Program Activity
Refresh Project Breaks Ground with Financing from Fresh Food Initiative
New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu and The Food Trust joined HOPE to break ground for the Refresh Project in the Broadmoor neighborhood. Supported with major funding from the New Orleans Fresh Food Retailer Initiative, the retail center is an adaptive reuse of an existing structure that will focus on community health and economic development.

The project is being developed by Broad Community Connections and L+M Development Partners. Whole Foods Market confirmed that it plans to open a 25,000-square-foot store in the center and to employ approximately 80 to 100 people.

Bringing HOPE to Underserved Areas with Technology
As HOPE continues to extend services to remote areas and non-branch markets, giving members more convenient ways to access and manage their finances becomes increasingly important. HOPE has enhanced its online banking options to provide improved functionality, stronger security and more features.

Recent online banking upgrades provide streamlined navigation, drag and drop options, and an expanded system of banking alerts. Using the system allows people to get a more complete picture of their finances with less effort.

The new Bill Pay system adds improvements that allow members to save time, money and hassle, while offering greater security. It helps reduce worries about missing a bill or being charged late fees, and allows users to easily track past, present and future transactions.

HOPE Earns MSCUA Advocacy Award
HOPE has been honored with an Advocacy Award from the Mississippi Credit Union Association. The award recognizes credit unions for extraordinary efforts to protect, strengthen and expand credit unions, which creates additional opportunities to improve the lives of members.

Since 2008, as other institutions were closing their doors in underserved communities, HOPE has responded by extending a lifeline to Mid South residents. In that time, HOPE has expanded from 3 to 15 branches; increased its member-owners from 9,000 to 28,000; and closed more than 7,200 consumer, mortgage and small business loans.
News In Brief

MEPC Addresses Economic Benefits of Medicaid Expansion with Lawmakers

In June, the Mississippi legislature reconvened during a special session to address the outstanding issue of reauthorizing and funding the Division of Medicaid. Members of both chambers debated Medicaid expansion, which was defeated votes along party lines in the House and in the Senate. In the House, members also debated the implementation of a state-based health insurance exchange. During the debate, multiple lawmakers referenced maps produced by MEPC to illustrate that the federally run health insurance exchange would leave residents of 36 counties without coverage.

While the measure was defeated in the legislature, the Insurance Commissioner has taken action to ensure that every county in the state has at least one provider to offer health insurance through the state-based exchange. The session ended with members of both parties voting to reauthorize and fund the Division of Medicaid. MEPC plans to continue to work with its partners to advance these important policies through the fall and into the next legislative session.

HOPE Impact Report Now Available

HOPE is pleased to announce the publication of its annual Impact Report for 2012. This year, the report focuses on the people and neighborhoods that are often unseen in our daily lives or forgotten by the financial mainstream. Four of our markets – College Station, Arkansas; Louisville, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; and New Orleans, Louisiana – are featured, and challenges particular to each community are highlighted. The report is available on our websites in the “News” sections.

Become a Friend of HOPE!

You can be part of our efforts to strengthen communities, build assets and improve lives! We are taking steps to double our impact across the Mid South, and your support can help us achieve that goal. Visit www.hope-ec.org and click on “Friends of HOPE.”

Visit us online at www.hope-ec.org or www.hopecu.org for more information. Call us at 601-944-1100 to be removed from our mailing list.