

## Financial Literacy on the Hill and at the Village

College Hill Library and Warren Village, that is. On Jan. 19, **Sandra Kemper** and **Diane Wightman** of the CSCPAs **Financial Literacy Task Force** presented *Developing A Spending Plan And Other Financial Management Tips* at College Hill Library in Westminster. The program had a special twist. One session was held for children, while another ran simultaneously for parents. Although the attendance was light—two children and four adults—the program gained the attention of a reporter from Metro North Newspapers. An article, *CPAs want to take fear out of budgets*, appeared in the Jan. 28 issue of Westminster Window as a result.

The article began with, “When people hear the word ‘budget,’ many times they cringe with fear. But the Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) wants to help ease the tension for local families...” According to Wightman, chair of the task force, “It went well. I look forward to doing it again and hope to do it in other libraries as well.”

### Five With Passion

Meet Andrea, Charella, Joe, Laura, and Lyndsay. They are residents at Warren Village in Denver, and they all have financial goals and dreams of a better future for themselves and their children. Andrea rides her bike wherever she goes, year-around, so she’d like to buy a car in the next year, save for a house, and someday take her son to Australia. It would be a “whole lot easier” for Charella if the bank would tell her “no”

when she goes in to withdraw funds. “But they just keep giving it to me,” she laments. Charella wants to learn how to control her spending and someday buy a Suburban to drive her six kids around.



Standing, left to right: Amy King, Charella, Andrea, Lyndsey, Sandy Kemper, Joe. Seated, left to right: Sarah Buescher, Laura, Debbi Warden.

Joe can pay his bills on time, but he can’t seem to keep the rest from running through his fingers, including the ten percent of his small budget he spends on cigarettes. A budding graphic designer, Laura thinks she could cut her monthly spending by not going to Whole Foods or going out for sushi all the time. Then she’d have money to finish her degree. Lyndsay is working on finishing her college degree and in the next few years wants to buy a house.

“Ten residents came the first week, and five returned the second week. These would be the five who have the passion to do this,” says **Debbi Warden**, one of the four task force members who worked with these indi-

viduals. **Sarah Buescher**, **Sandra Kemper**, and **Amy King** also provided assistance.

*Take Control of Your Finances: Plan for Your Future* is a three-session program, developed by the task force to teach the benefits of developing a spending plan. The program, which began on Jan. 21 and concluded on Feb. 11, taught participants the importance of setting goals, explored the difference between wants and needs, and included understanding the importance credit ratings play in all aspects of life. Participants worked one-on-one with the task force volunteers to develop their personal spending plans as a start toward achieving their financial goals.

“The attendees are all parents with a vision. They have similar goals of wanting to build an ‘emergency fund’ and to buy a home in a few years. They just need an action plan, so they can put one foot in front of the other to get there,” says Warden. King adds, “My take-away from this adventure is that improving financial literacy is not about complicated financial transactions and topics. It really boils down to the simple principles of comparing what comes in versus what goes out and taking responsibility for putting anything leftover towards your goals.”

Interested in volunteering or using these new materials? Contact **Liz Julin** at [ljulin@cocpa.org](mailto:ljulin@cocpa.org), (303) 741-8607, or (800) 523-9082, ext. 107, for details. ▲