

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Okaloosa County Students Raise Over \$9,600 in Change for Children Campaign

On May 27, 2025, the Okaloosa County School Board recognized students, staff, and administrators from across the district for their outstanding efforts in the 2024-2025 Change for Children Campaign, a student-led fundraiser supporting Children in Crisis, Inc. The campaign—held annually from September through May—raises essential funds to support The Children's Neighborhood, a safe and nurturing emergency shelter for children who have been removed from unstable or unsafe home environments. Okaloosa schools collectively raised more than \$9,600 to help provide food, clothing, shelter, and stability to local children in need.

"We are incredibly proud of our students and school leaders for stepping up to make a difference," said Superintendent Marcus Chambers. "This campaign is about more than raising money—it's about teaching compassion, community, and the power of service. Supporting Children in Crisis is one way we can help make sure every child in Okaloosa has the opportunity to feel safe, cared for, and valued."

Congratulations to the 2024 – 2025 winners in the following categories:

#### **Middle School Division: Ruckel Middle School**

Principal, Joe Jannazo; School Sponsor: Angela Wargo  
Total Raised: \$3000

#### **Community School Division and Top Fundraiser: Southside Primary School**

Principal, Amy Bowles; Sponsors: Haley Dukes and Stephanie Hicks  
Total Raised: \$2429

#### **Elementary School Division: Plew Elementary School**

Principal, Tammy Matz; School Sponsors: Shawna Crist and Katie White  
Total Raised: \$2189

#### **High School Division: Choctawhatchee High School**

Principal, Michelle Heck; School Sponsor: Dee Dee Shank  
Total Raised: \$2000

Okaloosa County School District is proud to partner with organizations like Children in Crisis to support vulnerable youth and instill in students a lifelong commitment to giving back.

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