



inaugural Bankers Build on June 22. Dupaco's Rebecca Bradshaw joined about a dozen Dupaco staff members to help build a home—and strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in the community. (G. Westrom/Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity)

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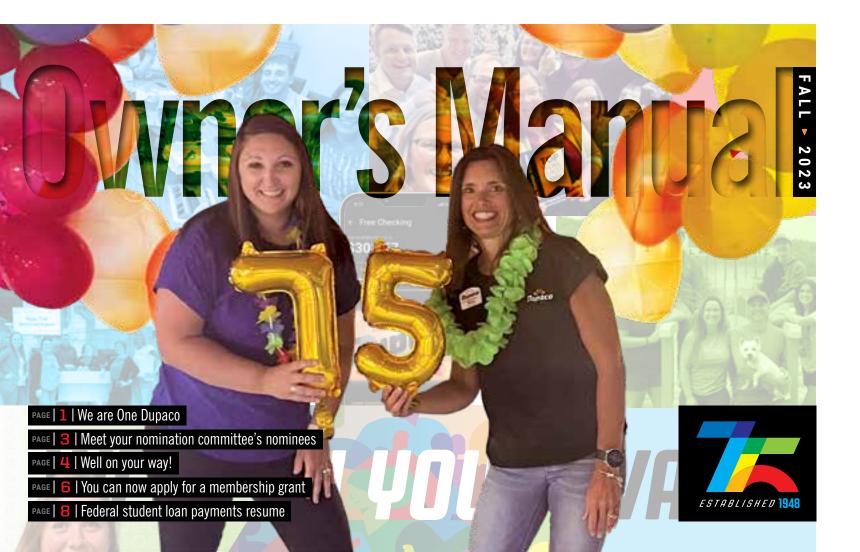
P.O. Box 179, Dubuque, IA 52004-0179 (563) 557-7600 / 800-373-7600

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In 1948, 10 meatpacking employees pooled \$5 each to start To carry our One Dupaco strategy forward, we're focused the credit union. Sure, the member-owned financial cooperative on four areas: ► Member experience: Regardless of where you live or how has grown and evolved since then. But our purpose remains the same. (Hint: It has everything to do with you!) you connect with your cooperative, we want to help you feel

Seventy-five years later, you are at the heart of every strategic decision made by your credit union.

We're One Dupaco.

And that strategy is driving our mission, vision and values-helping us focus on what matters most.

Our mission and vison go back to our roots. What's Dupaco's overall purpose? The answer is our mission: Help



efficiencies that honor the member experience and culture, What happens if Dupaco successfully executes its mission? conserve resources and enhance team productivity. You can feel confident that your volunteer board of directors And our cooperative values are our moral compass: Rooted is making these strategic decisions to ensure your credit union remains strong and vibrant well into the future. How will we help you build a life worth loving?

members build a life worth loving The answer is our vision: Brighter community for all. in trust, empathetic understanding, strengthening relationships, advocate for all and invest in you.

capable, confident and less stressed about your money.

**Team Dupaco:** We're committed to creating a welcoming culture and providing opportunities to learn and grow. **Financial solutions:** We'll provide evolving solutions to enhance member well-being and strengthen the cooperative.

**Explore your credit union** / at <u>dupaco.com</u>

# Your credit union continues to serve with heart and smart

A letter from President and CEO Ine Hearn

Earlier this year, Team Dupaco was honored to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

I'm proud of Dupaco's legacy and positive impact on our members and the communities we serve.

Since our founding by 10 meatpackers in 1948, Dupaco hasn't lost sight of how we've gotten here-and how

we'll continue serving you with heart and smart.

As a member-owned cooperative, your credit union provides an opportunity for you to use and control your money on a democratic basis to improve your economic and social conditions.

And while our purpose remains constant, your volunteer board of directors is committed to strategically evolving to ensure Dupaco stays relevant in changing technological, economic and societal conditions.

Your board continues to help set direction for our team and provide the resources needed to get the job done. {You can read more about this credit union differentiator and the candidates you'll see on Dupaco's 2024 board of directors ballot (available in January) on page 3.}

Technological enhancements like Ray, our new digital telephone assistant, help connect you to quick and secure 24-hour access to your accountshelping you feel capable, confident and less stressed about your money.

We're committed to providing solutions to enhance member well-being and strengthen the cooperative.

We strive to create a welcoming culture and provide our team with opportunities to learn and grow.

We seek efficiency that honors the member experience and culture, conserves resources and enhances team productivity.

And when we consistently do the right thing, others will, and have, noticed.

Small Employer in America and Des Moines Register Top Workplace. As you can see, our dedicated team works hard to "(It acknowledges) the credit advocate for you every day. union's performance as one of the country's strongest easy. And they'll always hold a

financial institutions." - Joe Hearn

reaffirm that our team consistently works together as One Dupaco to help members build a life worth

loving, creating brighter community for all.

Thanks for your membership over the last 75 years. I'm excited to see what the next 75 years and beyond bring!

Dupaco continues to receive BauerFinancial's

union's performance as one of the country's strongest

financial institutions. And recently, Dupaco was listed

These recognitions don't come

special place for Team Dupaco. They

as a Forbes Best-in-State Credit Union, Forbes Top

5-Star Superior rating, acknowledging the credit

Onward and upward President and CEO

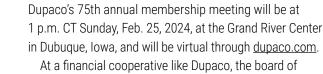


**Learn more** / at <u>dupaco.com/CUDifference</u>



We're celebrating 75 years! As more members join and use Dupaco, we continue to create new opportunities to help you build a life worth loving.





directors serves on a voluntary basis—an unpaid body of volunteers voted on by the membership. Each director



# Jeff **Gonner**\*

Ms. Goodmann Miller is community resource development specialist with Gronen in Dubuque, Iowa. She also provides resource development, grant writing, strategic planning and political consulting services through Hawks Goodmann & Associates. A resident of Dubuque, she joined the board in 2021 and has served on the Credit and Delinguent Loan, Marketing and Political Action committees. Her community board service includes the Grand Opera House, Julien Dubuque International Film Festival and Communities in Schools of Mid-America. Ms. Goodmann Miller holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Drama/Speech from Clarke University in Dubuque.

# Accountant.

# Interested in being considered?

If you'd like to be considered to serve on the board of directors, you can submit your nomination by petition. Here's how it works: + Request a board member informational/ application packet by calling 800-373-7600,

- ext. 2396 or emailing Sailu Aryal at saryal@dupaco.com
- completed nominations by petition that are signed by 200 members.

### **SCENE IN: 2023** Dupaco President and CEO Joe Hearn enjoys lunch with staff in August at Dupaco's branch in Carroll, Iowa. (J. Hearn/Dupaco photo)

# Meet your nomination committee's nominees

also bears personal liability as an officer of the credit union. After extensive evaluation, the board's nominating committee recommends the following individuals. Each has a proven track record of commitment to the organization, expertise and dedication to guide Dupaco in its mission of service:



Mr. Gonner is the retired chief financial officer at Medical Associates Clinic and Health Plans in Dubuque, Iowa. A resident of Dubuque, he joined the board in 2009 and has served on the Investment/Asset Liability Management, Audit, Salary Savings Plan Oversight, Nomination and Personnel committees, as well as on the CUSO board. Mr. Gonner also has served as Dupaco board chairperson. He currently serves on his parish finance committee. He graduated from Loras College with a bachelor's degree in accounting and is a Certified Public



Mr. Skemp is vice president of sales at Active Network, Inc., based in Dallas, Texas. A resident of Dubuque, Iowa, he was elected to the Dupaco board in 2003. During the past 20 years, he has participated in all credit union committees, including serving three years as board chairperson. A graduate of Loras College, Mr. Skemp also has earned the Certified Credit Union Volunteer (CCUV) and Certified Credit Union Director (CCD) designations. He has served on the board of Hills & Dales and as an advisor with Junior Achievement and is currently on the Dupaco Foundation board.

\*Incumbent

+ The nominating committee will only accept

All nominations by petition must be received by 4 p.m. CT Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

The nominating committee will only accept nominations by petition. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor at the credit union's annual meeting.

The board's official slate of nominees will be made available to members in January 2024 in the winter edition of the Owner's Manual and other channels.



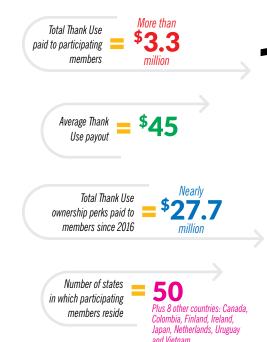
Thanks for making Thank Use a success! We're on a mission to ensure you're well on your way to building a life worth loving. No matter where you are in your journey, we'll help you-every step of the way. Because as a financial cooperative, we're

committed to enhancing member well-being and strengthening the cooperative through programs like Thank Use.

This year, Dupaco members shared more than \$3.3 million in Thank Use ownership perks by saving, borrowing and planning for the future.

Since 2016, Dupaco members have received nearly \$27.7 million in Thank Use for participating in their cooperative.

When we consistently work together to boost financial well-being, we power the credit union, creating brighter community for all







DID YOU HEAR?

Forbes 2023 **BEST-IN-STATE CREDIT UNIONS** 

POWERED BY STATISTA

# Forbes ranks Dupaco a top credit union

Earlier this year, Forbes named Dupaco one of the top-rated credit unions in America. Banks and credit unions were rated on consumers' overall recommendations and satisfaction. It was the fourth time Forbes recognized Dupaco.

"This recognition simply reaffirms our staff consistently delivers on the Dupaco brand promise to help members build lives worth loving and to create brighter community for all," said Dupaco President and CEO Joe Hearn



# **Save every time you pay**

ChangeUp Savings is an easy way to grow your savings. It automatically rounds your debit card purchases up to the next dollar and deposits the difference into your savings account. Start watching your "loose change" pile up:

Log in to Shine Mobile Banking.

Good afternoon!

\$404.88

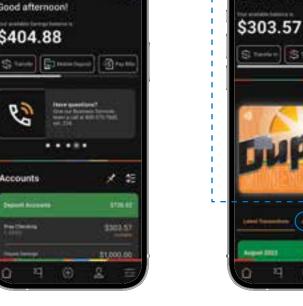
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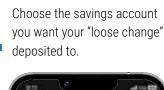
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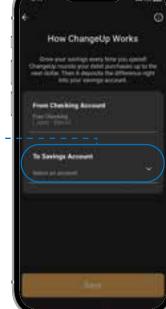
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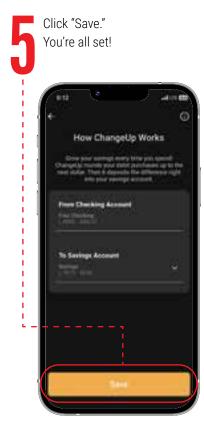
4 I FALL

Tap on your checking account. Then tap the



Scroll to find "Activate ChangeUp Savings."







**f** <u>facebook.com/dupaco</u> X <u>twitter.com/dupaco</u> If you have any questions on member events and discounts. contact Dupaco at 800-373-7600.

# HOLIDAY HOURS

### Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023 Veterans Dav

Hy-Vee branch, Dubuque, Iowa, open 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. CT. All other branches are closed.

### Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023 Thanksoiving Dav All branches are closed

Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023 Christmas Eve

Hy-Vee branch, Dubuque, open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. CT. All other branches are closed

Monday, Dec. 25, 2023 Christmas Dav All branches are closed.

Sunday. Dec. 31, 2023 New Year's Eve

Hy-Vee branch, Dubuque, open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. CT. All other branches are closed.

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 New Year's Dav All branches are closed.



SCENE IN: 2023 -The #DupacoCrew throws a 75th birthday party for Dupaco on July 17!

# You can now apply for a membership grant



# About the makerspace

*Key City Creative Center is a collaborative* makerspace in Dubuque, Iowa. Members can access tools, equipment and classes to create, learn, share ideas and even start a business

# About the membership grant

Through a partnership between KCCC and Dupaco, three six-month makerspace membership grants will be awarded.



Applications are due by 5 p.m. CT Wednesday, Nov. 15. Winners will be notified by Wednesday, Dec. 20.



dupaco.com/KeyCity.

As a Dupaco member, you get \$10 off your monthly KCCC membership when you pay with a Dupaco check or make automatic

payments from your Dupaco account!

How to apply

by scanning the QR code above or visiting

Complete a short questionnaire

Scan this OR code

to apply today, or visit

dupaco.com/KevCity.





LAKE DELHI, Iowa-Dupaco members Alissa and Chad Gardner are passionate about financial well-being-and helping those around them live financially well too.

They want to save others from the money mistakes they made as young adults.

"My first week as a new college student, I filled out five applications for credit cards to get a free T-shirt. I didn't know any different," Alissa recalled.

Whether they're coaching first-time homebuyers on credit and saving or bringing financial education programs to their children's classrooms, the Gardners are inspired to share what they've learned.

"It just comes out of us," Alissa said. "And it has poured over into teaching our kids too."

The blended family of seven is entrepreneurial at heart. And owning several businesses over the years has helped their kids learn, from an early age, how to be good stewards and manage money wisely.

The parents have always found opportunities to include their children in their business endeavors, including everything from real estate to farming.

When the couple owned a real estate company, the kids put up yard signs. When the family hosted Airbnb camping quests on their farm, the kids welcomed visitors. split firewood and set up tents. And when a business needed help with less exciting tasks, the kids stamped envelopes and tackled other odds and ends.

### SCENE IN: 2023 -

Braden Gardner (from left), Braxtyn Gardner, Blake Gardner. Alissa Gardner. Chad Gardner. Tristan Dietz and Brooke Gardner eniov time in their new Lake Delhi, Iowa, community. (Contributed)

"Their entire lives, we've been selfemployed. The kids have never known anything different," Alissa said. "We don't always pay them because you don't get paid for everything as part of a family. But we also like to demonstrate generosity in our businesses and for the people who work for us. And that includes our kids." These experiences have helped the couple's children learn lifelong social and money skills-and inspired them to save money and start businesses for lawn mowing, auto detailing and more. When 14-year-old Tristan opened a Dupaco account for his business, Alissa was grateful for the one-on-one financial education her son received from staff. "He didn't treat Tristan like a little kid. My kids rise to the occasion when adults



# One family's journey toward financial wellness

Members: Alissa and Chad Gardner | LAKE DELHI, IOWA

treat them like he did," Alissa said. "It was a partnership. And I was appreciative that he took the time to do that."

Tristan also recently got his first debit card. And he broke in his Dupaco Money Card by treating his brother and himself to a pizza.

It wasn't just any pizza, though. Three of the family members work at The Pizza Place in Lake Delhi. It's allowed the family to get to know the people in their new community. The Gardners recently moved their family to the lake community to start their next chapter.

"We're called to be here right now and love our neighbors," Alissa said. "We're just seeing what God has for us here."

Read more / at <u>dupaco.com/YourMoneyForGood</u>



# No joking matter: Navigating inflation's impact on retirement

### By Michael Poppen | Financial consultant

Growing up in the Midwest, you can learn several values in your formative years. For me, they were love, respect, strength and inflation. My dad's stories from working a pool hall in his youth always have my attention.

# Free retirement webinar

Are you nearing retirement? Have questions about Social Security benefits? Get access to our free on-demand webinar to learn how you can make the most of retirement and maximize your Social Security benefits. Watch the webinar at dupaco.com/invest.

In 1962, two regulars assumed they were tricking my dad, asking whether he'd like "a great big nickel or tiny dime?" He'd always choose the former. These fellas would laugh until they'd fall off the stool!

And so, it would continue-until my dad finally elected the dime. My dad knew full

well that as soon as he chose the dime, his antagonists would figure he learned the value, and the "dumb kid" would be all the wiser.

One thing is certain, a dime or nickel bought more in 1962. According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

- The average (median) family income was around \$6,000 a year.
- A guart jar of Miracle Whip was 49 cents.
- Tuna was 20 cents a can.
- Bacon was 59 cents per pound. Mmmmm, bacon.

Obviously, inflation is no joke. And the cost of living will likely persist for the next 60 years.

For retirees and those saving for retirement, these comparisons of the costs of goods and services over the years underscore a crucial point: Using an appropriate investment strategy based on your objectives becomes even more important to maintain your desired lifestyle and meet your present and future needs.

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Dupaco Financial Services is a division of Dupaco Community Credit Union the financial home you own — so you can rest assured that you're working with an organization that will act with your personal interest in mind. Dupaco Financial Services works with a national, full-service securities brokerage firm, LPL Financial, to make available top-of-the-line investment and insurance information and opportunities

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# Why did my **Insurance** rates go up?

If you've seen your insurance rates go up lately, vou're not alone.

Across the country, it's become more expensive for insurance carriers to pay claims. And it's impacting the rates you pay in a real way.

What's going on? Since 2020, insurance carriers have lost money across the country. They recorded a \$26.5 billion net underwriting loss in 2022, up from \$21.5 billion in 2021. As a result, some insurance companies have increased their rates by as much as 50%.

at dupaco.com/insure



# Important update: Federal student loan payments resume

If you have federal student loans, you likely haven't had to make payments since 2020. But after several extensions, federal student loan interest resumed in September 2023, and payments resumed in October. Here's what to do:

# **1** Check your loan info

Go to your Federal Student Aid dashboard at <u>studentaid.gov</u> to review your loan details and update your contact info.

# **2** Watch for messages

You'll get info from your loan servicer about when to start paying again. Not everyone restarts their payments at the same time.

Schedule your Money Makeover / at dupaco.com/makeover

# **3** Explore your options

A free Dupaco Money Makeover may help you fit these payments into your budget. Plus, you might qualify for a repayment plan, loan consolidation or loan refinancing.

**Protect yourself from fraud** PROTECTION CONNECTION STAY IN THE KNOW

**Review your insurance** *J* 

Fraud happens. But we don't want to see it happen to you! As a Dupaco member, you have several tools and resources to help keep your accounts and identity safe.



# Here are three factors impacting your rates today:

# **1** Less inventory

A global shortage of chips for new vehicles, rising costs of other materials and worker shortages have led to fewer available homes and cars. Less inventory leads to higher prices.

# **2** Higher prices

As the values of homes and vehicles increase, insurance companies must pay more to repair or replace them when an accident happens.

# **3** Extreme weather

Extreme weather events also made 2022 one of the costliest years in natural disasters, with more than \$120 billion in insured losses.



Follow us on social media to learn about the latest scams f facebook.com/dupaco X twitter.com/dupaco

Protect yourself / at dupaco.com/fraud





# Staff: Vanessa Walters | Member service representative



GALENA, III.-It's interesting how life takes you in different directions. All through college, I wanted to go into medicinal research. With science, it's black and white. It's this, or it's that.

I'm an introvert, and I knew I wanted to help in the background in a lab. But when I was home on break in college, my mom got me an application to work at a restaurant in Galena. I'd come home feeling exhausted but fulfilled carrying trays and talking to people. It felt so right. And I loved it.

I got my degree in medicinal chemistry. And when I went back for my master's, I looked around the chemistry labs and realized I didn't enjoy it as much as I thought I did. I missed serving people in public, hearing their stories, sharing my stories and having that human connection.

And I wondered, why am I pushing so hard for something that doesn't feel right anymore?

I decided to go into real estate, but I needed another job to compensate. That's where Dupaco came in.

I was already a member and saw they had an open teller position in Galena. I jumped on it, and I'm really happy about that decision.

The more I helped people on the teller line and learned from my coworkers, the more I wanted to do here at Dupaco. For me, that meant transitioning to a member service representative role. The more help I can give our members, the better I feel about what I do and my choice to work here.

I love having the opportunity to help members get closer to their financial goals.

When I was younger, I didn't know enough about my credit and how credit cards worked. I wish someone would have pulled me aside to help me. learned from my mistakes, and I want to be that advocate for our members. So I share tips and tricks with them that I didn't know.

It's that educational aspect that drew me to Dupaco. We don't paint black-and-white pictures. We customize solutions for our members.

And it fills me with pride and joy to know that I'm genuinely helping the people in my community.

# A Dupaco career is different #DupacoCrew

Your #DupacoCrew is an inclusive group of caring, passionate and fun-loving people who work together toward a higher purpose. And our approach is getting noticed. Forbes recently named Dupaco a top small employer in America in an assessment of nearly 10,000

# **SCENE IN: 2023**

Dupaco staff accept the Top Workplaces award at a Sept. 14 ceremony in Des Moines. Dupaco ranked third in the Large Employer category for Top Workplaces in Iowa, according to the results of the Des Moines Register's annual survey of company employees. (K. McClain/Dupaco photo)





# DUPACO STAFF CAREER MILESTONES

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- Cassie Ament
- Tiffanv Brandt ► Dan Dimitroff

Morgan Hanson

► Tom Harbaugh

- Ed Dorantes-Ortiz
- ► Cassie Engelken
- Amber Feldermann
- Jeannette Fessler
- Katey Hackett
- Maureen Weinberg
- ► Mandy Zelle
- Noah Kachelski

► Tim Newman

- ► Rvan O'Mara
- Dennis Price
- Heather Rogers
- Trudy Vokac

Kim Hundrieser

► Katie Kost

10 | FALL

- Taylor McArtor

businesses nationwide. The Des Moines Register also recently recognized Dupaco as a 2023 Top Workplace based entirely on employee feedback in a third-party survey. #DifferenceMakers

# 10-year employees

► Tim Bemis Laura Donner Sarah Pink

# 15-vear employees

Jill Gogel RJ Montes

### 20-year employee Leslie Biver

# 25-year-plus employees

- ► Kathy Anderson (29) ► Laurie Bell (35) Tim Boeckenstedt (25)
- ► Jennifer Breitbach (26)
- Dawn Davis (32)
- ► Deb Herbst (38)
- Diane Kieffer (35)
- ► Kelly Klein (30)
- Linda Maas (32)
- Donna Olberding (30)

► Jane Sweetman (25) ► Kurt Wuertzer (30)

# Retirements

► Jim Bradley, consultant: 54 years of service Diane Sloman, contact center representative: 31 years of service ► Dan Smith, financial/ management advisor: 26 years of service