

Okaloosa County News Release

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Local Extension Teaches Children to Save & Manage Money 200 youth made 289 deposits totaling \$39,379.84 in savings.

Two hundred youth made 289 deposits totaling \$39,379.84 in savings, tripling previous year savings. The Teach Children to Save Program is a part of the Okaloosa Saves program coordinated by the Okaloosa County-University of Florida Extension to help build wealth and reduce debt. Almost \$100,000 dollars has been saved since the program began in 2004.

Six \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds were awarded randomly this week to children participating who set savings goals and made savings deposits. Savings bonds were donated by NEW Customer Services. The winners are Alex Bordelon of Destin, Charity Bailey of Niceville, Illiana Thorne, Tiana McPhaul, Emily Grace Robinson and Jasmine Dumas, all of Crestview.

“I am a huge supporter of youth programs, and this is a wonderful program that local businesses, the county and the extension office value and are having success with – I hope all parents and children take advantage of the learning experience,” stated Okaloosa County Commission Chair James Campbell. The following financial institutions are participants in the program – these banks provide sponsorship, waive fees and “Teach Children to Save.”

BankTrust

Beach Community Bank

Eglin Federal Credit Union

First City Bank

First National Bank of Crestview

Premier Community Bank

Teachers Federal Credit Union

Okaloosa Saves is a community coalition of the national America Saves initiative. If you are interested, please look for information at local financial institutions, contact the University of Florida and Okaloosa County Extension office at 850-689-5850 or visit the Okaloosa Saves web site,

www.okaloosasaves.org.

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