Dear Youth Leader,

I would like to let you know about an exciting program called “On My Own” that we will be offering in conjunction with the EcoNomic Living Expo February 27 at the Fort Walton Beach Fairgrounds. The Expo will be open from 9:00 am-3:00 pm, and we encourage you to come enjoy the entire event. The “On My Own” program will start promptly at 12:30 pm and will run until 2:30 pm and is for youth ages 13-18. There is no charge for this event!

“On My Own” is a hands-on, real-life simulation that gives young people the opportunity to experience their futures in a fun and exciting way. They are encouraged to make healthy and wise lifestyle choices similar to those that adults face on a daily basis.

How does it work?
Students assume they are 25 years old and are the primary or sole support of their household. After being assigned an occupation and monthly gross income, participants make routine deductions for taxes and medical expenses. Using sample checks and registers, they learn how to record and manage their bank accounts. They move from one station to another in the simulation, making spending choices among the following categories:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Banking services
- Groceries
- Utilities
- Entertainment
- Insurance
- Child care
- Clothing, electronics, health and grooming
- Charitable contributions

After each choice, students write a check and subtract the amount from their registers. They may also receive a chance card, which represents unexpected expenses and incomes encountered in real life.

We would love to have your youth participate! To assist us in planning, we need to pre-register youth for the “On My Own” event. Please contact our office at (850) 689-5850 or email heady@ufl.edu or ecourtne@ufl.edu to register your youth for this program. Or you may FAX the registration form to us at (850) 689-5727. Additional information is available at http://okaloosasaves.org

Sincerely,

JENNIFER G. HEADY, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development Program
ELAINE A. COURTNEY, Extension Agent IV, Family and Community Sciences
On My Own Registration
University of Florida/IFAS—Okaloosa Extension

Name: __________________________________________________________

Organization: _____________________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________  Email _______________________

Number of Students: ___________

Please have this request form to the Okaloosa County Extension Office by February 22, 2010.

UF/IFAS Okaloosa County Extension Office
5479 Old Bethel Road
Crestview, FL 32536

Or

Fax to (850) 689-5727