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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### For More Information:

#### **Vizo Financial Contact:**

Cheryl Johnson, Cheryl Johnson PR  
(913) 488-2710 • [cheryl.johnson.pr@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.johnson.pr@gmail.com)

#### **Credit Union Foundation MD|DC:**

Leigh Philibosian, director  
(443) 325.0768 • [Leigh@cufound.org](mailto:Leigh@cufound.org)

#### **FedChoice Charitable Foundation:**

Andrey Gidasov, PhD, CUDE, executive director  
(301) 699.6128 • [foundation@fedchoice.org](mailto:foundation@fedchoice.org)

## **FedChoice Charitable Foundation Brings Education & Welfare Initiatives to Community with Vizo Financial Empowerment Grant**

**Greensboro, N.C.** (April 23, 2025) – FedChoice Charitable Foundation, an organization of FedChoice Federal Credit Union in Lanham, Md., brought several education and welfare initiatives to life in their local communities using funds from Vizo Financial Corporate Credit Union’s Empowerment Grants program. The funds were awarded through The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC and provided \$5,000 for the Foundation’s Positive Impact Project, which included three key objectives: educational scholarships, small educators’ grants and community financial wellness.

A total of \$2,000 in educational scholarships were granted to high school students to help pursue higher education and financial success. Small educators’ grants in the amount of \$500 were given through the Foundation’s Teachers’ Aid Program, which helps educators enhance classroom experiences and provide valuable learning opportunities for their students. Finally, the community financial wellness efforts, totaling \$2,500, were spread across multiple schools, including Cora L. Rice Elementary School, G. James Gholson Middle School and Oakland Elementary School, to provide hygiene supplies for students and snacks during testing periods, as well as Fairmont Heights High School for their Community Day event, where students handed out food supply and giveaway packages to low income families, and provided school supplies to 25 students.

“At FedChoice Charitable Foundation, we’re always looking for ways to make our outreach initiatives possible, and this most generous grant has allowed us to enhance the quality of life and financial stability of young people and their families through tangible projects focused on education, health and community development,” said Andrey Gidasov, executive director for

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the FedChoice Charitable Foundation. “We are so grateful to The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC and Vizo Financial for this incredible opportunity to make a difference in local underserved communities.”

The Empowerment Grant program was created by Vizo Financial in 2023. Through the program, the Corporate allocates funds each year to credit union foundations within its footprint, including The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC. The foundations then administer the grants to credit unions and credit union organizations that apply for funding based on proposed project goals and their potential impact. The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC awarded the Empowerment Grant to the FedChoice Charitable Foundation in 2024, and the organization used the funds over the course of May through December 2024.

“The Foundation’s participation in Vizo Financial’s Empowerment Grants program is essential to helping the credit unions we serve improve and celebrate our communities through financial wellness initiatives,” said Leigh Philibosian, director of The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC. “By offering these grants, we’re confident that we can play a role in providing greater opportunities for credit unions to fulfill community involvement goals and continue promoting financial health and well-being for their members, just as we’ve seen with the FedChoice Charitable Foundation. We encourage credit unions within Maryland or the District of Columbia, and those affiliated with the Foundation, to gain inspiration from the FedChoice Charitable Foundation’s story and consider applying.”

Empowerment grants up to \$5,000 are available through The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC. Credit unions that want to learn more about or apply for the grants can visit the [Vizo Financial Empowerment Grants](#) page of the Foundation’s website.

“We’re thrilled to see the very real and promising influence of the Vizo Financial Empowerment Grants and how those dollars are being put to use to change lives, whether through scholarships or food and hygiene supplies,” said Erin Doan, VP of administration for Vizo Financial. “Our heartfelt congratulations go out to the FedChoice Charitable Foundation on the success of their Positive Impact Project and we want to send a special thanks to The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC for offering these grants that allow credit unions to put our people helping people philosophy and the cooperative spirit into action.”

For more on this story, tune in to Vizo Financial’s *Financial Minds: Meet the Experts* [podcast](#) on April 23, 2025!

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***About Vizo Financial Corporate Credit Union***

Vizo Financial Corporate Credit Union’s goal is to drive credit union success through proven EXCELLENCE, unmatched EXPERTISE and engaged PARTNERSHIPS. It is a state-chartered corporate credit union that serves CUSOs, leagues, chapters and more than 1,000 credit unions in the U.S. and Canada. Vizo Financial provides money management, payments, core processing and education solutions. For more information, please visit [www.vfccu.org](http://www.vfccu.org).

***About the Credit Union Foundation MD|DC***

The Credit Union Foundation MD|DC improves lives by working with credit unions in Maryland and the District of Columbia to support financial self-sufficiency and personal, affordable financial services. For more information about the Foundation, please visit [www.cufound.org](http://www.cufound.org).

***About the FedChoice Charitable Foundation***

The FedChoice Charitable Foundation has been working to strengthen communities and positively impact the lives of individuals since 2017. The non-profit established by FedChoice Federal Credit Union was created to expand the mission of improving the financial well-being of those in need, making a positive difference in local communities and never losing sight of its initial purpose of being a resource, advocate and champion for members of the Federal Community. For more on the FedChoice Charitable Foundation, please visit [www.fedchoicegives.org](http://www.fedchoicegives.org).