



Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

**SUNSET GARDENS APARTMENTS
FINANCIAL FITNESS FOR LIFE OUTCOME REPORT
1st – 5th Grades
January 2011 to March 2011**

BACKGROUND

This is the first time a youth financial literacy class was taught at the Sunset Gardens Apartments in Hillsboro, OR for first to fifth graders starting on January 31, 2011 and ending on March 17, 2011. This was a six-week program with a half-hour class per day. Classes were offered on Mondays for 1st to 2nd graders from 3:15pm – 4:00pm and 3rd to 5th graders from 4:15pm – 4:45pm. Some of these children also participate in the Homework Club at Sunset Gardens community room.

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. The field trip was set for March 30, 2011 where the children were welcomed by Lily Castaneda, Store Manager and staff at the Wells Fargo Bank on 10th and Main St. in Hillsboro who helped the children open their savings account.



"I want to start saving up for my quinceñera."

OUTCOMES

Attendance:

In the 1st to 2nd grader group we had 12 students and had 95% attendance.

In the 3rd to 5th grade group we had 7 students and had 90% attendance.

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



Results:

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
April 5, 2011