RCFF Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2013

Location: Racine Literacy Council

Present: Molly MacPhail, Kay Gregor, Maia Hausler, Brian Dean, Jeff Sroka, Demetri Vincze, Jane Nikolai, Brenda Campbell, Bev Baker, Cory Bumgardner

1. Announcements

* Those who donated items for the Money Conference were given to Jeff. Jeff also presented more Money Conference flyers to be taken and passed out between our organizations.
* Molly will be attending Family Night on November 14th at Starbuck Middle School on behalf of the coalition. Our new brochures will be handed out at this event.
* Molly passed out the Retirement Seminar flyer and asks those who are interested to please contact her to sign up. This seminar will be November 4th at 6pm.

1. Bev Baker spoke about Money Smart Head Start
2. This program offers a mixture of three financial literacy interventions—monthly newsletters, financial education workshops, and financial coaching—to parents with children enrolled in Head Start or Early Head Start.
3. Financial Literacy surveys are given to families at the beginning of the program, and then again at the end.
4. Newsletters – printed in English and Spanish. Workshops only in English
5. They are still looking for a bilingual participant for financial coaching/counselors
6. Training is available – info at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/moneysmartheadstart/>
7. Brian Dean updated us on the VITA program and handed out their most recent fliers.
8. Program is still looking for volunteers to help with tax assistance. (At least 40 volunteers needed)
9. Their goal is to have 500 or more tax returns completed this year.
10. Training is available by way of modules online
11. Contact Janice Jordan or Brian Dean for more information
12. “Like” VITA Program on Facebook if you haven’t done so already
13. Training Orientation is located at Workforce Development
14. Maia Hausler acknowledged that VITA is searching for someone to speak on behalf of their program as they are preparing for a grant from Racine Community Foundation
15. Demetri Vincze updated us on a project for Hunger and Homeless Awareness week
16. Food Drive to benefit homeless students in Racine
17. Date – November 17th -23rd
18. Volunteers are needed, locations include – Piggly Wiggly on Erie, HALO, Hospitality Center, and Local Churches
19. Drawstring backpacks are needed to carry food
20. Assembling of food will be November 24th
21. Contact Demetri for information, and visit - hhweelracine.tumblr.com
22. Brenda Campbell presented on Make A Difference –Wisconsin Program in Milwaukee
23. Make A Difference delivers financial education to teens and high schools (Ages 16, 17, 18)
24. Volunteers are needed to present financial education in the classroom
25. 3 hour training for volunteers online (looking for more from Racine area)
26. Case and Horlick High School are involved – looking to expand
27. Volunteers are assigned a classroom and class hour to present on financial education – usually a Social Studies, or history course.
28. Make A Difference is looking for a point person in the Racine area to help get more involved in local high schools –RLC showed interest in hosting that point person
29. Kay Gregor, Executive Director, Racine Literacy Council Presentation
30. Kay presented on the history of the Racine Literacy Council
31. The Racine Literacy Council (RLC) is a volunteer-based organization that provides adult literacy programs in Racine County and works to bring awareness to the community about the importance and impact of literacy. The primary focus of the Racine Literacy Council is its tutoring program facilitated by trained volunteer tutors.
32. Kay touched base on upcoming events, Spelling Bee and Shakespeare events – for more information – [www.racineliteracy.com](http://www.racineliteracy.com)
33. Kay passed around the RLC financial report to show what areas their grants are most needed.
34. Kay introduced Cory Bumgardner, an IT expert who formerly worked in Afghanistan. He explained how different poverty looks here than it does in the Middle East. Cory was surprised and intrigued that so many of us are working to help those in poverty.
35. Kay explained that the RLC is now forming a financial literacy resource library and that financial goals have been added to the student’s goals sheet that are filled out at the beginning of each tutoring session.
36. RLC is collecting financial literacy resources and financial surveys to help develop each of their own, as RLC starts their own financial tutoring program.
37. The RLC has begun a fee – based service under The Lakeshore Language Center. These services offer ACT prep, tutoring for the written driver license test, ESL curriculum, and translation and transcription services.
38. The coalition discussed as a team who needs to become more involved in order to increase the chances of mandating the financial literacy component within our schools. We want financial literacy to be recognized in Racine’s local, public schools and mandatory courses to be taken to graduate. We are looking to involve more banks and legislative professionals at our upcoming meetings.

Next Meeting: November 26, 2013 at 3pm-4:30pm – Racine Literacy Council, 734 Lake Avenue