



# Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

**ELM PARK I & II APARTMENTS  
FINANCIAL FITNESS FOR LIFE OUTCOME REPORT  
1st – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades  
June 2011 – August 2011**

## **BACKGROUND**

This is the first time a youth financial literacy class was taught at the Elm Park Community Room in Forest Grove, OR for first to fifth graders starting on June 27, 2011 and ending on August 15, 2011. This was a six-week program with a half-hour class per day. Classes were offered on Mondays for 1st to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders from 3:15pm – 4:00pm and 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders from 4:15pm – 4:45pm. A total of 14 children participated (6 in 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8 in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades.)

Maria Moreno, Bienestar Program Coordinator, provides the classroom instruction using the Financial Fitness for Life curriculum which consists of high quality materials that assist students from kindergarten to twelve grades make better decisions for earning income, spending, saving, borrowing, investing, and managing their money.

Each set of materials is based on national standards which show how the materials relate to national language arts and mathematics. The curriculum features the science of decision making, as a way to prioritize the staggering array of choices facing students when they make financial decisions. It also incorporates active learning and student reflection which optimizes true learning. As with physical fitness, one must “do” and then “reflect” upon what one did in order to incorporate that learning into one’s lifestyle. Role playing, discussing in groups, drawing pictures, and analyzing case problems are some of the many teaching methods that were used in the class.



Students also engaged in hands-on activities such as money bingo earning prizes, choosing a pet for Nicholas; learning about opportunity costs, making a budget for Nicholas, and the responsibilities of being a borrower.



Upon program completion of the course, each student received a piggy bank, a certificate of completion and \$8 dollars from Bienestar. The Program Coordinator conducted home visits to assist parents in completing bank applications to open children's savings accounts at Wells Fargo Bank. The field trip was set for September 22, 2011 where the children were welcomed by Mario Hernandez, Store Manager and staff at the Wells Fargo Bank at 1905 Pacific Avenue Forest Grove, OR who helped the children open their savings account.



## OUTCOMES

### Attendance:

In the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> grader group we had 6 students and had 95% attendance.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade group we had 8 students and had 90% attendance.

By the end of the last class all fourteen students completed the course.

### Results:

Grade Levels	Pre-Assessment	Post-Assessment
1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	40%	88%
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	45%	95%

Students learned about the following five themes:

#### 1) Earning Income

- What is money?
- Working for income.
- Entrepreneurship

#### 2) Saving

- Why and how we save.
- Short and long term goals

### 3) Spending

- What is a consumer?
- Deciding when to spend and how to plan spending.
- Opportunity costs

### 4) Credit

- What is credit?
- Advantages and disadvantages of having credit
- Borrowers and Lenders
- Credit worthiness

### 5) Money Management

- Making a budget.
- Managing our money.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Maria Moreno, Program Coordinator  
September 22, 2011