



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Austin Middle School Students Win National Financial Literacy Contest

Webb Sixth Grade Class to be Honored in Nashville for Innovative Financial Literacy Project

Austin, TX – (March 12, 2009) – A Legacy of Giving, a local non-profit that teaches children the value of philanthropy as part of their school curriculum, today announced Austin ISD's Webb Middle School as national champion of The LEAGUE State Farm Financial Literacy Grant Poster Competition. Students will accept the award on March 18, at the 20th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Nashville, TN.

Webb Middle School students in Therese Porch's sixth grade ELDA Academy (an ESL program) class distinguished themselves with breadth and creativity by conducting two financial literacy projects.

To teach the fundamentals of budget management, students created mock banks, institutions and businesses in which to save and spend play money. Students then determined the best way to allocate their money and how extra funds from the grant should be spent. Following the exercise, the students presented their ideas to their classmates and decided to disperse remaining funds between several different organizations. Their presentation, submitted along with a video, secured top honors at the national competition.

"We were excited to receive the State Farm grant to help promote financial literacy among our students," said Reynaldo Garcia, principal at Webb Middle School. "This topic is timely considering the economic challenges facing our nation today. It is vital that students learn the importance of a budget and how to incorporate a donation plan."

The Financial Literacy Project, aimed to teach financial literacy and responsibility to students, was distributed to 6-12 grade students around the country including five Austin-area Title I schools. Each school was asked to document and create an engaging demonstration, communicating the importance of being financially literate.

A Legacy of Giving was able to initiate The Financial Literacy Project in Austin as part of a larger grant received by The LEAGUE, A Legacy of Giving's national partner.

"These types of hands-on projects truly work to empower youth and teach students that they can have a positive influence in the world," said Linda Brucker, executive director of A Legacy of Giving. "We were pleased, not only to secure the grant from State Farm, but also to see the enthusiasm among Austin students to participate in the project."

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About A Legacy of Giving:

Founded in 2007 under the umbrella of the Austin Community Foundation, A Legacy of Giving advanced its mission to empower children through philanthropy education to become more engaged in improving their communities and world. A Legacy of Giving believes that if children learn to be compassionate at the earliest ages, they will continue to be engaged in their communities and offer their gifts of time, treasure, and talent as adults. A Legacy of Giving empowers students to take action in their communities by offering them well-planned, hands-on, real-life projects. The vision of A Legacy of Giving is to grow a generation of givers.

About The LEAGUE:

Created by a consortium of business, education, government, media, non-profit leaders and youth, The LEAGUE empowers students to "get in the game" of giving by providing free resources for teachers to engage students in making a positive difference in their community and world. It's school and web-based. Learn more at www.theleague.org.