2020 is here and I could not be more excited for the year ahead. After a successful 2019, we turn the page to even greater opportunities to evolve and adapt to best serve our members and help them reach their financial goals.

I am pleased to share that over the past year we introduced several new products and services to best serve our membership. In our ongoing commitment to the financial well-being of our members, we increased dividend rates and launched a financial literacy program - Knowledge of Financial Education (KOFE). We also celebrated our 58th anniversary.

Recognizing that, in addition to low auto loan rates, members may need help getting the best deal on their car purchases. For this reason, we implemented our Auto Advisors program to help with the car buying experience.

With these and other initiatives in place, and the positive outcomes that they have created for our members, I am looking forward to 2020. We are presently at work on creating a new user-friendly website. We will also kick off the New Year with the introduction of Card Control, a program that puts the control of your BHSFFCU Debit Card and Credit Card in your hands, while reducing the likelihood of fraud. We are also offering a slate of new seminars as part of the KOFE program.

On behalf of myself and the entire team at Baptist Health South FCU, we thank you for your continued faith in us as your financial partner.

Alex Asparu, CEO
The Right Deal on the Right Wheels

There are a lot of choices to make when it comes to buying a new or pre-owned vehicle. Yes, it needs to be dependable, but not just any vehicle will do. The price, the functionality and even finding the right color all contribute to an outstanding car-buying experience.

To help take the stress out of your next car purchase, we invite you to take advantage of the Auto Advisor program. With access to an inventory of thousands of vehicles, we can find you the lowest price on the car you want without the hassle and haggle of visiting dealerships. This service is free and is available to any Baptist Health South Florida FCU member.

For more information, call your Member services representative or go to bhsffcu.org and click Auto Buying Center on home page.

Christmas Club Account…
A Gift You’ll Treasure

With the expenses of the holiday season fresh in your mind, are you already thinking ahead to next Christmas? Now is the perfect time to start your Christmas Club account.

Club accounts create an easy way for you to save with a specific goal in mind. With direct deposit, payroll deduction or an automatic transfer, you can set a little money aside each payday throughout the year. This can help you avoid the stress of budgeting for the holidays as the final weeks approach.

Contribute as much or as little as you like and, during the first week of November, the funds are transferred directly to your savings account so you can access them for the holidays. Join the club today and unwrap peace of mind when the 2020 holiday season approaches.

Keep Control at your Fingertips...

Safeguard Your Debit and Credit Card with Card Control from BHSFFCU

Card Control lets you manage card usage through your mobile device by identifying when, where and how your Debit and Credit card(s) can be used.

Receive alerts whenever your payment cards are used. Establish transaction control for dollar amount limits, merchant categories, transaction types and geographic locations.

Safeguard your cards. Turn them “off” if they’re misplaced or stolen and back “on” when you’re ready to use them.

How to get started with Card Control:
• Login to the BHSFFCU Mobile Banking app
• In the Accounts page under Quick Links select “My Cards”
• Register your card(s)
• Customize your features

Download the BHSFFCU Mobile Banking app and register your card(s) starting on January 16th, 2020.

Holidays Leave You a Little Scattered?

As the holiday bills start to roll in, things can feel a little scattered. You can bring it all together with a Consolidation loan. Gather all of those balances and take control of your debt with one easy, fixed-rate payment.

Save yourself from the confusion of multiple due dates, interest rates and a single, manageable monthly payment.

• Rates as low as 8.45% APR¹
• Borrow up to $30,000 ²
• Terms are up to 60 months

Ease into the new year by going online to bhsffcu.org to apply, call our lending specialist at 786.257.2300 or visit us at any branch.

All loans are subject to approval. Baptist Health South Florida FCU membership is required. Other restrictions may apply. ¹ APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Rates as low as 8.45% APR for 12 months. Advertised rates and guidelines are subject to change without notice. Actual rate may vary based on credit worthiness, loan term, and other factors. ² Actual loan amount may vary based on credit worthiness, income, and other factors. Maximum aggregate unsecured debt with BHSFFCU may not exceed $30,000.
At Baptist Health South Florida FCU, we are committed to providing you with financial skills needed to make informed decisions. From sensitive issues like how to handle finances after the death of a spouse to lighter issues like prudently planning a vacation, KOFE offers all the tools to guide you through them.

Learn about savings, credit scores, purchasing a home or planning to retire in 3-5 minute interactive modules online. To take advantage of these great tools, visit us online at https://www.bhsffcu.org/financial-fitness

You can also call our members only number to confidentially speak with a financial coach and get started on your path to being financially fit! Call 855-304-4089 or check our website at www.bhsffcu.org/services/financial-fitness for hours of operation.

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**Kofe Gets You FIT!**

The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) requires each of the nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – to provide a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months. Visit annualcreditreport.com to request yours immediately. Knowing your credit score will be a valuable asset for any future large purchases or employment opportunities that you may want to pursue in the New Year.

**Pay off debts.**
Don’t put off your debt any longer. If your debt is becoming a burden, contact a credit union lending specialist. If we are unable to help, we will put you in contact with a credit counseling agency to get help. Certified financial counselors can offer advice that can lower your payments by consolidating your debt, enabling you to become debt-free faster and easier.

**Manage your finances.**
Create a budget so you know how much you’re able to spend each month. Do not charge more than you have; it’s much better to pay for items in cash to avoid credit card troubles. Also, start a savings account in case any emergency expenses turn up.

**Do your taxes early.**
Gather your documents and receipts now. It’s better to start on your taxes early to allow time for changes. Do a bit of research on allowable deductions so you can take advantage of the ones you’re eligible for. For example, medical expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of your income can be deducted. Starting now will give you time to gather receipts for these types of deductions.

**Identify your goals.**
You will be more encouraged to save money if you have a goal in mind. A trip to Hawaii or a cruise in the Bahamas can serve as an incentive to putting away savings. Buying a newer car cash-only can also be a great aspiration, as there is no need for financing or any associated interest.

**Protect your assets.**
Look over insurance plans and see if any policies have changed. Review your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance to make sure your home is well-protected. Don’t forget about auto insurance and health insurance. Also, do a quick check-up on the warranties associated with expensive electronics to determine whether purchasing a newer model is better than extending the warranty.

**Review your retirement plans.**
One of the best tax-reducing strategies is to contribute the maximum to your 401(k) plan. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced that the 2019 maximum pre-tax contribution to a 401(k) is $19,000. If your employer doesn’t have a 401(k), you may want to set up an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) on your own to ensure funds for retirement. Contributions to an IRA may also be tax-deductible.
Make Your Home Ownership A Dream Come True

It’s the original American dream – a home to call your own. Baptist Health South Florida Federal Credit Union partners with Fembi Mortgage to make your dream come true with a mortgage or re-financing plan that welcomes you to home ownership.

Whether you are looking for your first home, second loan or a home equity loan, take advantage of the still low rates in the New Year. Fembi offers:

• $350 towards closing costs
• Discounted Mortgage Insurance
• Discounted Title Services
• Complimentary Home Buyers Workshop
• One Year Home Warranty*

Be in your dream home in 2020. Call us at 786-257-2300 or go to baptisthome loans.fembi.com.

Financial Education Seminar

The Credit Union has partnered with KOFE to offer Financial Education Seminars. The informative seminar taking place in January will provide valuable insight into “Building Wealth with Responsible Credit”. The seminar is open to all members and hospital employees.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 from 4:00pm – 4:45pm
WHERE: Baptist Hospital
8900 N Kendall Drive
Building: 5-MCVI
Room: Conference Room A & B
Miami, FL 33176
RSVP: bhsffcu.org/events (Registration will open up 30 days prior to the event)

Home Buyer Seminar

The Credit Union has teamed up with its mortgage lending provider, FEMBi to offer Home Buying Seminars. The seminars are open to all members and hospital employees interested in learning more about the process of financing or buying a home.

WHEN: Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 10:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: FEMBi’s Corporate Office
9300 S. Dadeland Blvd. 5th Floor
Miami, FL 33156
RSVP: bhsffcu.org/events (Registration will open up 30 days prior to the event)