

Advanced Financial Today



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Nony Eboh

GETTING TO KNOW ADVANCED FINANCIAL

My name is Nony Eboh, and I have been in banking for over 19 years before joining Advanced Financial. I currently serve as the Branch Manager at our West Orange location. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside my wonderful colleagues and serving our members.

What I love most about Advanced Financial is the personalized experience we offer. Our members are treated as individuals – not just account numbers. They can walk into any of our branches and feel right at home, knowing they are supported by a team that goes above and beyond to meet their financial needs.

I have had the opportunity to work in all our branches, and I can confidently say that every employee shares the same commitment: to help our members achieve their financial goals by providing the right products, resources, and guidance at every step.

Our online loan application makes it easy to apply anytime. Whether you need extra shopping money or are planning to travel, we've got you covered. And beyond the holidays, we're here to support your next steps – planning a wedding, starting a family, opening a kid's savings account, preparing for college, taking a dream vacation, or building your retirement.

It has been a joy to be part of Advanced Financial FCU and to support the communities we proudly serve. Please feel free to reach out – together, we can help you achieve the financial future you deserve.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season from all of us at Advanced Financial FCU!

Message from the CEO

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, I cannot help but reflect on how financial services have evolved since seven Bell Telephone Labs employees came together in 1965 with \$35.00 to charter B.T.L. Federal Credit Union. The original charter references the Federal Credit Union Act enacted in 1953 to "make more available to people of small means credit for provident purposes." While we have moved from paper ledgers and passbooks to online account records and AI-powered analysis, the core mission envisioned and championed by the seven founders remains at our center.

We are here today because of you, our loyal members, and your desire for a financial institution that still values personal relationships and meaningful conversations to understand needs and a commitment to serving the communities in which you live and work. We have expanded beyond Bell Labs

through mergers and charter changes and are now serving Essex and Union counties in New Jersey and many places beyond through family members and retirees.

As we step into 2026, the staff and volunteers of Advanced Financial FCU will continue the work to embrace technology while maintaining our personal touch to continue fulfilling the mission of the charter members.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2026.

Sandra S. Mullins, CCUFC
President/CEO



Welcome Back, Vanessa!

We are thrilled to welcome Vanessa Cadet back to work! Vanessa recently returned from maternity leave following the arrival of her beautiful baby boy, Grayson King Cadet.

Congratulations to Vanessa and her family on their precious bundle of joy – and welcome back! We're so happy to have you with us again.

Dictionary Distribution at Evergreen Elementary School

Advanced Financial, together with members of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community, visited Evergreen Elementary School to distribute dictionaries to third-grade students. During our visit, we introduced the children to new vocabulary related to savings, banking, and financial literacy.

The students were thrilled to receive their very first dictionary and eager to explore new words and concepts. At Advanced Financial, we believe that education is the foundation for a bright future.



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Monday, January 19

INACTIVE ACCOUNT

If your account has had no activity (other than dividends or fees posted) for 12 months, it is considered inactive. After 18 months inactive, accounts are subject to a fee of \$2.00/month. A deposit of any amount will remove the inactive status.

HAPPY MEMBER

"Diane and Advanced Financial have been a gem from the very beginning. Diane has known my family for more than 40 years and the customer service is still fantastic as everyone treats you like a family."
– Carolyn

Start the New Year in a Better Financial Position

A new year offers the perfect opportunity to reset, refocus, and strengthen your financial well-being. Here are simple steps to help you begin 2026 on solid ground:

1. Review Your Budget

Look back at last year's spending and identify areas where you can save. Even small adjustments – like canceling unused subscriptions or cooking more meals at home – can make a big difference.

2. Build an Emergency Fund

Set aside a little each week for unexpected expenses. Saving just \$25 a week adds up to \$1,300 a year.

3. Manage Credit Wisely

Check your credit report and consider consolidating high-interest debt. Advanced Financial offers low-rate loan options to help you reduce interest costs and pay down balances faster.

4. Set Clear Financial Goals

Whether you're saving for a home, planning a trip, or preparing for the future, define your goals and create a simple plan to reach them.

5. Use Your Credit Union Resources

We offer free financial counseling, budgeting tools, and personalized support to help you stay on track.

Warm Greetings from Our Board of Directors & Staff

As we welcome a new year, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all our members for a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. Thank you for your continued trust – we look forward to serving you throughout 2026!



Federally Insured by the NCUA



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Monday – Friday
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Saturday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Scotch Plains, NJ 07076
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

342 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
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Make 2026 Your Strongest Financial Year Yet!

At Advanced Financial FCU, we believe financial literacy is a powerful foundation for lifelong success. Understanding how to budget, save, manage credit, and plan for long-term goals can transform financial futures – especially when these habits begin early.

That's why we're proud to host Financial Literacy Fairs at local high schools, youth organizations, and public libraries. These interactive sessions give students and community members hands-on guidance in budgeting, saving, credit management, understanding loans, and making smart financial decisions.

If your school or organization is interested in hosting a Financial Literacy Fair, we would love to partner with you! Please contact Noussa Louis at noussal@advfinfcu.com for details or scheduling.

Together, we can build a stronger, more financially empowered community – one workshop at a time.

Love My Credit Union Rewards x TurboTax



Love My
Credit Union®
rewards

Taxes done 100% right – your way. Tax season is coming soon, and we want to help you get your maximum refund, guaranteed, whether an expert files for you, supports you, or you complete your return independently.

Learn more at: https://links.lovemycreditunion.org/client/love_my_cu/banner/?bid=6069&campid=91&clientid=16785&sid=1

Wealth Management

Over the past few decades, I have stressed the importance of adding beneficiaries to all of your personal accounts. This includes IRAs, employer-sponsored retirement plans, and non-IRA bank and investment accounts, including CDs.

Designating beneficiaries provides the following benefits:

1. Streamlined Transfer of Assets

When a beneficiary is listed, the assets in your account pass directly to that person upon your death – without going through probate.

- Why it matters: Probate can be lengthy, expensive, and public. A beneficiary designation ensures a faster, private transfer.

2. Control Over Who Receives Your Assets

You decide exactly who inherits your accounts and in what proportion.

- You can name multiple beneficiaries and specify percentages.

- You can also name contingent beneficiaries (who inherit if the primary beneficiary has passed away).

3. Clarity and Reduced Legal Disputes

Beneficiary designations override your will for those accounts.

- This minimizes confusion among heirs and reduces the chance of family disputes over your assets.

4. Tax Efficiency

Depending on the type of account:

- Retirement accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s): Beneficiaries may defer or spread out taxable distributions.
- Non-retirement accounts: Beneficiaries may receive a step-up in cost basis, reducing capital gains taxes if they sell assets.

Try not to place the updating and reviewing of your beneficiaries in the "I'll get to it tomorrow" category. For something of this importance, the sooner the better.



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Gallery

Pioneer Day in New Providence, Shredding Day, Plainfield High School Financial Literacy, El Centro Food Pantry Thanksgiving food distribution, 60th Annual Meeting, Summit Speech School Halloween visit, celebrating Veteran's Day, donation to West Orange Food Pantry

