



Photos provided by FBH
Food Brings Hope students from Westside Elementary, above, and Holly Hill School, right, recently graduated from the financial literacy program, Hands On Banking, presented by United Way of Volusia & Flagler Counties.



Banking graduates

FBH, United Way program teaches kids money management skills

DAYTONA BEACH — Student participants of Food Brings Hope's afterschool program — KidsZone for elementary, and TeenZone for middle and high — recently graduated from the financial literacy program, Hands On Banking.

This interactive banking program was made possible through a partnership between Food Brings Hope and United Way of Volusia & Flagler Counties' "Campaign for Working Families."

"Exposing financial literacy to students, especially those in elementary and middle schools, is very essential inasmuch that they absorb the information with

open minds," said Shelia Jackson, program coordinator for Campaign for Working Families. "Not only do they understand they share the information with their parents who in turn may begin to improve or change their financial habits."

Students from Westside Elementary, Pierson Elementary, Southwestern Middle and Holly Hill K-8 schools engaged in four sessions lead by Wells Fargo employees, such as Priscilla Cannon, who shared their skills and insight into budgeting, saving and being a smart shopper.

"I was able to teach about the importance of setting a goal and a plan

for their finances so that the children can set a proper budget and balance their current income all while saving for the future," said Cannon. "As a result, students will understand the difference between needs and wants and be able to make financial decisions based on necessity first."

On the final class session, students were presented a certificate of completion from program facilitators and were able to enjoy a celebration that included sweet treats.

"In order for our communities to improve a better quality of living with our low to moderate income families, we must

start with the children," said Jackson. "Once they learn and are trained to manage their finances and build assets, they will become financially stable adults."

"Food Brings Hope looks forward to participating in this special program each year. The lessons and habits students learn in these classes will stay with them throughout adulthood," said Forough B. Hosseini, FBH founder and chair. "We want to thank everyone who is a part of this annual program who helps to educate our students as they work to reach the goal of leading a financially sound future."