News In Brief

Utica Residents Get New HOPE Branch
Residents of Utica, Mississippi, will soon enjoy more banking options at a new branch, thanks to HOPE’s acquisition of an abandoned bank facility. The new location will accommodate additional offices for business and mortgage lenders, a night deposit, and an ATM, which will be the first in-branch ATM the town has ever had.

Over the coming weeks, HOPE will undertake minor renovations and will hold a grand opening later this spring.

Homebuyers Have Options for Smaller Loans
In spite of the recession, there are still large numbers of homebuyers in the market. Lower-income families looking for less expensive houses, and people who are borrowing lower amounts by choice, have fewer options because many lenders won’t consider home loans of less than $50,000.

HOPE is filling the gap with its Small First Mortgage purchase loan, a product designed for loan amounts of $40,000 or less. Growing numbers of real estate agents and partner organizations are connecting potential home-owners to HOPE as a solution to the void created by traditional lenders.

Report Reveals Stagnation in Workforce Wages
Mississippi’s labor force remains one of the state’s greatest assets. However, the last ten years have made many Mississippi workers and their families feel less secure.

The State of Working Mississippi 2012 report from MEPC describes the status of the state’s labor force, wages, income and economic security, and addresses public investments, taxes and state revenue. The report provides reviews of trends by race, gender and educational attainment, and concludes with a variety of strategies that can be implemented statewide through the state’s leadership in the private, public and nonprofit spheres.

To view the report log on to www.mepconline.org.

Commercial Lending Update (Through Fourth Quarter 2011)
HOPE supports entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the Mid South by providing affordable capital to underserved and distressed markets. A significant amount of HOPE’s commercial lending activity occurs in high-poverty/low-income communities that are often neglected by traditional financial institutions.
Program Activity

International Site Highlights HOPE Projects

HOPE is featured once again on a website that shares success stories from around the world during the International Year of the Cooperative (IYC). Visit stories.coop and search for “Legends Park” to read our latest story, which describes a unique housing and community development in Memphis, Tennessee. You can also search for one of our commercial borrowers, “Delta Fuel,” featured as the “Story of the Day” on January 28.

Find out more about the IYC at www.social.un.org/coopsyear.

Kasasa Lets You Get While You Give

HOPE has introduced Kasasa Giving, the most compassionate banking account on the market, which allows members to make charitable giving an integral part of their everyday routines.

This free, rewards-based account features nationwide ATM fee refunds, online banking, no monthly service fees, and no minimum balance to get the rewards. Account holders earn high dividends during every monthly cycle in which they qualify.

Plus, for every qualified debit card swipe, HOPE automatically contributes funds to a selected charity. Proceeds may be directed to a local organization - the Foundation for the Mid South - or one of three national charities: the American Humane Association, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, or Stand Up to Cancer.

You can open a Kasasa account or get more information by visiting a HOPE branch or www.kasasa.com/hope.

Make a HOPE deposit. Get great rates. Change people’s lives!

Support affordable housing, entrepreneurship, childcare and other development solutions in distressed communities by making a federally insured deposit in HOPE. Call us at 1-877-654-HOPE to make a difference today!