

Community First Cares Foundation Launches Instagram Grant Campaign

First of six \$1,000 donations awarded to Monet School of Dance of Jacksonville.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., USA, August 7, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The <u>Community First Cares</u> Foundation, one of the only charitable foundations supported by a credit union in Florida, announces it has launched an <u>Instagram campaign</u> to engage community and nonprofit organizations in telling their stories through pictures. Six organizations will earn \$1,000 grants to continue their missions and activities.



The first grant has been awarded to Monet School of Dance, a classical training ballet center on Beach Blvd. focused on bringing ballet to inner city and underprivileged youth. The school was founded by 19-year-old Leah Monet Simpson, a protege of Misty Copeland, the first African-American principal of the American Ballet Theatre. The \$1,000 grant will help provide new leotards, tights and



This donation will also provide scholarships to the school and our students, many of whom are in great need." Leah Monet Simpson ballet shoes and other necessary dance equipment to the studio and dancers at Monet School of Dance.

"This donation will also provide scholarships to the school and our students, many of whom are in great need," said Simpson. "I'm so proud to further my mission of training the next generation of dancers at Monet School of Dance."

More details and Monet Ballet School's story can be found via

this online video Community First produced as part of the campaign.

Entering the contest is simple and requires only two steps. First, participants follow Community First Credit Union on Instagram at @commfirstcu. Second, they share ideas and photos on Instagram about their organization's ideas or programs that will help strengthen our community using the hashtag #communityfirstcares. A winner will be announced and awarded \$1,000 every two weeks for the next 10 weeks. The program is open to anyone in the Community First service region which includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties.

The Instagram campaign is an effort to continue the philanthropic efforts of the foundation through discovering emerging or fledgling ideas in our community. The foundation's funds are supported through direct donations to the foundation by its members, employees and supporters. It is a fully-functioning 501(c)3 organization recognized by the State of Florida. Founded in 2013, the Community First Cares Foundation has given more than \$75,000 in grants and donations to area nonprofit organizations since inception.

The Community First Cares Foundation, founded by Community First Credit Union, is a non-profit

community foundation that grants funds to improve the quality of life in North Florida. The foundation supports activities to improve financial literacy, enhance the quality of our educational system, upgrade the health and welfare of our community and help underserved citizens. The Community First Cares Foundation makes contributions to non-profit organizations that serve the communities on the First Coast. For more information, visit <u>www.CommunityFirstCares.org</u> or call 904-371-8090. For more information about Community First Credit Union, visit <u>www.CommunityFirstFl.org</u> or call 904-354-8537.

Press release courtesy of Online PR Media: http://bit.ly/1KW2id2

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