TAKE CHARGE AMERICA MARKS 10 YEARS OF SUPPORT FOR FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM REACHING 750,000 STUDENTS ANNUALLY

Non-profit credit counseling agency has contributed $4.3 million to develop personal finance curriculum, educate teachers nationwide

PHOENIX – (Aug. 16, 2011) – Take Charge America, a national non-profit financial education and credit counseling agency based in Phoenix, is proud to announce the 10th anniversary of its support and involvement with Family Economics & Financial Education (FEFE), a program that provides middle and high school teachers nationwide with free personal finance curriculum and training.

Take Charge America has committed $400,000 to the program for the 2011 fiscal year, bringing total contributions during the past decade to more than $4.3 million. The non-profit agency helped create FEFE in 2001 and has remained committed to its development and outreach ever since. During the program’s first year, 50 teachers reached about 1,200 students with its personal finance lesson plans. The program now impacts approximately 750,000 students annually. More than 25,000 teachers have registered to use the curriculum.

“We’re extremely proud to support and participate in FEFE’s rapid growth,” said John Fisher, chief executive officer of Take Charge America. “The program’s goals speak to the heart of our mission – to provide the public with quality financial education so they can lead stable and independent lives. The earlier we can get our youth started on the right financial path, the better.”

FEFE is a program of the Take Charge America Institute for Consumer Financial Education and Research (TCAI) at the University of Arizona. It has developed more than 100 financial lesson plans based on multiple intelligences and active learning theories. They have been implemented by school districts in all 50 states.

“Take Charge America’s decade-long support has helped create the nation’s premier family-focused financial education program,” said TCAI Director Michael Staten, Ph.D. “More than creating just another personal finance curriculum, FEFE has built collaborative partnerships with teachers and schools around the country, and those teachers provide an endless stream of creative ideas for new activities, enabling us to improve the program.”

In addition to providing significant financial support, Take Charge America offers assistance in generating national awareness for the program.

FEFE hosts professional development conferences for teachers throughout the year. A national conference is held in Arizona each summer. During 2011, additional conferences were held in Iowa, Arkansas and Maryland. These events showcase presentations from national experts in personal finance, as well as demonstrations of FEFE lesson plans by current classroom educators.
Learn more:
- Take Charge America
- FEFE

About Take Charge America

Take Charge America, Inc., a non-profit financial education, credit counseling, housing counseling and debt management agency, is dedicated to helping consumers nationwide improve their financial futures. Founded in 1987, the organization has helped more than 1.5 million consumers nationwide manage their personal finances and debts. To learn more, visit www.takechargeamerica.org.

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