



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF SERVICE IS THE THEME FOR SELF-HELP  
FEDERAL CREDIT 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

[CHICAGO] – Join us in Chicago, on Wednesday, October 26 for *Celebrating a Legacy of Service*, the Self-Help Federal Credit Union ([self-helpfcu.org](http://self-helpfcu.org)) Annual Meeting of the membership at our newly renovated Chatham branch located at 645 East 87th Street. Doors open at 5:30pm. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Entertainment provided by vocalist **Joan Collaso**.

The event marks a perfect blend of the past, present and future and features the legacies of two long-standing institutions on the south side of Chicago, the former Seaway Bank and Second Federal Savings Bank. Now under the Self-Help umbrella these two widely recognized financial institutions work together for collective action and building partnerships to identify strategies to advance economic equity in Black and Latino communities.

“The annual membership meeting highlights our impact over the years working with underserved communities, especially communities of color,” said Rudy Medina, president of Self-Help’s Midwest region. “It is also about celebrating member stories and assessing our path forward with efforts to strengthen homeownership and continue providing fair, affordable loans and financial products that help build wealth in communities where it is needed most.”

Second Federal, with its strong, resilient Latino community in the heart of Little Village, joined Self-Help in 2013. It began providing banking services to the immigrant community in 1882. Once this country’s largest Black-owned bank, Seaway became a division of Self-Help in 2018. Its underpinnings of Black economic empowerment, social justice and economic equity run deep throughout its 52-year history.

Bringing Second Federal together with a well-established African American institution like Seaway can serve as a model for forging cross cultural impact and racial equity in communities that have traditionally been underserved and have faced economic challenges.

Part of Self-Help’s multi-million-dollar investment in the South Side includes projects like the renovation of Seaway’s historic Chatham headquarters which operates in a key neighborhood business corridor. With the location envisioned as a central hub of financial services, businesses, nonprofits and social enterprise, forging partnerships to identify strategies to restore a previously underutilized and outdated building to help advance economic equity for communities of color and helps breathe renewed life into the community.

“Although our work is financial services and community development, our purpose is creating a society that ensures justice, equity and freedom for all people,” states Self-Help Founder and CEO Martin Eakes. “The future promises many challenges and opportunities, but one thing is certain: we will continue to fight for our members and for the communities we serve. We will work intensely to knock down barriers

to wealth building by working families as an integral part of our mission of economic opportunity for all.  
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Self-Help is a community development organization supporting families and neighborhoods as they grow and thrive. Together with our members, partners and supporters, we provide fair and affordable financial services; we help renters become homeowners; we help small businesses grow and create jobs; we convert neglected buildings into community assets; and we advocate for policies that promote financial fairness and economic opportunity for all.

The meeting is open to members and the public. Refreshments will be served. Reservations are encouraged by visiting [HERE](#).

### **About Self-Help Federal Credit Union**

Self-Help Federal Credit Union was chartered in 2008 to build a network of branches that partner with working families and communities that have faced systemic barriers to financial inclusion. With over \$2.1 billion in assets and serving more than 103,000 members in 38 branches - 22 in California, nine in Illinois, five in Washington, and two in Wisconsin, Self-Help Federal is one of the fastest-growing community development-designated financial institutions in the country. It is part of the Self-Help family of nonprofit organizations whose collective mission is to create and protect ownership and economic opportunity for all. For more than 42 years, the national Center for Community Self-Help and its affiliates have provided over \$10.5 billion in financing to help more than 150,000 borrowers buy homes, start businesses and strengthen community resources. For more information, go to [www.self-helpfcu.org](http://www.self-helpfcu.org) and [www.self-help.org](http://www.self-help.org).

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