new branch, which opened for business February 17, is located at 1048 116th Avenue NE, in the Bellevue Design Market Center.

The official Grand Opening festivities will kick off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 6 at 9:20 am and will include a welcome by GHCU President and CEO, John Iglesias. The day will also feature free espresso, hourly prize drawings and a one-week-only opportunity to sign up for a special rate certificate. Visitors will also be able to sign up for the chance to win a doubling of their savings, up to \$1,000 (see official sweepstakes rules at ghcu.org).

"It's an amazing location," says Iglesias. "Group Health Credit Union is pleased to be able to offer such convenient branch access, right in the heart of Bellevue to serve the Eastside community."

The branch has six employees and is managed by Bev Hamre. Ms. Hamre has been with GHCU since 1983 and has been a branch manager since 1991. Assistant manager Kim Leggett joined GHCU in 2006, having worked for two other credit unions.

The branch was designed by Cheryl Bloom of Bloom Design Group; Weber Marketing designed and created the branch interior merchandising.

The Bellevue branch does not have a traditional teller line. All staff are cross-trained so that members can sit down and conduct their business with any staff member. Manager Bev Hamre explains, "We find our members feel more at ease if they can sit down while their transaction is being handled. It's friendlier: they can take their time and not feel rushed or intimidated. And all our staff can handle members' needs: IRA withdrawals and deposits, setting up direct deposits on accounts, handling account inquiries and so on. Everyone is happier when members don't have to stand in line."

Founded in 1948, Group Health Credit Union is open to anyone who lives or works in Washington. GHCU has assets of \$272 million and serves more than 28,000 members. The credit union offers a full array of financial products and services including checking and savings accounts, home and auto loans, credit cards and more. We are committed to expanding financial competency and confidence through free public seminars, newsletters, and now via social media. Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GHCU>. For more information and to see our seminar schedule, visit www.ghcu.org for more information.

GHCU is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.