

Leominster Credit Union, Non-Profit Share Financial ABCs with Area Youth

Managing Money helps local adolescents understand the fundamentals.

Leominster Credit Union and the Spanish American Center (SAC) recently concluded their first-ever joint collaboration specifically directed at area youth.

Working together over this summer, LCU and SAC helped nearly 80 area youths understand how financial institutions operate and the importance of planning for the future.

According to Ingrid Adade, Branch Supervisor of LCU's Clinton High School office, "Managing Money covers the basics and introduces a new generation to the advantages of saving and thinking about the future. Those are invaluable lessons to learn at a young age."

During inter-active sessions held each Tuesday, area youths engaged in discussions that focused on topics including the roles and responsibilities of financial institutions; savings accounts; checking accounts; budgeting and managing accounts; loans; security and identity theft issues; on-line banking & technology; and careers in the financial industry

Each Tuesday from the beginning of July through August 4, Ingrid and her team, which included Katy Zereski, Wachusett Regional High School Branch Supervisor, Anne Marie Russell, Senior Teller, and Danielle Rivera, Member Contact Center Representative, presented at sessions held at both SAC's headquarters at 12 Spruce Street and at one of its satellite locations, the Riverside Village Apartment Club House.

"Each session usually ran about an hour or more. Presenting at two locations was necessary, because of the high level of interest," remarked Adade. "That is very gratifying because financial literacy is an extremely important component in the success of our future society. Our communities and our country depend on it."

The Spanish American Center is a private, non-profit organization chartered in 1966 to respond to the needs of the local Hispanic community, which is estimated at approximately 15,000 individuals. Throughout the year, six-days-a-week, SAC offers more than 20 programs providing outreach, information and referral services.

This summer, more than 600 area youths participated in SAC-organized activities. According to Neddy Latimer, SAC Executive Director, "The Managing Money Program is a great addition to our summer programs, and we thank Leominster Credit Union. The youths not only learned a lot, they also enjoyed the experience."

