

University Students Don't Need a Piggy Bank to Help Elementary Children Learn About Money - Just a Moonjar

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SEATTLE, Feb. 10 /PRNewswire/ -- How do you teach 400 third-graders about money values and sharing? Ask S.I.F.E. (Students In Free Enterprise) members at Heritage University, Central Washington. They've embarked on a project that embraces S.I.F.E.'s motto -- "Changing the World" -- and they intend to do just that, one classroom of third-graders at a time. Today, an early-morning ribbon-cutting event at Lincoln Elementary School in Toppenish, WA, marked the official start of their 20-classroom program, followed by interactive learning sessions.

These students partnered with Moonjar, an innovative Seattle company committed to financial literacy by creating learning tools for children that teach real-life skills -- money management, goal setting and family communication. Using Moonjar's Leader's Lesson Plan and colorful Moneyboxes -- one each for saving, spending and sharing, the students give their young learners an engaging, visual and hands-on approach to understanding money.

"We set out to help kids make their dreams become real," said Moonjar's founder Eulalie Scandiuzzi. "And now the S.I.F.E. students are doing the same for us. At Moonjar, we are so encouraged by these students' dedication to teaching children lifelong money skills, as well as their ability to involve the community in this endeavor."

Over the course of nine months, S.I.F.E. students plan to teach nearly 1000 third-graders, as well as follow a group of these children to track their saving, spending and sharing activities.

"It's exciting to see the kids learning and hear their stories," says Ricky Guadarramo, S.I.F.E. coordinator at Heritage University. "Knowing we are already making a difference in our valley, we want to make this happen all over the country and even the world."

They will present this project along with several others at their regional competition this spring. The students translated Moonjar's Leader's Lesson Plan into Spanish and created a bi-lingual teaching guide. They plan to share their program with S.I.F.E. groups across the country so other students will be able to teach financial literacy to children in their own states.

S.I.F.E.'s project currently funded by donations from D&J's Construction LLC, Washington Beef, Bank of America in Sunnyside and Bon-Macy's Seattle.

To learn more about how students in S.I.F.E. are Changing the World, visit <http://www.sife.org/>, or to find out how you can be a part of teaching children lifelong money skills, contact <http://www.moonjar.com/>. Moonjar

Web site: <http://www.moonjar.com/>

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