Alternatives
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Together, Toward a Fairer Economy

Q2 2026 Impact Report

Living the Mission

Alternatives fills a crucial role in our community, providing access to fair and affordable loans to families and businesses in low-income and marginalized communities. **The statistics for Q2 YTD 2026 are below.**

Percent of our loans that went to low-income households and communities

94%

Business Loans

88%

Consumer/Auto Loans

76%

Mortgage Loans

$4,344,720

Total loans made to women, people with disabilities and the BIPOC community

$304,480

Consumer loans made to borrowers with credit score below 580

Living the Mission

Q2 2026 Homeownership Access

13
First Time Homebuyers

15
FAIR* Mortgages

$329,000
Down Payment Assistance

*Finance Addressing Inequality and Racism

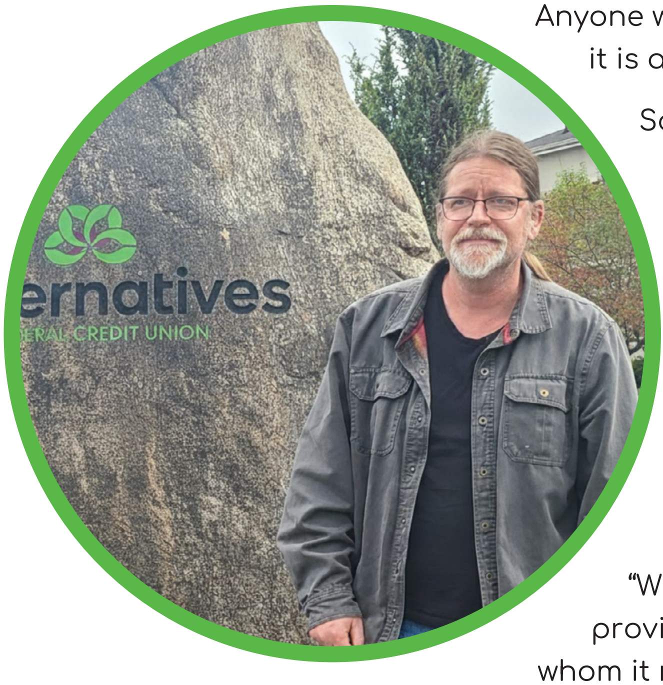
Q2 2026 Financial Education

357
Financial Education and Coaching Sessions

176
Financial Education Workshop Attendees

Member Profile

Scott Sherwood



Anyone who knows Alternatives Federal Credit Union knows it is a financial institution with a difference.

Scott Sherwood knows it especially keenly. Scott does his personal and business banking with Alternatives; his business is **Service In Unity**. Look it up online and you will see it described as a "temp agency." But it is a temp (or employment) agency with a difference.

Service In Unity is an incorporated not-for-profit devoted to employment for people in recovery from substance abuse or in mental health treatment.

"We recruit from recommendations from treatment providers," Scott said. Service In Unity hires individuals, whom it refers to as staff, and connects them with organizations offering temporary work, permanent work, gig work, or work with special projects or events.

The overriding idea is creating "a path to employment," Scott said, with employment considered not just a job, but a connection with community and "a catalyst for personal growth and healing." The first steps on that path can be daunting for Scott's target communities. Service In Unity exists to help.

Scott started Service In Unity after decades in corporate work "managing hundreds of people," years serving on boards of recovery and mental health organizations, and as a caretaker personally. So he knows a few angles.

"Think of a person who didn't work for six years" because of substance or mental health issues, Scott said. That kind of hiatus can be hard to discuss in a work interview. Scott spoke of "a spiral of shame," which Service In Unity aims to eradicate.

"The first thing anybody hears from me is, I accept you how you are." When Service In Unity takes on a recruit as a staff person and finds work for them, "Now you ask that same person, when's the last time you worked? Now it's not six years ago. It's yesterday. That's a basic, fundamental win.

"We have one founding principle: We will prioritize our staff's physical, mental and emotional well-being above all else.

“Everybody signs a proposal saying they will provide a stigma-free, recovery-supportive environment.” For its part, Service In Unity provides employer service, Scott said, “from start to finish. We have a payroll system, invoicing, insurance, worker’s comp, all the nuts and bolts” of human resources management for Service of Unity staff.

As a benefit beyond that, Scott said, “My experience has shown me, time and time and time again, if you help somebody at the start, you get a worker that’s an amazing worker. You will get the most loyal, hard-working person. Someone who remembers that you had their back from day one. If you just believe in somebody, they have a sense of value. They have ownership. And they remember.”

Service In Unity has checking and savings accounts and a line of credit at Alternatives. (“A really small line of credit,” Scott said, “that allowed us to make sure we always made payroll, no matter what. Payroll is sacred.”) It is a business relationship, but also personal and philosophical.

Scott said, “Years ago, I moved my personal mortgage here. I thought, I want the interest I’m paying to do something where it benefits other people. I knew different things that Alternatives does, helping lower-income people. It helps so many people that I care about.

“When the idea of having a business came, a new non-profit that has ideas but no resources or funding, there wasn’t really another option in my world. Go to Alternatives.”

Scott understands the issues for non-profits seeking loans. He also understood the Alternatives difference.

Unlike for-profit businesses, non-profits don’t have collateral or consistent revenue. They operate on grants, donations and program fees which can change from year to year. Traditional banks consider them risks.

Alternatives is different. It is a mission-driven Community Development Financial Institution, one of about 1,000 in the U.S., backed by special programs and funds to create economic opportunities in low-income areas and to support community transformation.

“I had to work it for the line of credit, but Alternatives worked with me,” Scott said. “I mean, it’s still a credit union. I had to be able to show financials, budgets, past budgets, every benchmark we hit and the ones I expected to hit. I did due diligence on it, and I appreciated theirs.

“I think only Alternatives would even entertain the conversation. I don’t think other financial entities would even have talked to me. Alternatives believes in our mission. What Service In Unity is doing aligns with Alternatives’ goals.”

“In the life cycle of an organization, Service In Unity is a baby. We’re just getting started. I view Alternatives as a strategic partner for us.”

“I really look forward to what we’re going to do with Alternatives. We’re growing, and we’re changing lives.”

Our Mission

To help build and protect wealth for people with diverse identities who have been historically marginalized by the financial industry, especially those with low wealth or identifying as Black, indigenous, or people of color.

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alternatives.org

A Community Development Financial Institution