



Education First Federal Credit Union Awards \$13,500 to Three Local Non-Profits Through Blue Jean Friday Fund

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BEAUMONT, Texas – Education First Federal Credit Union is proud to announce the recipients of its 2024 Blue Jean Friday Fund Community Donation grants. The credit union awarded \$13,500 to three local non-profit organizations in Southeast Texas at a special check presentation this *Giving Tuesday*, December 3, 2024.

Following a competitive review of over 50 applications, the selection committee chose the following organizations for their impactful work in the Southeast Texas community:

- **Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle** – The grant will support *Finance Park*, a program providing free financial literacy education to 1,350 area students. Combining a curriculum with an interactive simulation, *Finance Park* teaches students essential skills for making informed decisions about income, expenses, savings, and credit.
- **Nutrition & Services for Seniors** - The grant will sustain the *Meals on Wheels* program, which delivers approximately 1,600 meals daily to homebound seniors. This program not only addresses rising food insecurity but also combats social isolation, offering vital human connections to seniors in need.
- **Southeast Texas Family Resource Center** – The grant will support the *It Begins at Home* initiative in the Charlton Pollard Community. This program offers parenting courses focused on building healthy relationships with children while setting loving but firm boundaries. Children participate in classroom activities to develop social skills, equipping families with tools to succeed academically and beyond.

The Blue Jean Friday Fund is an employee-driven initiative wherein Education First staff contribute \$2.50 weekly to wear blue jeans on Fridays. The pooled funds support grants for local non-profits, reflecting the organization's commitment to strengthening the community.

The program started in 2014, and to date, the credit union has donated over \$84,500. Non-profits apply for funding, and a volunteer employee committee reviews applications using a point-based system to select recipients.



"We are honored to support the outstanding work of Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle, Nutrition & Services for Seniors, and the Southeast Texas Family Resource Center," said Laura Landry, Community Relations Coordinator. "These organizations embody the values of community, compassion, and empowerment, and we're excited to be part of their continued impact."

Non-profit organizations interested in applying for the 2025 Blue Jean Friday Fund grant can email us at CommunityRelations@educationfirstfcu.org or visit us at EducationFirstFCU.org for details.

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EFFCU is a community credit union field of membership open to individuals who live, work or worship and attend school in, and businesses and other legal entities in Jefferson, Jasper, Hardin, Newton, Orange, and Tyler counties, as well as former and current employees of High Island Independent School Districts. The credit union has eight convenient locations throughout Southeast Texas.