

Okaloosa County News Release



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Contact: Elaine Courtney, 689.5850, ecourtney@co.okaloosa.fl.us

Extension Agent IV—Family & Consumer Sciences

Extension Office – Teaching Children to Save Since 2004 *286 Youth in our Community Deposited \$26,503.25 in 2011*

In 2011, **286 youth in our community deposited \$26,503.25** into savings accounts. Since the program began in 2004, youth deposits have been \$201,000.91. The University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension office organizes the Teach Children to Save Program with participation by local financial partners, and the program starts in April and runs through July 31.

Youth are asked to set a savings goal and make a deposit into a savings account, which makes them Okaloosa Savers. Once the entry forms are collected from participating financial institutions, winners are randomly drawn to receive a **\$100 Savings Bond**. **Winners for 2011 are: Gunner Chessher, Faith Hope, Zoe Sparkman, Matt Budney, Addison Haddorff, Ryan Casburn and Jett Tolbert.**

Savings Bond donors are Coastal Bank & Trust, BankTrust and Fort Walton Beach Exchange Club. Local banks and credit unions participating in “Teach Children to Save 2011” include:

BankTrust
Beach Community Bank
CCB Community Bank
Eglin Federal Credit Union
First National Bank of Crestview
Premier Community Bank

The next project or Okaloosa Saves is the **Eco-Nomic Living Expo on February 4, 2012**, in which individuals, businesses and community organizations are invited to participate. 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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