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## **ASCEND FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SPONSORS FOURTH GRADE FORESTERS**

Ascend Federal Credit Union is planting the seeds of a greener future in the minds of Middle Tennessee fourth graders.

Working with the Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors (MTAR), the credit union is giving trees to children in seven Middle Tennessee schools as part of the Fourth Grade Foresters USA project.

"This sponsorship is an extension of our own green initiative at the credit union," Ascend President and CEO Caren Gabriel said. "We are constantly looking for ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. And we make going green easy for members with our free and secure electronic services like E-BRANCH, E-PAY and e-statements. Kids pick up good habits so quickly, and we believe these trees will help them to begin understanding their role in taking better care of the planet."

Each fourth grader at Robert E. Lee Elementary, Dechard Elementary, Lynchburg Elementary, LaVergne Lake Elementary, Smyrna Elementary, Mitchell-Neilson, and Bedford-Victory Baptist Academy will receive an evergreen tree seedling packaged by workers with disabilities. The employment of these workers is covered by the cost of sponsorship.

"We're proud to be a sponsor of this unique program," Gabriel said. "Planting a tree can be a fun family event, and caring for the tree will go a long way toward instilling a sense of personal responsibility in these fourth graders."

Ascend Federal Credit Union is a full-service financial institution with 15 financial centers in Middle Tennessee. Federally insured by the NCUA, membership is limited.

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