

If we have learned anything over the past year it is the importance of relationships. People across America (and the world) have spent time quarantined at home for weeks and even months. Others have served on the frontlines and given hours on end to help those in need. This historic time has brought out the best in people and unfortunately also brought out the worst. But we have persevered and taken the next step to move through a day, a month, and now a year. What a journey it has been. We are fortunate to live in a time of technology; although quarantined, we can still stay connected through texts, phone calls, and virtual conversations. It is not the same as in person but maintaining relationships even at a distance has brought some relief.

Credit Unions were built on relationships since the beginning. They were built on the cooperative movement that began during the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800 and early 1900's. It is a fascinating story and one about people helping people during some very dark times. The "Rochdale Pioneers" were committed to making a difference. Their story is inspiring. [The Rochdale Pioneers](#)

"A credit union is a not-for-profit financial *cooperative* owned and operated by its members." The credit union motto is "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service." The heart of credit unions is to serve, and service is based on relationships. CPM has embraced its mantra of "all about the member" this past year more than ever. It has been challenging at times as the need arose to quickly shift from serving members at the counter to meeting them only in the drive thru. It has been costly as special measures have been put in place to continually sanitize every surface and even the air that comes through the vents, put up enclosures to protect both employee and member, provide masks, take temperatures and so much more. But these measures pale in comparison to the desire to give our members and community opportunities to see a brighter financial future. We are not out of woods yet, but progress is being made. We dream of the time when masks will be put away and smiles can be seen again, but until then the work will continue to serve and care for our members and for one another through building stronger relationships both personally and financially. Because no matter what is going on in the world around us the most important thing is what happens face to face, whether in person or through technology, as we build relationships for a brighter day ahead!