



## The United Heritage **OBSERVER**

uhcu.org  
512.435.4545  
903.597.7484  
800.531.2328

Volume I • 2025



## YOUR STEPPING STONE TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

For many, owning a home is one of the most significant milestones in life. United Heritage Credit Union's Homebuyer Savings Account makes it easier than ever to save for that down payment and set yourself on the path to homeownership. Whether you're a first-time buyer or someone looking to upgrade, this account is designed to help you build your savings more efficiently.

The Homebuyer Savings Account offers a higher interest rate than a traditional savings account, so your money works harder for you. And with no monthly service fees, you can grow your savings without worrying about added costs eating away at your funds. You can also take advantage of the ability to automate your savings. Setting up automatic transfers means you can watch your savings grow without having to constantly manage your account. This makes it an ideal solution for anyone serious about securing their future home.

One of the best features of the account is that **if you choose UHCU as your home loan lender, you'll receive a \$500 credit when you buy a house!** In addition, once you're ready to make that big move, there are no wire fees when sending funds to your title company – making the process simpler and more cost-effective.

Getting started is easy with a minimum deposit of just \$100. And with access to mobile banking, you can manage your savings and monitor your progress right from your phone. Whether you're saving for a new home or planning ahead for future needs, the Homebuyer Savings Account is a smart, straightforward way to make your homeownership dreams come true.

**Get started at [uhcu.org/homebuyer](https://uhcu.org/homebuyer) or by calling 512.435.4545.**

Membership/Regular Savings required for all savings accounts. Par value of one share is \$1. Programs (including without limit, fees, rates and features) are subject to change without notice. See Rates & Fees for applicable dividends and fees. Fees may reduce earnings. See Fee Schedule for applicable fees. Requires a 30-month investment term. Early withdrawal subject to loss of dividends. \*No early withdrawal penalty if wired to a title company.



**United Heritage**  
Credit Union



Follow us for the latest information and giveaways.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Year-to-date as of December 31, 2024

## ASSETS

Loans.....	\$	1,250,128,333
(Less Allowance for Loan Loss).....	\$	(5,075,239)
Cash/Cash on Deposits/Investments....	\$	255,428,195
Fixed & Other Assets.....	\$	88,826,250
Share Insurance.....	\$	12,008,804
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,601,316,343</b>

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities.....	\$	146,501,353
Deposits.....	\$	1,302,327,362
Equity.....	\$	152,487,628
<b>Total Liabilities/Equity.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,601,316,343</b>

## RATIOS

Reserves.....	9.97%
Loan to Deposit.....	95.99%
Return on Assets.....	0.51%
Loan Delinquency.....	0.94%

**MEMBERS..... 80,373**

Your savings remain safe and secure at United Heritage Credit Union. Our prudent lending and investment practices have resulted in superior loan performance and a financially strong and fiscally sound financial institution. Additionally, your funds are insured up to \$250,000 through NCUA. Our strength lies with our members and the trust you place in United Heritage Credit Union as your financial institution—a trust we strive to earn every day. Documents relating to United Heritage's finances and management are available by contacting Julie Carter at 512.435.4545 x4209.

## Need a Break from Your Loan Payments?

Skip up to two loan payments per year, with UHCU's easy and flexible Skip-a-Pay program.\*

Learn more about our Skip-A-Pay program by visiting [uhcu.org/skip](http://uhcu.org/skip).



# MANAGING DEBT IN 2025: PRACTICAL TIPS FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

As we begin 2025, many are focusing on financial goals, and for many, that means tackling debt. With rising living costs, it's important to take a proactive approach to managing what you owe. Whether it's credit cards, student loans, or medical bills, starting the year with a clear strategy can help reduce stress and put you on the path to financial freedom.

First, take stock of your debts. List them out with interest rates and monthly payments to get a clear picture of where you stand. This will help you prioritize which debts to tackle first. Building a solid budget is key to managing your finances—tracking your spending and automating payments can ensure you stay on top of bills without the risk of late fees.

Consolidating multiple debts into one can be an effective strategy, especially if you have high-interest balances. By combining your debts into a single loan, you simplify payments and may be able to reduce your overall interest rate. Some financial institutions, like United Heritage Credit

Union, offer personal loans with competitive rates that can help you consolidate debt and create a more manageable repayment plan.

Refinancing is another option for those with higher-interest loans. Lowering your interest rate through refinancing can make monthly payments more affordable and save you money in the long run. It's worth exploring these options to ensure you're getting the best terms possible.

Ultimately, managing debt in 2025 is about taking control of your financial future. With the right tools and a clear plan, you can make significant progress in reducing debt and setting yourself up for success. If you're looking for ways to simplify your debt repayment strategy, a personal loan could be a helpful option. Many financial institutions, including United Heritage Credit Union, offer flexible loan terms that can help you regain control of your finances.

Learn how UHCU can help you consolidate your debt at [uhcu.org/personalloan](http://uhcu.org/personalloan) or call **512.435.4444**.

## \$20,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

The United Heritage Charity Foundation invites high school seniors to apply for the United Heritage H. Ralph Wilburn Memorial Scholarship. This year, the Charity Foundation is excited to announce an increase in scholarship amounts, now awarding two scholarships of \$10,000 each, for a total of \$20,000. These scholarships will be awarded to two high school seniors who plan to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall. Students who are members of United Heritage Credit Union are eligible to apply. If you know a deserving student who should apply, be sure to share this

opportunity with them. If the student isn't already a member, they can easily become one by visiting [uhcu.org](http://uhcu.org).

The recipients will be selected based on their well-rounded academic and personal achievements.

Applications and more information can be found online at [uhcf.org/scholarship](http://uhcf.org/scholarship).

**Applications Due: March 31, 2025**

# BOARD ELECTION NOTIFICATION

United Heritage has three Board of Director seats to be filled by election at the 2025 Annual Membership meeting. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates for these positions:

## **Val Velasquez, NCVE**

Val Velasquez is the Chairman of the United Heritage Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Executive Committee and Compensation Committee. Mr. Velasquez joined the Board of Directors as an associate member in 2016 and was elected as a member of the Board in 2019. He served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2021 to 2023. Mr. Velasquez was employed at Southwestern Bell Company, now ATT, for over 30 years; where he was responsible for the testing of new products and implementation of those products throughout thirteen states before he retired in 2000. Mr. Velasquez has been in real estate for over 19 years, as well as a small business owner and Broker of a property management company.

Mr. Velasquez joined the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GAHCC) in 2009, and was awarded the GAHCC Volunteer of the Year Award in 2011, recognizing his dedication and service. Elected to the GAHCC board in 2012 and in 2015 elected Chairman for the GAHCC. During his chairmanship, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized with an award as one of the best Hispanic Chambers in the country. He has also served as a past board member of the Williamson County Appraisal District, Chairman of the Round Rock Amistad Fiesta, a three term past President for El Amistad of Round Rock, all of which provided him with opportunities to continue to serve his community.

## **Genise Henry, PhD**

Genise Henry joined the Board of Directors as an associate member in 2021 and was elected as a member of the Board in 2022. She currently serves on the Audit Committee. Dr. Henry is a Project Director of Tiered Interventions Using Evidence Based Research (TIER) at the University of Texas, where she has worked since 2005.

Dr. Henry has a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education: School Improvement from Texas State University and has focused her

career in education. She has worked as an Early Childhood and Kindergarten Teacher, 7th Grade Reading Teacher, Principal Intern and Superintendent Intern. During her time at the University of Texas, she has also worked as a Project Manager, Senior Field Trainer, Research Associate, Statewide Coordinator and Reading Technical Assistant Specialist. In addition, she has served as an Executive Board Member for Kids Helping Kids of Texas organization and has been recognized as a David L. Clark and Barbara Jackson Scholar.

## **Amber Shammass, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC**

Amber Shammass joined the United Heritage Board of Directors as an associate member in 2021, where she currently serves on the Compensation Committee. Dr. Shammass is the Senior Director of the College of Health Sciences and an Associate Professor of Nursing. With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Shammass specializes in holistic adult health, cardiovascular care, and nursing education. She earned her PhD in Nursing from the University of Texas at Austin, where she also completed her master's and bachelor's degrees in nursing.

Dr. Shammass has published research in Clinical Nurse Specialist and presented at national conferences. Her career highlights include serving as a Medical-Surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist and chairing multiple academic and nursing committees. She is also dedicated to community service, volunteering in the community and advocating for legislative initiatives in nursing.

## **A Farewell to Tommy Lueders**

This year marks a significant transition for the United Heritage Board of Directors. Tommy Lueders, who has served as a dedicated and valued Board Member for 9 years, will step down at the end of his term. During his tenure, Mr. Lueders provided exceptional guidance and steadfast commitment to the mission of United Heritage, playing a pivotal role in the growth and success of our credit union. We extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Lueders for his years of service and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Contact Julie Carter at 512.435.4545 for instructions and forms, which must be delivered to United Heritage by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 14, 2025. The Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at United Heritage Plaza, 12515-5 Research Blvd. Austin, Texas 78759.



# BRANCHES

Scan the QR code below to see our locations!



# CALENDAR

- March 31** Scholarship Deadline
- May 26** Closed, Memorial Day
- June 19** Closed, Juneteenth



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## The United Heritage OBSERVER

[uhcu.org](http://uhcu.org)

### COMPLAINT NOTICE

If you have a problem with the services provided by this credit union, please contact us at:

United Heritage Credit Union  
P.O. Box 202020, Austin, Texas 78720  
512.435.4545 or 800.531.2328  
memberassist@uhcu.org

The credit union is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas and under state law is subject to regulatory oversight by the Texas Credit Union Department. If any dispute is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may also file a complaint against the credit union by contacting the Texas Credit Union Department through one of the means indicated below:

914 East Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752-1699  
Telephone Number: (512) 837-9236  
Facsimile Number: (512) 832-0278  
Email: [complaints@tud.texas.gov](mailto:complaints@tud.texas.gov)  
Website: [www.tud.texas.gov](http://www.tud.texas.gov)

## INSURANCE IS

# MORE THAN A POLICY

Expect more from your insurance.

[uhcu.org/insurance](http://uhcu.org/insurance)



United Heritage Credit Union is an Equal Housing Lender. Member assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Member assistance is available at 1-800-531-2328. Member assistance is available at memberassist@uhcu.org. Member assistance is available at 914 East Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752-1699. Member assistance is available at 512.435.4545 or 800.531.2328. Member assistance is available at memberassist@uhcu.org. Member assistance is available at 914 East Anderson Lane, Austin, Texas 78752-1699. Member assistance is available at 512.837.9236. Member assistance is available at 512.832.0278. Member assistance is available at complaints@tud.texas.gov. Member assistance is available at www.tud.texas.gov.