



*Teach Children to Save Winners were recognized at the August 16 Okaloosa County Commission meeting and pictured L-R: County Extension Director Pam Allen, Ms. Crouse, and son Tray, Ms. Smith and son Branten, Extension Agent Jill Breslawski, Okaloosa Saves Chair Sherry Harlow, Eglin Federal Credit Union. Teach Children to Save is an annual program of the American/Okaloosa Saves program, sponsored by the Okaloosa County Extension and local financial institutions. Two hundred and four children saved over \$23,000 this year and almost 3,000 children have participated since the program began, saving over \$300,000. County Commissioners L-R: Commissioner Trey Goodwin, Vice Chairwoman Carolyn Ketchel, Chairman Kelly Windes, Commissioner Nathan Boyles and Commissioner Wayne Harris.*

## **Okaloosa Saves Recognizes 204 Savers and “Teach Children to Save” Winners**

Six winners were drawn from the 204 entries with deposits totaling \$23,167.82 in the Teach Children to Save (TCTS) program, orchestrated by local financial institutions, and the University of Florida, Okaloosa County Extension. The six winners received \$50; however, all 204 are winners for making deposits and beginning a life-long commitment to saving. Our sponsors for this event are BancorpSouth, Beach Community Bank, Eglin Federal Credit Union, First City Bank, and PenFed.

Youth were asked to set a savings goal and make a deposit into a savings account, which makes them Okaloosa Savers. Since the program began in 2004, there have been 2,969 youth making deposits totaling \$301332.90.

### **2016 Individual winners are:**

Landon Burns  
Tray Crouse  
Jaynie Darby  
Brady Duval  
Destiny D’Angelo  
Branten Smith

“The average American savings was up to 5.3% in 2015. Programs like Teach A Child to Save, the Okaloosa Saves annual Eco-nomic Living Expo on Money, Home, Health, and Environment, as well as America Saves are making great strides in increasing financial security for our citizens.” stated Sherry Harlow, Eglin Federal Credit Union marketing & public relations manager and Okaloosa Saves Board chair.

### **Tips for Parents:**

- Spread the message of the importance of money and budgeting.
- Make saving second nature
- Get them to a local financial institution; open a savings account or deposit into an existing account.
- Teach like a mom, think like a kid
- Curb their appetite for spending
- Teach the basics of investing
- Encourage them to be entrepreneurs
- Be a role model

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Okaloosa Saves, a part of the national America Saves program, was founded in 2003 as a 501(c)3 encouraging individuals to build wealth and reduce debt. Okaloosa Saves has a volunteer Board of Directors from area financial institutions and works with the University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension. The University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension is the outreach arm

**Okaloosa County  
News Release**  
August 17, 2016



of the Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida. It is a three-way cooperative arrangement between the [Board of County Commissioners](#), the [University of Florida](#), and the [United States Department of Agriculture](#).