



Highlights from 2019:

- 92% of Super Pantry graduates improved one or more financial behaviors
- 2,085 youth learned how the choices they make now can affect their financial future.
- 97% of 3rd graders learned to choose what they need with their money (rather than just what they want).
- 99 adult financial management sessions reached 280 participants with education to improve their financial stability



Inside this issue:

Super Pantry Lessons Strengthen Financial Skills	2
Equifax Breach Webinar Prompts Action	2
Participants Recommend Money Series	3
3rd Graders Learn About Economics at Kids Marketplace	3
Our Sponsors	4
Thank You to Our Volunteers!	4

Strengthening Personal Finances Through Education

Families who achieve financial stability are better able to meet their own housing, social welfare, and health care needs. They are also less likely to experience conflict over finances and thus better able to provide for their children's physical and emotional needs. Families who are able to make their payments on time, meet their tax obligations, and reduce their debt contribute to the overall well-being of the local economy. By strengthening personal finances through education, our programs support family self-sufficiency.

Super Pantry Lessons Strengthen Financial Skills



The Incentives Pictured Encourage Participants to Complete the Series

“Working on paying off debt a little at a time with a plan makes it possible!”

-Comment from a Super Pantry Participant

Between 2015 and 2019, more than 400 people learned about managing money through interactive lessons at our Super Pantry program.

On their follow-up surveys, participants said they had started doing things like writing financial goals, saving for emergencies, having a written spending and savings plan, opening a bank account, and paying bills on time.

Overall, 92% of program graduates

said they had changed or planned to change at least one financial behavior because of the program.

Perhaps even more important than the behavior change was the change in self-confidence.

Participants felt better prepared to plan, set goals, save money and pay off debt. Some of the comments included:

• “[I learned] how to better plan for unexpected expenses, i.e. car repair or a

heating bill surge;”

• “I learned the importance of planning and having goals;”

• “Have an emergency fund savings and it doesn’t have to be high amounts;” and

• “I will watch my spending habits more closely and impulse buy as little as possible.”

These responses show that those who graduate really feel empowered to improve their circumstances.

Equifax Breach Webinar Prompts Action

The Equifax data breach exposed all the components an identity thief needs to commit a variety of crimes against consumers. Through this webinar, 25 people explored a more comprehensive strategy to reduce the likelihood that they will be victims in the future.

After the program, the number of people

who planned to take steps to protect themselves had increased:

• **92%** said they planned to investigate whether or not their e-mail address had been compromised in any breaches;

• **88%** had signed up or planned to sign up for either free or paid credit monitoring;

• **72%** had frozen or planned to freeze their credit.

One participant commented, “There are so many more ways for a breach to occur than I had realized!.” When asked what they will do differently, one person wrote, “[I will] make a comprehensive financial security plan and implement it!”



Webinar Informs Consumers

Participants Recommend Managing Your Money Series

Participants not only benefit from our six-lesson Managing Your Money Series, they also highly recommend it to others:

“If you are questioning where is all my money going? Or where can I get more? This class is for you!!!”

“...after the classes are done, it's a very empowering feeling because you realize you can do this.”

“Down to Earth straightforward presentations, allowing questions - no judgement.”

“All is great - I bought a house and am still using what you taught me to this day!”

“I urge everyone to take this class. Think of it as an investment in your future.”



Workplace Managing Your Money Series

3rd Graders Learn About Economics at Kids Marketplace

One-hundred thirty eight 3rd graders learned economic concepts through a hands-on Kids Marketplace activity.

Students discovered how to make good financial decisions, explored the difference between needs and wants, and considered the importance of math skills in everyday life.

The students received an occupation with their monthly salary. Then,

they experienced the financial obligations that adults deal with every day, as they visited booths representing the categories in a typical family budget. After making choices on items such as housing, clothing, food, transportation, fun, and even pets, students had improved their understanding of important financial concepts.

•97% learned to choose what they need with their money

(rather than just what they want).

- 96% learned that life has surprises that can cost extra money;
- 93% learned that jobs pay different amounts;
- 87% learned how to give up one thing to choose another.

One student commented, “It was very fun and incredible.” Another student stated, “I really had fun and you can learn at the same time.”



Student Visits a Booth at Kids Marketplace

“I observed a lot of critical thinking which surprised me for 3rd graders.”

-Comment from a Kids Marketplace Simulation Volunteer

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We would like to thank the following sponsors who have each invested at least \$650 each in support of our programs. Through their gifts we are able to help more local families achieve a brighter financial future:

Wells Fargo
Farmers & Merchants Bank
MidAtlantic Farm Credit
Raffa, P.C.
Shenandoah Community Foundation
First Bank

For more information about becoming a business sponsor, contact Karen Poff. If you personally share in our vision and would like to make a gift to ensure this work continues, use the "Give Now" link at our website or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/givetonsvfinancialed>. Gifts are made to our program through the Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc., a 501c3 organization. Every gift, big or small, has a lasting impact.

Thank You to Our Priceless Volunteers!

We could not accomplish this work without the enthusiasm and dedication of our volunteers. During 2019, 248 volunteers gave 2,294 hours of their time in support of our programs. Many of these volunteers assisted with our financial

simulations, providing hands-on financial education to youth and adults or serving in support roles such as publicity and data entry.

Others served in educational roles, teaching classes, working with small groups or individuals, and managing specific programs. These volunteers complete a 30-hour training program, as well as a thorough screening process. Those completing 50 hours of service receive the title of Master Financial Education Volunteer.



The following volunteers achieved *Master Financial Education Volunteer* status in 2019:

Kathy Chrisman
Tiffany Ford
Rebecca Myers
Cindi Sechler
Trish Snyder

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."