



Education First Employees to Donate \$13,500 to Local Non-Profits

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Carolyn Ridout
409.896.8561

Beaumont, Texas – Education First Federal Credit Union (EFFCU) employees will present donations of \$13,500 to three local non-profit organizations on Tuesday, November 28 in recognition of *Giving Tuesday*, a global day of generosity that started in 2012.

Education First employees raised funds throughout the year via their [Blue Jean Friday Fund](#). The fund, created in 2014, provides employees with an opportunity to wear blue jeans to work every Friday, in exchange for a \$2 donation to the fund. To date, employees have raised over \$71,000 that has been donated back to area non-profits, schools and people who lost their homes in Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda.

In the past, an internal committee would nominate organizations to receive the donations, and Education First employees would vote on them. However, “[s]eeing inflation’s impact on the economy this year was reason to stop and reassess our approach” said Laura Landry, Community Relations Coordinator. Landry, who also oversees the employee volunteer program noted “[m]any of organizations that our employees volunteer for are struggling to provide the same services they have provided in years past because operating costs are up, and donations are down, which makes it even harder to decide who should receive the funds.”

The solution was to turn the fund into a grant program that opened applications to local 501 (c)(3) organizations that credit union employees may not have otherwise been familiar with, or aware of their needs. Applicants were asked to provide details such as a project description, expected outcomes, as well as the organization’s vision and history of service. The program was promoted via the Southeast Texas Non-Profit Development Center and via the credit union’s social media accounts and received more than 65 applications. A committee of eight Education First employees reviewed the applications, narrowing it down to the following three organizations that will each receive a \$4,500 donation.

- Boys’ Haven
- Hope Women’s Resource Clinic
- Southeast Texas Food Bank

Boys’ Haven has plans to develop a computer lab for the residents of the Journey House Transitional Independent Living program to assist with continuing education and increasing access to employment opportunities. Journey House provides services for young men ages 18-24 who have aged out of foster care or experiencing homelessness due to other unfortunate circumstances.

Hope Women’s Resource Clinic provides free pregnancy testing, educational resources, STD/STI testing, and



supplies for expectant mothers and babies up to one year old. They will use their grant to replenish the Hope Clinic Blessings Boutique with much-needed cribs, play-yards, and car seats for clients who complete a course on safe sleep and car seat safety.

Southeast Texas Food Bank distributes food to low-income members of the community through its association with 100-member social service agencies and 40 qualified schools in their eight-county territory. The grant will allow them to provide a 20lb food box to 675 individuals facing food insecurity in Jefferson County. This translates to 13,500 meals for individuals in Southeast Texas who may otherwise face hunger and inadequate nutrition.

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EFFCU is a community credit union of over \$630 million dollars in assets and 36,000 members. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works or worships in Jefferson, Jasper, Hardin, Newton, Orange and Tyler counties in Texas.