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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VyStar Credit Union Celebrates Service and Volunteerism To Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Jacksonville, Florida** — VyStar Credit Union is proud to announce its ongoing commitment to volunteerism and service as a means of commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As a community-focused, not-for-profit financial organization, VyStar understands the importance of giving back and supporting those in need.

As part of VyStar's ongoing involvement in Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations, the credit union is sponsoring the Tomorrow's Leaders Essay Contest at the 37th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast in Jacksonville. This essay contest encourages young people to think critically about Dr. King's legacy and how his teachings can be applied to modern-day issues. Additionally, VyStar is proud to support the Henry County NAACP MLK Prayer Breakfast, the 44th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Youth Program in Savannah, Georgia.

VyStar will also be participating in various MLK Day of Service events in Jacksonville, Orlando and Thomasville, Georgia. VyStar volunteers will assist in revitalizing the Eastside Terrace Apartments in Jacksonville by cleaning, beautifying, and activating vacant and public spaces. In Thomasville, VyStar volunteers will help to sort, pack, and distribute staple food items to community members in need. In Orlando, VyStar volunteers will come together in the spirit of service to pack and distribute 1 million healthy meals in collaboration with The Orlando Mayor's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, and the Orange County MLK Initiative.

"VyStar recognizes the importance of engaging in meaningful community service not only on Martin Luther King Jr. Day but also throughout the year," said Patricia McElroy, Senior Vice President/VyStar Foundation President. "It's why we focus our efforts on creating inclusive, equitable opportunities in the communities we serve, and consider our diversity one of our greatest strengths."

VyStar provides employees up to eight hours of paid time off each year to volunteer with nonprofits in their community. In 2023, employees donated over 32,000 volunteer hours and over \$100,000 to local nonprofits through VyStar's Pay It Forward initiative. In addition to employee efforts, the credit union donated \$6.4 million to various charitable causes and organizations through Georgia, North and Central Florida. That is in addition to nearly \$1 million dollars of impact by VyStar Foundation.

The Jacksonville Business Journal recently ranked VyStar as the leader of its 2023 “Top Corporate Philanthropists List.” VyStar also received a 2024 “Company with a Heart” recognition by Jacksonville Magazine.

“These recognitions reflect our ongoing commitment to Doing Good and making a positive impact in the communities where we live and work,” said McElroy. “We remain committed to supporting local initiatives and organizations that make our communities better places for everyone.”

For more information on VyStar's commitment to volunteerism and social responsibility, visit [vystarcu.org](http://vystarcu.org).

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*VyStar Credit Union is the second-largest credit union headquartered in Florida, with 74 branches and now serves more than 915,000 members with assets of over \$13.5 billion. VyStar is the largest mortgage lender in Northeast Florida and a major employer in the region with over 2,000 employees across the communities it serves. VyStar membership is open to everyone who lives or works in the 49 contiguous counties of Central to North Florida, 29 Georgia counties, and past and present military members and their families all over the world. For more information, visit [vystarcu.org](http://vystarcu.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).*

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