
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Bank Makes Contribution to “Step Up for Students”

Community Bank of Florida recently made a \$100,000 donation to “Step Up for Students” as part of The Corporate Tax Credit program. Created in 2001 by the Florida legislature, the Corporate Tax Credit Program offers educational opportunities to low-income families by providing children K-12 with educational scholarships so they can attend a private school or public school of their choice.

Under this program, disadvantaged students receive scholarships to attend a public or private school that best fits their educational needs. Scholarships are awarded to students who provide documentation that they meet federal guidelines for the national free or reduced-price lunch program.

Companies owing Florida corporate state income tax can participate by redirecting a portion of their obligation to approved non-profit scholarship organizations. In return, corporations receive a 100% tax credit for every dollar they donate. The program currently serves over 23,000 students statewide. Florida companies continue to embrace the program, with over \$430 million raised since 2002.

Community Bank of Florida joins the ranks of other “Step Up for Students” donors, including AT&T, Lowe’s, Walgreens and Marriott International, that support quality education as the key to a full life and a well-educated workforce. Kerri Vaughan, managing director of Step Up for Students, says, *“Bringing on Community Bank of Florida is an important sign that our communities are rallying behind, and supporting, students. This program allows businesses to support education, help build a better educated workforce and contribute to their communities.”*