



Community Hands Against Poverty

Youth Financial Literacy Fair Project Overview

The Annual Youth Financial Literacy Fair, provided by Community Hands Against Poverty through sponsorship, partnership and collaboration, is a project designed to teach financial literacy to high school seniors and other community youth and members. A Youth Financial Literacy Fair is a fun, hands on way for students and young adults to learn about managing personal finances. Community members, banks & credit unions and cooperatives staff including other professionals as volunteers assist students and youth in making decisions about everyday expenses and provide financial advice to help them keep a budget. At the fair, high school senior students get a feel for real-life budgeting. They approach the fair as if they had graduated from college, and have nothing no car, no residence, no cell phone, etc. At the start of the fair, they are provided with a budget worksheet that includes a fictitious future life scenario and a monthly salary of a position in the career of their choice; some have a spouse that contribute to their income, some have children and other obligations such as student loans and credit card debt. They are to complete the budget worksheet line by line according to their vision of their future life. They go through life, stopping by tables (booths) to purchase an apartment or home, a vehicle, cell phone plan, utilities, insurance, groceries, personal needs/hair care, fitness, clothing, fun activities, incidentals and savings. Along the way there are many temptations for additional spending, and students must learn to balance their wants and needs to stay within their income. In addition, they must consider their credit score for better purchasing power. Their last booth is the “A spin Wheel of Literacy and or fun choices scenario” where a random life event is applied to their budget worksheet. The student’s goal is to stay within budget; in other words, still have money left in their pockets after paying all their bills for the month. Once they have budgeted for their expenses they will meet with a financial advisor to review and adjust.

An important feature of a financially responsible lifestyle is savings. In the financial Literacy fair experience, students are encouraged to save a minimum of 10% of their income and also give a gift donation on community charity of their choice including church tithing. The financial advisors explore the importance of planning for future needs and preparing for future financial challenges through savings. The fair will tempt students to spend their income on “fun,” but the financial advisors will bring the focus back to saving and thrift practices.

Host School Provides:

1. A multipurpose room, venue or small gymnasium to accommodate a minimum of 45 students or a maximum of 250 students or community youths.
2. A three to four hour block of time to host the financial reality fair (two-hour event with a half hour set-up and half hour take down).
3. 16-20 tables with two chairs per table.
4. PA system

Community Hands Against Poverty Provides:

1. Turn-Key Financial Literacy Fair Package
 - Event Materials
2. Event Coordinator through Business Partner/Sponsor support provide
 - Volunteers
 - Set-up
 - Event Materials
 - ✓ Budget Worksheets
 - Promotions/Prizes
 - Meals
3. PA system if not provided by host school

WANT MORE INFO? CHECK US OUT! & OUR Website at :()

Facebook page at: (<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityHandsAgainstPoverty/>)

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