

Okaloosa County News Release

Photo Caption: L-R: Extension Agent Elaine Courtney, Dalton Tenorio, Kiah Brown, Brittany Davis, Margana Augustine & Sherry Harlow, Eglin Federal Credit Union

Extension Office – Teaching Children to Save Since 2004

In 2012, 280 youth in our community deposited \$20,118.21 into savings accounts!

Winners of the 2012 “Teaching Children to Save” project were recognized at the Board of County Commission meeting on September 4. “I would like to thank the Participating Financial institutions and Okaloosa County Commissioners, for allowing us this opportunity to recognize these young people,” stated Okaloosa Saves Coordinator and Extension Agent Elaine Courtney.

This is one of many programs coordinated by the University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension Office and teaches children to establish responsible habits and assists them in becoming successful, productive citizens of Okaloosa County. The “Teaching Children to Save” program encourages parents and grandparents to talk with their children about money and the importance of savings.

In 2012, 280 youth in our community deposited \$20,118.21 into savings accounts! Since the program began in 2004, youth deposits have been \$221,119.12! Youth who participated set a savings goal and made a deposit into their savings account (which makes them Okaloosa Savers).

Upon collecting entry forms from participating financial institutions, winners are randomly drawn to receive a \$50 deposit for their Savings Account. The Okaloosa Saves 2012 Teaching Children to Save winners are as follows:

- Morgana Augustine
- Kiah Brown
- Brittany Davis
- McKayla Elder
- Mia Garcia
- Dalton Tenorio

The University of Florida/Okaloosa County Extension office organizes the Teach Children to Save Program with participation by local financial partners. The program begins April 25 and runs through July 31. Local banks and credit unions participating in “Teach Children to Save 2012” include:

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