

## LATINO FINANCE PROGRAM 2008



This series of 4 financial workshops designed specifically to address the need of Latino families living in Cache County was developed and taught in April and October 2008. 8 workshops were conducted in 2008 with about 40 adults and a similar number of children attending each workshop session. Each of the financial series workshops consisted of 4 sessions, with one held each week for 4 weeks. Sessions were held in the school partner Logan City Schools facility, Bridger Elementary School, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sessions included financial information on:

- Goal setting and organizing financial files
- Budgeting and insurance
- Credit and banking
- Home ownership and retirement.

Spanish translators were present at each workshop.

To advertise the Latino finance program, posters were taken to local retail stores and flyers were mailed to LDS Stake Presidents and other religious leaders in the Cache Valley community. Those wanting to attend were encouraged to bring their whole family. We have learned that the engagement of Latino family members with light refreshments are critical to the successful attendance of programs such as this. We had an average of 31 USU students volunteer to assist with the child care at the workshop. A team of 11 USU students that were paid assistants and interns assisted with the program. A total of 46 Latino adults were able to use these workshops to qualify to start an Individual Savings Account for business, education, or a home. The development and delivery of this program was made possible through an USU Extension Applied Research grant.

Participant comments of the program indicate the perceived success of those who attended. Representative comments include: "What I have learned is not to put myself into more debt, pay what I owe first, and save more." "We now have a budget, organized our financial documents, only have one credit card for emergencies, and save money." "I have decided to pay more than the minimum payments on my debts to finish faster." "This class has motivated me to pay off debts, save for the future, open a savings account, and finish paying off my house." 100% of the evaluation respondents found the workshops to be beneficial.

Leadership for the Latino Finance Program came from Adrie Roberts, Cache County; Teresa Hunsaker, Weber County; and Jay Bladen and Amanda Horrocks, finance program interns from Utah State University.