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Nearly Three Tons of Paperwork Securely Destroyed; NWFCU Helps Members Dispose of Confidential Documents

Herndon, VA (October 8, 2008) – Northwest Federal Credit Union's (NWFCU) recent on-site shred event helped its members securely dispose of more than 5,500 pounds of documents containing personal information—paperwork that might have put them at risk of identity theft if it had been simply tossed away and made accessible to “dumpster divers”.

Two mobile secure shred trucks were parked at NWFCU's Herndon branch, affording members drive-up convenience as well as bulk destruction of their old account statements, utility bills, cancelled checks and more. NWFCU advises its members to use a personal cross-cut shredder to obliterate such materials containing names, addresses, account or Social Security numbers and any other identifying data in an effort to thwart fraud and identity theft and provides on-site shred service twice a year for its members.

“This would have taken me a couple months to shred on my own at home,” remarked one member as representatives from the credit union's security department unloaded cartons of materials from his trunk. NWFCU ensured that the document destruction company employees were pre-screened, bonded and insured and assisted the shredding personnel during the four-hour event. The resulting discarded papers will be recycled into paper towel and toilet tissue rolls after bleaching.

Held in conjunction with the Saturday shred event was an educational seminar conducted by iSecurity, a full-service identity theft protection company and an NWFCU partner in the battle against fraud. Eighty members attended the two-hour session to learn of steps they can take to protect themselves as well as iSecurity's unique approach to ID theft.

“While most credit protection services help consumers detect and repair their name and credit rating, iSecurity takes proactive steps to track down and prosecute the criminals responsible for ID theft,” says Gerrienne Burks, NWFCU president and chief executive officer. “This additional measure helps get offenders off the streets and behind bars,” she adds.

Northwest Federal's next on-site secure shred event is scheduled for April 2009.

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Northwest Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution serving select government employees worldwide and more than 400 companies in northern Virginia. Established in 1947 and headquartered in Herndon, Virginia, NWFCU currently has more than 98,000 members and assets in excess of \$1.5 billion.