

**A share (savings) account established for a minimum of \$25 provides the member's ownership interest in the cooperative. A share draft account is commonly known as a checking account, just with language established by the credit union industry to indicate ownership in members helping members. Credit Unions are mistakenly thought of as just another financial organization, but through established values and organization, we also identify ourselves as cooperatives.**



**A credit union is unlike any other financial institution. Owned and operated by the people it serves, every credit union is formed by a group of people wanting to control their own financial destiny. Bringing their money together as savings and by making low-cost loans to each other, they establish a cooperative serving its members with other services and added benefits. At the heart of a credit union are goals of placing service and member's needs above all else.**

**Every credit union operates democratically giving each member equal voice and an equal vote. Regardless of his or her assets in a credit union, each member has an equal say in the operations and decisions made.**