TAKE CHARGE AMERICA AWARDED $4,000 GRANT FROM COX CHARITIES TO SUPPORT AT-RISK YOUTH

Funds will help nonprofit credit counseling agency arm youth aging out of foster care system with critical financial literacy, life skill workshops

PHOENIX (Nov. 21, 2016) – Take Charge America, a national nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agency, was awarded a $4,000 grant from Cox Charities to support the agency’s work with at-risk youth.

The grant, which was awarded as part of Cox Charities’ support of local non-profits this year, will go toward conducting a series of free financial literacy and life skill workshops for Arizona youth aging out of the foster care system. The workshops are designed to help youth gain critical knowledge for entering adulthood and preventing future setbacks, even without a support system.

“While all teens need guidance when transitioning to adulthood, at-risk youth from the foster care system are especially in need of core financial and life skills,” said Take Charge America CEO David Richardson. “This grant will allow us to reach even more youth and give them the foundation from which to live independently, obtain a good job or education, provide their own food, clothing and housing – and to do so without falling into deep debt.”

Each year, thousands of Arizona children are placed into foster care or the state’s child welfare system. According to the Arizona Department of Child Safety, some 800 youths are expected to “age out” of the system in 2016 when they reach 18. These young adults have lived in an average of 2.3 “placements,” including group homes and temporary foster homes.

The Take Charge America curriculum is designed for foster children between 14 and 19. Typically lasting eight weeks, the program zeroes in on basic money management, such as budgeting, saving strategies and credit/debt management; and education and employment topics, including resume writing, job interviews, and obtaining financial aid and scholarships.

In 2015, Take Charge America delivered 44 different presentations to more than 1,500 at-risk youth in Maricopa County.

To learn more about Take Charge America, visit takechargeamerica.org.

About Take Charge America

Since 1987, Take Charge America has been committed to helping people around the country improve their financial futures. The agency works with individuals and families facing a variety of financial challenges to help them achieve self-reliance, financial stability and independence.

The commitment to financial education has helped Take Charge America become one of the largest nonprofit credit counseling and debt management agencies in the nation. It has helped more than 1.6 million people manage their finances and repay more than $5 billion in personal debts. For more information, please visit takechargeamerica.org.

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