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Unitus Community Credit Union Celebrates International Community Heart Award Winners

Annual awards recognize those making a lasting impact on our global communities

Tigard, Ore., March 5, 2025 – Unitus Community Credit Union is pleased to announce the winners of its 2025 International Community Heart Award. Established in 2023, this annual award honors individuals and organizations not just for their extraordinary service, but for the time and energy they have given to causes in our international credit union community.



At this year’s recognition event in Washington, D.C., Unitus President and CEO, Steven Stapp, recognized George Y. Ombado and Lois Kitsch. These recipients earned an International Community Heart Award for their inspiring service and commitment to financial inclusion and empowerment.

George Y. Ombado serves as the Executive Director of the African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Associations (ACCOSCA). He works closely with governments, international organizations, and non-government organizations to design and

implement African development programs and policies. His work has directly contributed to the re-establishment of credit union networks in eight countries. Mr. Ombado also serves on the Board of Directors for the World Council of Credit Unions.

Lois Kitsch is the co-founder of CU Difference, an organization dedicated to using the credit union difference to optimize member experience, create an engaging staff experience, and build coaching confidence. Ms. Kitsch chairs the African Cooperative Development Foundation (ACDF), the philanthropic arm of ACCOSCA. With experience spanning six continents and more than 40 countries, Ms. Kitsch has empowered credit union leaders to strengthen their institutions and enhance member relationships.

“These champions for financial wellness and inclusion are most deserving of our 2025 International Community Heart Award,” announced Mr. Stapp. “As leaders in the global credit union movement, our recipients demonstrate time and time again their commitment to ensuring individuals and communities around the globe have access to the financial tools they need to thrive. Their work drives meaningful change and strengthens our collective efforts around the world.”

Past recipients of the Unitus International Community Heart Award include Jaime Chavez Suarez (2023), former president of the largest credit union in Bucaramanga, Colombia, Financiera Comultrasan; and Rafał Matusiak (2024), CEO of Poland’s National Association of Cooperative Savings and Credit Unions (NACSCU) and founder of Via Stella Foundation, which assists Ukrainian refugees in Poland.

About Unitus Community Credit Union

At Unitus, we’re dedicated to improving lives in the communities we serve. As a member-owned local credit union, we invest in people by doing the right thing. Through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, we provide support for community groups through volunteerism and financial donations. Our 105,000 members count on us to serve them and their communities; our 300+



employees share that passion for service. Learn about the local impact Unitus makes by visiting unitusccu.com.