

2019

Payday Loan Relief Organizations



Robert Reed

7/17/2019

This is a directory of faith organizations engaged in efforts to relieve residents of their communities of the burdens of predatory lending practices. Some of these organizations have been involved in facilitating replacement loans at low interest rates for payday and title loans at extreme interest rates. Other organizations are in the process of setting up or considering setting up such activities.

Most of the organizations are also involved in forming ties with borrowers to offer encouragement and advice and friendship. Other activities involve education and advocacy for policies of increased borrower protection.

The purpose of the directory is to allow organizations to learn from the experiences (successes and problems) of others and to facilitate communication among them.

If you are aware of other organizations with similar goals and activities, please let us know. We'd like to add them to the Directory.

Contact: Bob Reed at rlrk@yahoo.com or 417.667.1252. Use the same contact for corrections and updates to your organization's information.

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Better Together—Lake Wappapello Ministerial Alliance

Lake Wappapello, MO

Contacts: Arvin Haynes-bigarv15@hotmail.com 573-225-9391,
Tim Schultz-bitschultz@gmail.com 573-712-0778,
Catherine S. Bryant-sakala@hughes.net 573-776-1588

We are pastors in the Wappapello Lake area that work together on many projects to help people in need: school backpacks, clothes closet, food pantry, emergency help and hopefully we can facilitate low interest loan opportunities as well.

Buechel Park Baptist Church



2403 Hikes Lane
Louisville, KY 40220
502.452.9541

Rev. Erica Whitaker, contact pastor@bpbaptist.org

Exodus Debt Relief, Tuscaloosa, AL

1817 Commons North Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406
205.722.9354

Mark Byars, contact mark.l.byars@ampf.com 205.345.2075

Exodus Lending, Minneapolis, MN



Exodus Financial Services (doing business as Exodus Lending)
2380 Wycliff Street, No. B-100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
exoduslending.org

Sara Nelson, Executive Director, Contact:
sara@exoduslending.org
(612) 615-0067 x 2

Exodus Lending refinances payday loans for Minnesotans caught in the payday loan debt trap. Our maximum loan is \$1000. Loans are made to residents of Minnesota who have been caught in the payday loan debt trap for at least 30 days. We pay off the lender, and our program participants pay us back over the course of 12 months, paying only the amount that they owed when they handed us their payday loan. We tack on NO interest and NO fees. If a person walks in our doors with a loan of \$310 and \$50 worth of fees, owing \$360, for example, We take over the loan, pay it back as quickly as is possible, and the program participants pays us back \$30 per month for 12 months.

We began issuing loans in April of 2015 and as of today, May 6, 2019, we have refinanced loans for 289 individuals.

Although we got our start working through a congregation and using them as our fiscal sponsor, we have had our own 501(c)(3) status for about two years.

5/7/19

First Baptist Church, Frankfort, KY



Vicki Mitchell, contact

Keith Felton, contact kfelton@fbcfrankfort.org 502.227.4528

We had 2 new loans in March and 3 in April 2019 taking our total loans made to 40.

Of those 40, twenty have paid in full as agreed! Sixteen are still active loans. The active loans are pledged a total of \$5800 so we have available to pledge \$4500.

We have loaned out over \$20k from an initial \$5k raised to start our ministry.

First Baptist Church, O'Fallon, MO



8750 Veterans Memorial Pkwy.
O'Fallon, MO 63366
636-272-4838

David Dotson, contact Dotson_d@yahoo.com 636.272.3660
Dr. Brandon Kiesling, contact bkiesling@firstofallon.com

The **Payday Loan Rescue Ministry** is a ministry of First Baptist Church, O'Fallon, MO. There is a ministry team of 5 volunteers who give oversight to the program, as well as serve as mentors for anyone who is in the process of repaying a loan. We plan to begin guaranteeing loans in Summer 2019 through Missouri Valley Credit Union in St. Peters, MO. We will offer short-term loans of no greater than \$1,000 at 5.99%.

5/6/19

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith



116 North 12th Street, Fort Smith, AR
479-783-8919

Contact, Keley Simpson keley@1pres.org

UpLift is a small personal loan program administered through First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith and managed through First National Bank. Uplift Loans are intended to help people resolve unexpected expenses that occur in life.

We offer fair low interest rates on our loans which are to be repaid by the customer within a year. Our customers receive free budget counseling with a certified counselor through Credit Counseling of Arkansas (CCOA) as part of their loan agreement.

Our goal through the **UpLift** program is to help our customers resolve small debts and seek financial counseling to prevent their debts from increasing or becoming chronic. We do not believe in lending money to people to remain in debt. If financial mismanagement is a problem, our customers will benefit from making a budget plan with the CCOA counselor and if necessary, receiving a credit report review.

5/8/19

Grace Evangelical Church

St. Joseph, MO



5103 SE State Hwy FF,
St Joseph, MO 64507

816.279.2090

Darrell Jones, Senior Pastor, contact Darrell@graceontheweb.org

Chris Olton, contact Chris@graceontheweb.org



Jefferson City Hands Together

lifting people out of payday loan debt

Tricia Schlechte, contact jcmotricia@gmail.com 573.635.2004
jeffcityhandstogeher@gmail.com
jeffcityhandstogether.org

Jefferson City Hands Together Jefferson City, MO

Jefferson City Hands Together is a faith based nonprofit organization that seeks to lift our neighbors out of payday loan debt and break the cycle of predatory lending. We began piloting the program in August 2019.

Persons who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for the payday loan rescue program:

- Live in Jefferson City service area
- Have a payday loan debt of no more than \$1,000 for at least 30 days, and
- Have a steady income
-

Individuals who meet these criteria are assigned a volunteer ‘Partner’ who provides assistance as needed to complete the program application. The applicant and their partner then meet with the program’s loan review committee that makes the decision on enrollment into the program.

The participant obtains a 12 month loan at 12.9% interest from our partnering credit union that is used to pay off the payday lender. The participant then begins payment on the credit union loan. Our program ‘guarantees’ the loan in the event of default.

The Partner continues to meet at least monthly with the participant during the loan repayment period. The Partner reviews basic budgeting concepts, provides information on community resources as needed and encouragement for the changes the participant is making.

Jefferson City Hands Together is operated by volunteers and has received 501(c)(3) status from the IRS.

Kings Way United Methodist Church



2401 S. Lone Pine Ave.
Springfield, MO 65804
417.881.6363

Kris Keller, contact kris@kwumc.com 417.881.6363

Kirkwood Baptist Church



211 N. Woodlawn Ave.
Saint Louis, MO 63122
314.965.2349

James Layman, contact james.layman@sbcglobal.net 636.253.0787

LOVE, Inc. of Boone County, IN



817 W. Pearl Street
PO Box 368
Lebanon, Indiana 46052

Mike Glass, contact mglass1646@aol.com 765.485.6144



Love INC, Love in the Name of Christ
1516 Business Loop 70 West Columbia, MO 65202

Contact, Kelli Van Doren, 573-256-7662 office@columbialoveinc.org
Jane Williams janew@columbialoveinc.org

Love INC manages the Extra Mile (EM) Loans program in collaboration with Justine Petersen (JP), a St. Louis-based financial asset-building nonprofit. Local donors provide the money for the loans and Love INC vets the recipients and transfers funds to JP, who serves as the lender and collector.

EM Loan's one-year, no-interest loans (up to \$1,000) are available to eligible to EM money management clients. The loans may be used to retire an existing payday, title or other high-interest loan.

To be eligible to apply for an EM Loan, a client must have completed at least 4 weeks of the EM weekly coaching program and demonstrated understanding and application of principals of financial responsibility. Applicants may be approved after: 1) an assessment of income and expenses indicates ability to repay the loan; and 2) client has demonstrated the ability to limit their spending to stay within their budget.

Other eligibility requirements include having a checking account, completing the JP loan application, submitting all required documents and signing the EM Loan Commitment form.

By greatly reducing monthly payment amounts and freeing participants from devastatingly high interest rates of predatory loans, the EM Loans program allows participants to pay off their loans more quickly and easily and enables them to create a path toward financial sustainability and self-sufficiency.

LovingLending



Lancaster, OH 43130

Lovinglending.org

Bob Heath, contact bob@partnersnpacking.com 740.973.0944

Matthew Richardson, mlrichardson223@gmail.com 740.777.7972

We are a faith-based, non-profit organization whose goal is to assist in making emergency low-interest lending services available to moderate and low income residents of Fairfield County.

LovingLending:

- Educates clients on the importance of proper budgeting.
- Teaches the fundamentals of checking and savings accounts.
- Promotes financial independence through proven Biblical principles.

STEPS TO FREEDOM

- Meet with a LovingLending contact.
- Meet with Guardian Finance for loan approval and receive \$500 to meet your financial need.
- Establish a savings account.
- Attend four educational training sessions and receive financial incentives.
- Complete the loan application on time and attend the educational classes to earn \$430.18 for future emergencies.

When loan payments are made on time with participation in financial education sessions, LovingLending will provide incentives of up to \$150

Macedonia Baptist Church

1700 Linwood Blvd.
Kansas City, MO 64109

Anthony Solomon, contact macedoniaoffice@aol.com 816.935.4972

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

170 Bountyland Rd.
Seneca, South Carolina 29672

Jim Corey, contact jlscorey@gmail.com 864.364.0366

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church: I head up our Benevolence Committee. We have been in existence for four years and see anywhere from 60 to 80 people a year who are looking for assistance with their rent and utility bills. Applicants fill out an application and meet with the committee for an interview. Before we will provide any aid we require the applicant do any number of things such as visit Goodwill Job Connections to apply for work, work with us on developing a budget, apply for income based housing. I am now gathering information to see if we can develop a program to help people get out of their high interest loans.

Update: August 5, 2018: I was finally able to meet with the branch manager of the local CU. We discussed a number of options and the shared-secured loans might be our best options. I'm now in the process of setting up a meeting with those in our community who are interested in developing alternatives to high interest loans. So far, I have three churches and two non-profits willing to meet; now I need to set a date.

Second Hope



Second Baptist Church
300 E. Kansas
Liberty, MO 64064

Harold Phillips, contact info@2liberty.org 816.781.2824
Les Weirich weirichlc@gmail.com

Second Hope Assistance Program Process

- 1) Loan applicant calls 2BC requesting a Second Hope loan to pay off a payday or title loan.
 - a) Committee member returns call; ask how much they owe in payday and title loans.
 - b) Explains the program for those who owe \$1000 or less in payday/title loans and have a steady stream of income such as employment, retirement or disability.
 - c) Schedule time for face-to-face meeting at 2BC, instructing applicant to bring a list of names and amount owed for all payday/title loans.
 - d) Dave from Love, INC will call Les directly.
- 2) First face to face meeting with applicant
 - a) Give applicant **Second Hope Assistance Program Application**
 - b) Read and discuss the three requirements of the program
 - c) Read and discuss the **Confidentiality Agreement**, sign and give applicant a copy.
 - d) Applicant will complete and sign the application.
 - e) Give applicant **Personal Budget Form** to complete at home.
 - f) Schedule next meeting, explaining that during this meeting, we will review the completed budget form and if it meets the guidelines, will complete the Credit Union application together.
 - g) Mike will do the MAAC Link review.
- 3) Second face-to-face meeting with applicant.
 - a) Review the completed budget form.
 - b) If their budget allows them enough income to make the monthly payment, assist applicant in completing both the Credit Union **Account Card** and the **Loan Application**.
 - c) Choose a date and time to meet with the applicant at the Credit Union (Tue, Wed, Thu)
 - d) Call the payday loan company telling them the applicant will be paying off the loan on a specific date and get the exact payoff amount including any penalties or fees. Find out the form of payment required, (i.e., certified funds, cashier's check, cash)
- 4) Meeting with the applicant at the Credit Union
 - a) Applicant turns in the Account Card and pays \$1.00 to join Northland Teachers Community Credit Union.
 - b) Submit and review the **Loan Application**.
 - c) Give the loan officer the payday loan company name and payoff amount.
 - d) Establish time and date to pick up the payoff money; provided credit report meets loan criteria.
- 5) Meet with the applicant at the payday loan company/companies.
 - a) Pay off the payday loan and obtain a paid in full receipt
 - b) Provide the applicant with the name of a Second Hope mentor, letting them know to expect a call in about a month to see how things are going.

Transformation Nashville—EmpowerCredit



PO Box 41793

Nashville, TN 37204

www.transformationnashville.org 615.988.0515

Sarah Perkins, contact sarah@transformationnashville.org 615.787.3402

Rachelle Alexander, ED rachelle@transformationnashville.org

EmpowerCredit is an *alternative to the poverty trap of payday and title loans*. Thanks to the financial support of generous individual and foundation donors, we are able to provide emergency loans of under \$1,000 with the average loan being around \$500. Loans are made for the following emergent needs of **housing, education, paying off existing payday and title loans, medical expenses, and expungment fees**. Loan recipients are required to complete a **financial literacy class** through a collaborative partnership with local community-based organizations in Nashville. Under these conditions, **loans are made at only 1% interest** with payment plans between six and twelve months. Payments return to the pool of funds used to make loans for others.

EmpowerCredit hopes to partner with a financial institution in the future so that loan recipients also have the opportunity to build a positive credit history. We are in a *pilot phase* now with a limited number of loans with plans to scale up by the end of 2018.

Transform Scott County



701 Slone Drive, Suite 3
Georgetown, KY 40324

Nathaniel Price, contact 502.642.0982 nathanielprice79@gmail.com

We are still in process with a local credit union, no program in place yet.

University Hope



University Heights Baptist Church
1010 S. National
Springfield, MO 65804

Bob Perry, contact bob@organizationalhealth.org 417.880.4739
Bob Reed, contact rlrk@yahoo.com 417.667.1252
www.universityhope.org

University Hope is a ministry of University Heights Baptist Church. Volunteers serve as friends and mentors to borrowers. Guaranteeing loans began in Fall 2015 and there have been about 65 loans guaranteed to date through two credit unions.

Guaranteeing loans to those in need provides credibility for advocacy for improvement in laws regarding payday and title lending. UHope has been involved in protests at payday lending sites, lobbying with local and state policy makers, testifying before the Federal Consumer Protection Agency and publishing articles about predatory lending.

Guaranteeing loans also provides the opportunity for Christian witness by “intentional friendships” through assignment of mentors or “friends” from the church to walk with borrowers.

Changes made to the lending program since we began include:

- Making term loans to allow for shorter repayment periods.
- Extending periods of information gathering and consideration, not reacting to borrower’s “emergency” situations. We believe this has helped obtain better information and make better decisions.
- Making contact with the “friend” or mentor assigned by UHope to a borrower mandatory before completing the loan.

We believe these changes will result in greater borrower success in fulfilling their obligations and being able to go forward in their financial lives with self-sufficiency and without debt.

Luke 6:34-36 (CEV) ³⁴If you lend money only to someone you think will pay you back, will God be pleased with you for that? Even sinners lend to sinners because they think they will get it all back.



Wilshire Baptist Church
4316 Abrams Rd.
Dallas, TX 75214
214.452.3100

Contact, Heather Mustain 214.452.3110 hmustain@wilshirebc.org