Happy music playing]

Clouds moving against a blue sky.

Female voice: For credit unions, helping people is a mission, a passion, a calling. In everything we do, credit unions are difference makers.

Screen fades to white.

Erin: Hi, I’m Erin Doan, administration and community relations director for Vizo Financial. Welcome to the September episode of Difference Makers! As usual, joining me is Brittany Hockenberry.

Brittany: Hi there! Thanks, Erin! I’m ready to dive right into these stories – how about you?

Erin: Absolutely…go ahead and start us off!

Brittany: Alright, we’re heading first to Neighbors Federal Credit Union in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Erin: The credit union held an “Every Swipe Counts” campaign, where they committed five cents for every qualified debit card purchase from the free cash back checking accounts to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. From April 1 through June 30, Neighbors FCU raised a whopping $30,580 for the food bank!

Brittany: That’s fantastic…and very creative! As we’ve all seen, food banks have been a critical resource during this pandemic. It’s great to see credit unions helping them out.

Erin: I agree…great job, Neighbors!

Brittany: Well I hear they aren’t the only ones stepping up to rally around pillars of the community in need due to the pandemic. Let’s check out this story from quite a few credit unions and organizations in Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Erin: Yes, it is a large group. In fact, 17 credit unions worked together to raise more than $220,000 and donate 30,000 personal protective equipment (or PPE) medical gowns for local healthcare facilities, including local hospitals and skilled nursing centers, across the three states. Representatives from each organization also helped deliver the gowns to the facilities.

Brittany: Bruce Foulke, president & CEO of American Heritage, had this to say…”For many years, we have worked with local hospitals to raise millions for their pediatric therapy programs…Many local hospitals have told their credit union partners that they are still in need of PPE gowns as they continue to help our region recover, and it is our duty to help them.”

Erin: More great work for our tireless healthcare facilities during the pandemic. Thank you to all of the credit unions that participated!

Brittany: We’re heading west now for a story involving patchwork.

Erin: What? Ok, now I’m curious. Give us the scoop, Brittany!
Brittany: I’m talking about TopLine Federal Credit Union in Maple Grove, Minnesota. They recently donated 25 quilts and matching pillowcases – aka the patchwork – to foster youths staying at a local nonprofit called Family Alternatives.

Erin: Oh my gosh, that’s amazing! I really love that story.

Brittany: Me too...warms the heart, doesn’t it?

Erin: Sure does!

Brittany: Ok, I think we have time for one more. And this one is all yours, Erin!

Erin: Thanks, Brittany! Our final credit union story comes from Chartway Federal Credit Union in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The credit union’s We Promise Foundation was all set to send Ames, a 14-year-old who’s struggled with cancer for most of his life, to Disney World. But when the pandemic hit, Ames wasn’t able to go.

Brittany: Oh no!

Erin: So instead, the credit union and the foundation – along with others in the community – came together to give Ames a parade in his honor. They decorated their vehicles, played music, blew bubbles and gave Ames a surprise he won’t forget.

Brittany: Oh my gosh, that is so sweet. That’s one to remember, Chartway!

Erin: It certainly is. And Vizo Financial had quite the event to remember recently as well. Do the words “hot dog” ring a bell?

Brittany: YES!! Our 7th annual Hot Dog Eating Contest was more successful than ever, even in light of the pandemic.

Erin: I’ll say! With 22 credit union and credit union service organization sponsors, nine contestants and a grand total of $7,600 raised, this year’s virtual event was our biggest one to date.

Brittany: That’s right! And all that money was donated to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals at Penn State Children’s Hospital in Hershey, Pa.

Erin: Shout out to our winners – Justina Mikalik of Vizo Financial and Aaron Mowery of Belco Community CU – to our sponsors and to everyone who supported this outstanding event. Your generosity will make a huge difference in the lives of the young patients at CMN Hospitals.

Brittany: Next up, we’re hosting a virtual walk/run for staff to benefit Victory Junction as part of their RTVirtual Run to Victory event.

Erin: Yes, and we should have the results of that in the upcoming episode of Difference Makers, so be sure to tune in for that in December!

Brittany: This has been a fantastic look into the world of credit union difference makers.

Erin: It has, and as always, we encourage you to share your stories with us differencemakers@vfccu.org!

Brittany: Thank you all for fulfilling our mission of people helping people.
Erin & Brittany: Credit unions ARE difference makers!

[Happy music playing]

Fades to Vizo Financial logo V and a red heart and the words, “CUs” in green on gray background. The logo fades into the Vizo Financial logo. Vizo Financial logo fades out and disclaimer text appears on screen.

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Scene fades to black.