

# Okaloosa County News Release



## Okaloosa Saves Announce “Teach Children to Save” Winners

Six winners were drawn from the 188 entries with deposits totaling \$29,000, in the Teach Children to Save (TCS) program, orchestrated by local financial institutions, and the University of Florida, Okaloosa County Extension. The six winners received \$50; however, all 188 are winners for making deposits and beginning a life-long commitment to saving. Our sponsors for this event are Eglin Federal Credit Union, First City Bank, PenFed and Beach Community Bank.

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 2,725 youth making deposits totaling \$276,500. **Individual winners are:**

Daniel Dunn  
Leeana Echols  
Zane Ellerd  
Brennen Leonard  
Emily Ogden  
Tyler Vaughen

“This TCS program for children, the Okaloosa Saves annual Expo, as well as America Saves are making great strides in savings.” stated Sherry Harlow, Eglin Federal Credit Union marketing director 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 Extension is the outreach arm 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](#).