

## **Nonprofit Chamber of Services Partner of the Month**

*This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say “thank you” for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.*

This month we are featuring Central Star Credit Union as our Partner of the Month. Central Star is an associate member of the Nonprofit Chamber of Service since January 2006. Central Star is the sponsor of the “100+ Members and Growing Strong: A Garden Party” on July 18 at 4:30 PM at Botanica: The Wichita Gardens. Lee Williams, CEO and President has been involved in many activities throughout the community including conducting presentations an employee motivation. Sue Schmelzer, Business Marketing Development, is actively engaged as a volunteer in the NPCOS’s Program Committee developing future training programs for the nonprofit community.

With its roots in the aviation industry going back over 65 years and a history of serving Raytheon employees, Central Star Credit Union has expanded its mission to now serve individuals and their families who live, work or do business in Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey, McPherson and Saline counties. As part of their planned growth, Central Star Credit Union this past year merged with Vulcan Community Credit Union Company and opened two new branches . . . one in Haysville and the other in Homeland Grocery Store at Amidon and 21<sup>st</sup>.

As a not-for-profit financial cooperative, Central Star Credit Union is owned and operated by its members, and the members are responsible for setting the direction of the credit union by electing the volunteer board of directors. Each member has one vote regardless of their financial standing with the credit union and is eligible to run for the board of directors or one of the other volunteer committees.

Central Star Credit Union is a full-service institution offering the traditional savings and loan products to their members as well as providing a financial network where members can manager their investment portfolios, purchase life insurance, access tools to help them organize their financial life, and track financial market activities.

Over the past several years the credit union has also increased it’s involvement in the broader community. The credit union’s leaders believe in helping build a better community for all of its members, and, as such, the credit union encourages staff to personalize the credit union philosophy of people helping people.

The credit union is involved with a number of community organizations including the Wichita Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Nonprofit Chamber of Services, the Multicultural Celebration and Education Association, the Wichita Chapter of National Latino Peace Officers Association, Cinco de Mayo, the Hispanic Women's Network, the Gran Fiesta Patria, and the Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc., Beautillion 2006 to name a few.

Making the community a better place to live, work and play is definitely part of the credit union's basic philosophy. Reaching out to serve those of lesser means and organizations wanting to provide a value-added benefit to their employees is as much a part of Central Star's philosophy as is helping those who have already made the credit union their primary financial institution.