

# fedch♥ice Gives

A publication of FedChoice Charitable Foundation Issue #7, January 2025



Students and teachers at Cora L. Rice Elementary School enjoyed their last financial education class of 2024. © FCF 2024

# Message from the President of the FedChoice Charitable Foundation



FedChoice Federal Credit Union kicked off its 90th Anniversary year by extending an extremely generous charitable contribution in the amount of \$222,000 to the FedChoice Charitable Foundation. With these funds, the Foundation entered 2025 with a refreshed spirit and renewed optimism to continue its tremendous work far into the future.

The Board of Directors of the Credit Union made the gift possible after seeing the consistent results of the Foundation’s activities and its impact on our local community. I’m personally proud of the Foundation because it’s one of the largest ‘boots on the ground’ financial literacy based charitable organizations in the region, utilizing resources from both the Foundation and Credit Union. It has been a sincere pleasure seeing how financial education and charitable support has made a positive difference in the lives of so many.

As the Foundation continues its work with students, teachers, and members of the Federal community, we are also proud to have become

a certified member of the Combined Federal Campaign. Now active and retired Federal employees can easily choose to donate funds to the FedChoice Charitable Foundation via their payroll.

Look for more exciting news, including the full launch of the Foundation’s planned giving campaign, later in the year. Planned giving is another method of donating funds to the organization to ensure that the good work being accomplished will continue for many years to come.

Thank you to the Foundation and Credit Union staff as well as all Foundation donors for allowing this organization to thrive. We hope you enjoy this latest Foundation publication that summarizes many of your Foundation’s great accomplishments.

Have a wonderful 2025!

**Brett Noll**  
FedChoice FCU  
CEO & President

# FedChoice Charitable Foundation Participates in Local Combined Federal Campaign Events

In our first year of participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), we made great progress! This year, Andrey Gidasov, FCF Executive Director, along with Ed Atuahene, FCF Board Treasurer, shared information about our Foundation's community impact with numerous federal employees at seven CFC events, including at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Food and Drug Administration, Social Security Administration, and the United States Postal Service.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THESE EVENTS INCLUDED:

- Sharing joyful moments with FDA employees at their Talent Show.
- Presenting to USPS staff members during their busiest holiday season and trying out a mail truck!
- Meeting with enthusiastic employees and connecting with other CFC charities at the Social Security Administration.
- Enjoying an amazing lunch with SAMHSA CFC team members.



These events provided a fantastic platform for us to connect with many new volunteers and donors. Thank you to all who supported our Foundation!

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR CFC 2025 CAMPAIGN THIS FALL!**

## FCF IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

# FINDING A NEW BUSINESS IDEA WITH 75 FIFTH-GRADERS



How do you find a new business idea? What will it take to run a small business? Are you ready to create budget estimates for your first enterprise? Seventy-five enthusiastic 5th graders at Cora L. Rice Elementary School found answers to these questions in a session on “How to Find Your Business Idea,” led by Andrey Gidaspov, FCF Executive Director. As the students eagerly shared their small business ideas, they also mentioned their entrepreneur superheroes. The room was filled with excitement as the children discussed the qualities that make entrepreneurs successful, such as creativity, hard work, innovation, and self-belief.

Prior to the session, the students read “Money Monsters Build Their Business,” an interactive educational book created by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and brainstormed their own business ideas, inspired by the book’s characters. The fun part was sharing their imaginative ideas, ranging from a pen with a hair dryer to a self-learning robot teacher. The event concluded with the distribution of gift bags containing school supplies, piggy banks, and \$2 bills. Logan, who won the best business idea award, vowed to save \$2 for his future enterprise. The Foundation expressed its deep gratitude to the generous donors and the dedicated teachers at Cora L. Rice Elementary School for making this event possible.

## FEDCHOICE BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY TO G. JAMES GHOLSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanks to the generous donations from FedChoice staff, numerous students at G. James Gholson Middle School received essential hygiene supplies, warm jackets, socks, school uniforms, and other school supplies. Andrey Gidaspov, FCF Executive Director, personally delivered the boxes to the school. Mr. Larry Frazier Jr., Community School Coordinator, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to our team for their participation in the Holiday Drive for Kids campaign.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: MIRIAM AND CHRIS PAREL

We are so grateful to Miriam and Chris Parel for their generous donation to our \$2 Bill Campaign! Miriam and Chris are passionate supporters of FedChoice Charitable Foundation's financial education programs. Miriam has served in leadership roles at Points of Light and the American Councils for International Education, and many other international non-profits. Chris has spearheaded numerous global financial initiatives at The World Bank and is an active volunteer in several local and national non-profit organizations.

Chris shared his enthusiasm for our campaign, saying, "It's great that you are inspiring elementary and middle school students with interactive financial literacy lessons!" Thank you, Miriam and Chris, for your generous support and for helping us empower the next generation with essential financial skills. Together, we are making a real difference in local underserved communities!



## DONOR TESTIMONIALS:

*"One commitment I've made is to make annual donations into local communities where my clients operate. This year, I've been fortunate to donate 5% of gross revenue to a variety of charities. I'm so pleased to support the FedChoice Charitable Foundation."*  
— **AJ Ricketts, MBL Solutions**

*"I support the FedChoice Charitable Foundation because it empowers people through financial literacy and education. In its very heart, FedChoice and the Foundation are all about the 'people helping people' philosophy."* — **David Bunch, FedChoice FCU Board Director**

*"I'm very excited about the great opportunities that our foundation is providing for the younger generation. I hope they will pursue every opportunity of becoming financially savvy."* — **Brenda Jackson, FedChoice FCU Board Director**

*"Happy to support a great cause, keep up your inspiring work!"* — **Justin Holtz, Partner, DFA**

# A YEAR OF IMPACT:

## FedChoice Charitable Foundation Expands its Programs in Local Underserved Communities

### JANUARY 2024

#### EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

**26** Teachers

- » from the Greater Washington, DC area received teachers' aid program grants for classroom projects



### MAY 2024

#### EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

- » Participated in The Annual Community Day at Fairmont Heights High School
- » Joined Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to Expand Partnerships in Northern Virginia



### FEBRUARY 2024

#### ADVOCACY ON CAPITOL HILL

- » Teamed up with The Maryland Philanthropy Network and Philanthropy DMV at The Foundation on the Hill Forum to advocate for financial literacy and education



### JUNE 2024

#### SUPPORTING STUDENTS

- » Provided funding for students' snacks at Oaklands Elementary School through Vizo Financial Corporate CU Grant



### MARCH 2024

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- » Volunteered at G. James Gholson Middle School's Family Food Market with teachers, parents, and students to provide support to local underserved community



### JULY 2024

#### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- » Awarded four \$1,000 Educational Scholarships to graduating seniors from Maryland high schools



### APRIL 2024

#### CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Provided **78**

- » Fourth-Grade Students with Superheroes themed financial literacy comic books



### AUGUST 2024

#### RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

- » Awarded Guy Fleming Scholarships to 10 Students from eight states
- » Celebrated Inaugural FCF-Blacks In Government Collaborative Educational Scholarship at BIG National Training Institute



### SEPTEMBER 2024

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- » Participated in the 3rd Annual Nalley Community Day at Cora L. Rice Elementary School



- » Sponsored Prince George's County Public School CTE Capstone Research Program and participated in the events at four Maryland high schools



- » Provided a **\$750** Grant to Cora L. Rice Elementary School and G. James Gholson Middle School for essential hygiene products





## OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

**SEASON OF GIVING**



Promoted community development and financial literacy programs at seven Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Events at SAMHSA, FDA, SSA and USPS



Facilitated “Finding Your Business Idea” Session for 75 Cora L. Rice Elementary School students



Supported Holiday Drive for Kids at G. James Gholson Middle School



In partnership with District Financial Advisors provided Financial Education and Retirement Planning Sessions for FedChoice FCU Members

## FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Generous Contributions



Raised Over  
**\$60,000**

for Program Activities from Individual and Corporate Donors



Received  
**\$222,000**

Grant from FedChoice FCU for Operational and Program Support



Awarded  
**\$5,000**

Grant from Vizo Financial for Community Development and Financial Wellness Programs



Received  
**\$35,000**

Total donation from Anonymous Donor and from Loyal FedChoice FCU Member for Guy Fleming Scholarship

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

# INTERVIEW WITH ART ALTMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDCHOICE FCU BOARD: "I AM ESPECIALLY PROUD OF THE WORK WE DO WITH OUR CHARITABLE FOUNDATION."



ART ALTMAN (THIRD FROM RIGHT) CELEBRATES A NEW MILESTONE WITH THE FEDCHOICE FCU BOARD.

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After graduating from the University of Bridgeport with a degree in accounting in 1959, I completed a reserve tour of duty with the U.S. Coast Guard and entered the work force with a local CPA accounting firm. Ina and I married in 1961 and in July of 1961, I began my career with the IRS as a revenue agent. This entailed my examination of individual and corporate tax returns to assure that the taxpayers had properly met their federal income tax obligation. Along the way we had three children, LeeAnn, Ellen and Jeff.

In 1965, I transferred to the IRS National Office in Washington, DC, when I accepted a position in the Tax Forms and Publications Division as a Tax Law Specialist. My initial purpose was to learn as much as I could about taxes and eventually return to the private sector. However, I found that I enjoyed working in Washington for the IRS in

developing materials that helped the public meet their tax obligations and, fortunately for me, I had a successful career, eventually becoming the Director of the Forms and Publications Division, the position I retired from after 33 years at IRS.

When I got to Washington, I had zero knowledge about credit unions, but I quickly became a member of what was then known as the IRS Federal Credit Union. I became a volunteer, serving first a couple of terms as member of the credit committee, then was elected to the Board of Directors. I have served on the Board for over 50 years, becoming Board Chair in 2021. During this time of service, I have come to believe that our credit union, which has changed its name to FedChoice Federal Credit Union, provides a better financial service to its members than the commercial banking organizations available to the public.



Our rates in both savings and lending are very competitive and the personal service we provide is far superior to what our competitors present.

I am especially proud of the work we do with our charitable foundation. By focusing our efforts on public school children, we are giving these students a very valuable lesson in becoming financially aware. It is so important for students, as they grow older and enter the workforce and begin to face the financial challenges that we all must face, be knowledgeable in budgeting and managing their money. Too many young people become overwhelmed by the simple fact that they

are unable to match their income with their cost of living and take on too much debt.

If along the way we make some of our students aware of our industry and they want to come to work either for us or some other financial institution, that too is a win for us.

Ina and I are pleased that we are able to monetarily support the efforts of our charitable foundation. After seeing the positive results that are being realized by the foundation's work with children, it was an easy choice to add the FedChoice Charitable Foundation to our list of charitable giving.



**Consider leaving a lasting legacy by including the FedChoice Charitable Foundation in your will or estate plan. Your thoughtful gift will help us empower young people and their families on their path to financial success!**

Learn more about our Legacy Society here:  
[fedchoicegives.org/estate-and-planned-giving](https://fedchoicegives.org/estate-and-planned-giving)



If you have any questions, please contact us at [foundation@fedchoice.org](mailto:foundation@fedchoice.org) or give us a call at: **301-699-6128**.



# Celebrating Our Sponsors, Donors and Partners

We are so grateful to our generous corporate sponsors, local foundations and individual supporters! Your active participation in our vendors' outreach campaign has made a tremendous impact in local underserved communities. Thank you so much for your philanthropic spirit! We look forward to working with you next year!



## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS



## DIGITAL PROGRAM SPONSORS



## COMMUNITY PROGRAM SPONSORS



## FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

MDDCCUA  
Prager Creative  
Vizo Financial  
Terri Friend





## WILL YOU SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS?

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation strongly believes in making a difference in the lives of young people in underserved communities and invites you to help supporting our community programs:

**Teachers' Aid Program** recognizes the expenses incurred by teachers and invites educators and administrators in the DC/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) area to apply for the Teachers' Aid Program (TAP). TAP provides small educator grants (\$250 maximum grant per educator) for teachers of math, business, economics, or general elementary education.

**Educational Scholarship Program:** The FedChoice Charitable Foundation will offer up to five \$1,000 annual Educational Scholarships to college-bound high school students. Any college-bound dependent of a member of the FedChoice Federal Credit Union based in the DMV area is eligible to apply.

Please consider donating to FedChoice Charitable Foundation at [donate.fedchoicegives.org](https://donate.fedchoicegives.org).



SCAN TO DONATE!



# #Recap

# 2024

