VyStar Credit Union Celebrates and Supports Florida Teachers Through $50,000 Grant

GAINESVILLE – The last two years have been particularly challenging for classroom teachers as they coped with the daily uncertainty of the pandemic and school staff shortages to meet the needs of their students. This year’s Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2 – 6) seemed like a great time for one Florida business to let teachers know they noticed their extraordinary efforts and say thank you.

Jacksonville-based VyStar Credit Union is providing $50,000 to celebrate and support teachers through a new partnership with the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (Consortium). Funds are being disbursed to local education foundations throughout VyStar’s 49-county Florida service area for appreciation, wellness and support activities.

VyStar announced the grant award during a Teachers Can Do Virtually Anything! event hosted by the Consortium May 3 in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week. Click here to watch the recording of this event that included inspiration from top teachers, students and education leaders from throughout the state.

“At VyStar Credit Union, we are proud to work alongside teachers across many Florida communities through our High School Branch Program, and we are deeply appreciative of all their hard work in support of their students,” said Patricia McElroy, SVP and President VyStar Community Foundation. “Today’s students will go on to become tomorrow’s leaders — and that’s because they have teachers who are dedicated to helping them reach their full potential. By supporting this wonderful celebration, VyStar recognizes and lifts up educators across the state and thanks them for guiding their students every day.”

Teacher recognition and support initiatives are top fundraising and program priorities for Florida’s local education foundations in nearly every Florida county-wide school district. This new support at the end of the school year is coming as a welcome surprise for the nonprofits in VyStar communities.

“We expect some education foundations will use their share of funding to host end of the school year celebrations for teachers while others will dedicate the funds to summer or back to school programming,” said Mary Chance, CEO of the Consortium. “Regardless, VyStar understands that this is a critical time for the business community to let teachers know they are seen and valued and that is the central message they are delivering through this grant.”

About VyStar Credit Union:
VyStar Credit Union is the second-largest credit union headquartered in Florida and now serves over 800,000 members with assets of over $12 billion. VyStar is the largest mortgage lender in Northeast Florida and a major employer in the region with over 2,000 employees. VyStar membership is open to everyone who lives or works in the 49 contiguous counties of Central to North Florida, 10 Georgia counties, and past and present military members and their families all over the world. Follow them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.

About the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations:
The Consortium is the membership organization for Florida’s school district-wide local education foundations. The Consortium connects individuals, organizations, and financial resources to build the capacity and effectiveness of Florida’s local education foundations. Together, Consortium members raise more than $86 million annually for a variety of locally driven initiatives and are led by 1,200 board members, 80% of whom are local business and community leaders working in partnership with school district leaders. The Consortium manages the nation’s only 1:1 legislative match for education foundation initiatives and a variety of privately funded grant programs. For more information, visit: educationfoundationsfl.org