



December 31, 2008

Dear Member of Self-Help Credit Union,

In this time of financial turmoil, one truly bright light is your continued support of Self-Help's mission. We are profoundly grateful for your deposit because it supports our work to strengthen low-income families and communities.

Reckless subprime and no-documentation mortgages are at the root of the current financial crisis. Self-Help never made the kinds of loans that have caused so much pain. Yet some people have understandably wondered how we are weathering the financial storm.

I know from experience that lending to low-wealth families can and should be sound business. Over the past 25 years, Self-Help has provided more than \$5 billion in home loan financing to low- and moderate-income families. We often lend to people with credit blemishes who cannot obtain conventional bank loans. Nevertheless our loss rates remain low – comparable to conventional lenders who do not serve these borrowers.

Self-Help's homeowners succeed because we assess loans carefully before approving them and our mortgages are fair, responsible, and transparent. We have the same goal as our borrowers – we both want the outcome to be sustainable home ownership.

While no one is untouched by the upheaval in the financial sector, our prudent lending and long history of sound financial practices have assured our stability. Self-Help remains strong and your deposits with us are secure, and are now insured by the federal government for \$250,000 per member.

Thank you for entrusting us with your money. Your deposit is more important than ever given the increasing demand for our home and small business loans. Please refer your family and friends to Self-Help!

We wish you the best for 2009 as we work to share the American Dream with more hard-working families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin Eakes".

Martin Eakes
CEO

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