HOPE for STRANGERS
Support in Time of Need in Biloxi, MS

When HOPE opened its branch in Biloxi in 2005, Biloxi gained an institution that welcomes and looks out for strangers. Hyacinth had moved to Biloxi from Jamaica over ten years ago, and was working as a housekeeper in a local hotel. She felt like a foreigner in a strange land, but the moment HOPE opened she joined. She said that HOPE trusted her, helped her build her credit, and assisted with opening an account, even when she didn’t have much money. This year Hyacinth’s husband passed away and she needed $1,000 to cover the cost of his burial back in Jamaica. She said that if it were not for HOPE, she doesn’t know how she would have been able to get through that difficult time. “I love this credit union from the depths of my heart. It’s a good credit union for people like me.”

In the 3rd Quarter of 2016, 56% of HOPE’s consumer loans were credit-builder loans & payday loan alternatives.
HOPE for a NEW HOME
A New Home for a Family in Jackson, MS

In 2012, in the middle of the Great Recession, when almost nobody else was investing in affordable housing in the Mid South, HOPE invested in Holly Hills, a 60 unit low-income housing tax credit development in Jackson, Mississippi. The families who have benefitted from HOPE’s investment have included Shantae, a single mother. Shantae looked for months to find an affordable place for herself and her young son in an area with good schools. When she found Holly Hills, she not only found that, she also found a community. “I love that I found a safe place for my son to ride his bike.”

In the 3rd Quarter of 2016, 97% of HOPE’s new mortgage loans were high-impact loans. These are to minorities, female, low-income home buyers and first-time home buyers.

HOPE for BUSINESSES
Smooth Sailing in Rough Water in New Orleans, LA

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, it put Anne’s restaurant in uptown out of business. She had opened only three years earlier. After several years away from the industry, Anne decided to start a catering business from her home. She quickly outgrew her kitchen and needed a new facility but didn’t have the money. Friends suggested that she visit HOPE. She expected the application process to be difficult and burdensome, but HOPE’s team walked her through every step of the way and she was able to buy the building she needed. In Anne’s words, “It’s been smooth sailing ever since.”

From 1994 through 3rd Quarter 2016, HOPE made 974 business loans totaling $387.5 Million.
Small Towns Partnership

Many small rural cities and towns in HOPE’s service area suffer from a severe lack of resources. As a result, they do not have the staff or the infrastructure to compete for community and economic development resources. To address this need, HOPE partners with experienced housing developers to bring new affordable housing units to communities, we finance small businesses that provide much needed and high-quality jobs, and we support vital community infrastructure (healthcare, charter schools, non-profit service providers, etc.). To deepen this work, HOPE, the USDA and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) recently announced the launch of the Small Towns Partnership. With grants from the USDA and DRA, HOPE will enhance the capacity of these cities and towns by providing training and technical assistance so they can develop comprehensive plans to advance key goals and priority projects. The partnership seeks to improve the quality of life for residents of these towns and create thriving communities across Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

HOPE for Our Future

Credit unions are democratic institutions, with each member entitled to one vote at annual credit union board elections. We also believe that all citizens should actively engage in the democratic process for the country to prosper, including voting – and so HOPE launched the HOPE for our Future Campaign. On National Voter Registration Day more than 250 people registered to vote through HOPE sponsored registration drives in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Tennessee. At the core of this work is HOPE’s mission to build assets, strengthen communities, and improve lives.

HOPE for ACCESSIBILITY

Convenient, Affordable Services in West Memphis, AR

When James moved from Marion, Arkansas, to West Memphis, he needed a local financial institution. “Every time I needed 10 bucks, I either had $5 in charges or I’d drive all the way to Marion.” Then James found HOPE and opened both a checking and savings account. He now has a strong working relationship with HOPE, and has received a $1,000 personal loan to help him cover the cost of books and other living expenses for college. James said he not only appreciates the convenience of having HOPE in his area, he is also thankful for the affordable financial products and services, especially on his tight budget.