

Okaloosa County News Release



4/20/2009

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Extension Agent IV—Family & Consumer Sciences

University of Florida & Okaloosa Co.Extension; <http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

6th Annual Teach Children to Save Project

Okaloosa Saves announced the 2009 “**Teach Children to Save**” program, which begins April 21st. Any child or youth 18 or younger who sets a savings goal and makes a deposit(s) into a saving account (Existing or New Account) from April 21, 2009 to July 31, 2009 is eligible to win one of six **\$100 savings bonds**.

Last year, in Okaloosa County, Teach Children to Save entries totaled more than **\$39,000** in deposits at participating institutions. Over the past five years “Teach Children to Save” program has encouraged **845 children** to deposit over **\$95,000** into savings accounts. Okaloosa Saves supports this project with special savings incentives and has awarded thirty \$100 savings bonds in random drawings of child savers.

This event supports the American Bankers Association Teach a Child to Save project, National Credit Union Associations “Youth Savings Week” and Financial Literacy Month.

“**Start saving young!** Every penny today becomes a dollar tomorrow,” says Donna Kidney, Senior VP at First City Bank and Okaloosa Saves Vice President. First City Bank will be visiting a local elementary school to promote savings and the Teach Children to Save project.

Other groups are also promoting savings and this project, and more are welcome to join us. North Okaloosa Medical Center’s Women Advisory Committee will be visiting adopted classrooms to read books on savings. Any teachers or groups who would like a presentation on savings should call 689-5850. Local banks and credit unions participating in “Teach Children to Save 2009” include:

Beach Community Bank
CCB Community Bank
Coastal Bank & Trust
Eglin Federal Credit Union
First City Bank
First National Bank of Crestview

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Okaloosa County Teachers Credit Union

"This is a great opportunity for youth to open a savings account or add to an existing one AND have a chance to win a \$100 savings bond. It also gives adults, especially parents and teachers, the opportunity to begin a discussion about money and savings," added Okaloosa Saves Chair Nicholas Barlotta.

For additional information on Okaloosa Saves or this project, visit <http://okaloosasaves.org> or call 689-5850 or 729-1400, ext. 5850. Okaloosa Saves is part of the national initiative America Saves <http://americasaves.org> and coordinated locally by the University of Florida/IFAS Extension in Okaloosa County.

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