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121 Financial Credit Union, Clay County Chamber partner with Challenge Enterprises to provide reusable Masks

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (April 22, 2020) – The Clay County Chamber has connected local business to provide reusable masks for their hospital workers. They brought 121 Financial (pronounced "One to One"), and <u>Challenge Enterprises</u> together to create custom-made and sewn facemasks for medical workers in Clay County.

"We are so honored to work with two great organizations and help our medical workers. The Clay Chamber and Challenge Enterprises both stepped up to help and we couldn't be happier," David Marovich, CEO of 121 Financial Credit Union.

The masks are made of recycled polypropylene fabric is equivalent to a level-3 clinical grade face mask and is typically used to wrap surgical equipment after it is cleaned and stored for its next use. Orange Park Medical Center's parent company HCA Healthcare donated nearly 1,000 sterilization wraps that will be turned into face masks.

Challenge Enterprises has been manufacturing products ranging from trauma packs for bullet proof vests to weed recede landscaping bags since 1998. Recognizing the need in the market for custom-made facemasks, Challenge Enterprises retooled its industrial sewing operation to make masks. Challenge Enterprises employees approximately 242 workers in various industries across Clay County in Green Cove Springs.

The Clay County Chamber brought businesses together to help fund this project and 121 Financial credit Union has covered the labor cost to make 500 mask.

"The Challenge Enterprises Industrial Sewing employees have always been passionate about the work they do. Not only are they thrilled to take on the challenge of a new product, but are proud to be making facemasks that will make a difference right here in Clay County," Katie Vineyard, Chief Operations Officer for Challenge Enterprises. **ABOUT 121 FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION:** 121 Financial Credit Union (pronounced "One to One") provides personalized banking and financial services to its more than 45,000 members throughout the Jacksonville and North Florida region. Since its founding 1935 as Florida Telco, the credit union has worked to be a trusted partner to the community with personalized solutions for every stage of life. 121 Financial offers a range of products for both consumers and businesses and specializes in deposit accounts and loans, including mortgages. For more information or to become a member, visit <u>www.121fcu.org</u>.

ABOUT CHALLENGE ENTERPRISES: Challenge Enterprises is a social enterprise that creates work opportunities and promotes sustainability for individuals living with disabilities. The enterprises are represented in two primary sectors: the Federal Government (SourceAmerica program) and Commercial (private sector). These opportunities provide unparalleled benefits for customers and workers. Challenge Enterprises' professionals and volunteers have assisted hundreds of individuals achieve success by becoming more self-sufficient in their community. Challenge Enterprises is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that promotes the Power of People and Possibilities. Visit http://www.challengeenterprises.org/.

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