

Initiative: Youth Financial Literacy

Through a comprehensive community assessment in 2008, Green Mountain United Way identified Economic Advancement as a priority area and began implementing the Youth Financial Literacy initiative to help prepare high school students for financial independence as they head off to college, enter the workforce or join the military.

Working together with the Vermont Jump\$tart Coalition, schools, Central VT Community Action Council, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of NH/VT, banks, and most importantly, students, Green Mountain United Way seeks to provide youth with financial knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Understanding credit cards, credit scores and credit reports
- Budgeting and savings
- Financial planning and management
- Protecting your identity
- Loans

Why Financial Literacy?

With this initiative, Green Mountain United Way is mobilizing communities throughout its five county region to respond to a challenge that affects all members of our community. With the current economic climate, it is now more important than ever that our next generation of workers, leaders and community members be prepared to manage their finances, build credit, and plan and save for the future, ensuring their wellbeing and success as well as the economic wellbeing of our communities.

The Vermont Jump\$tart Coalition's survey in 2008 confirmed the concern expressed by many, that Vermont high school seniors are in fact struggling with financial literacy. Vermont seniors scored slightly above the national average on the survey, however, the overall score for Vermont students was below passing.

At a time when schools are pressured with not enough time in the day for all that needs to be accomplished, we are presented with a challenge as to how to provide students with the financial skills that are needed to prepare them for the complex world of finances after high school.

What better time than now, when local communities are working to build our economy, to invest in our youth!



What Can Communities Do?

Green Mountain United Way is encouraging all members of the community to help with this initiative. Join the Jump\$tart Coalition, volunteer at workshops and seminars at schools, help with planning, or simply spread the word to raise awareness on the importance of preparing our youth for financial independence.

For more information, please visit www.gmunityedway or contact: Molly Gleason, Community Impact Director 802-229-9532, mgleason@gmunityedway.org