



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Interested Teachers and Counselors

RE: Presentations to Students and Adults on Personal Financial Literacy Provided by Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program

Thank you for your interest in the CARE program offered in the Chicago area. This memo is written (1) to give you some background on the CARE program and (2) to explain in greater detail the typical CARE presentation. **Please note that the CARE volunteers will provide all the teaching themselves. You simply need to schedule them for the relevant venue. We do all of this for FREE.**

Background on the CARE program

The CARE program is a national program designed to alert students and adults to the many consequences of consumer credit abuse. It is organized as a § 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. It is now being administered by the American Bankruptcy Institute. It was the subject of a story on NPR and a segment on WTTW. You can find out more about the CARE program by visiting our local web site at www.CAREChicago.org. (where you can view and download materials) and the CARE national website at <http://www.care4yourfuture.org>.

This program developed out of a growing conviction among legal and business professionals that financial literacy must improve. The CARE program achieves its goal by in-school presentations to students and presentations to other community groups, including churches and affinity groups. Bankruptcy judges, lawyers, bankruptcy trustees, and members of TransUnion (one of the three major credit reporting bureaus) typically give these presentations. We make these presentations for free, taking time out of our own schedules to meet with students in the school environment.

We are a Preferred Partner for the Chicago Public Schools Financial Education Program. As a result, our program is the perfect supplement to any financial literacy program, especially to any unit on consumer credit and is a perfect building block for satisfaction of the CPS transcript requirement for financial education. We distinguish ourselves by bringing real life stories (including those we see in bankruptcy court and on credit profiles) and experiences to the classroom. Our programs have been highly successful, in part because the students detect and appreciate both the expertise and the passion of the people making the presentations.

Last school year alone we gave 157 presentations at more than 35 different venues where we spoke to over 4000 students and other young adults. Among the CPS schools we visited were Amundsen High School, Nancy Jefferson Alternative High School, Roosevelt High School and Taft High School. Because of the importance of our message, we continue to try to find new venues to help make a difference.

Overview of the typical CARE presentation

CARE presentations are informative, useful and presented in everyday terms that students readily absorb. We aim to be direct, interactive, multimedia, concrete, and relevant. To achieve this goal, we normally have two

or three speakers at a program. We can do presentations from 30 minutes to 2 hours long. We can bring teams if you want to have two or more classes running simultaneously. We can come several times to your school to cover different topics on different days. We can craft the presentations to fit special needs or interests of you and your students. Our programs can be made during individual classroom periods or to larger groups, including assemblies. We will get you all the presentation materials and videos before the date of the presentation so they can be downloaded in your classroom and ready to go.

For a program that runs forty to fifty minutes, a typical presentation will usually cover one (or sometimes two) of the following topics:

- **Credit Cards**: this program discusses the proper use of credit cards, the differences between credit cards and debit cards, advantages and disadvantages of using credit cards, key features of credit cards, including rates, “buzz word” terminology, fees and affinity cards and the importance of always paying your monthly credit card bill in full.
- **Credit Scores and Identity Theft**; we have partnered with Transunion to provide information about credit scores, how they are calculated, what affects your credit score, and the dangers of and strategies to prevent identity theft. This program is usually combined with the credit card presentation.
- **Student Loans**: this program discusses key metrics about student loans, the differences between student loans and true financial aid, the differences among the various types of federal and private student loans and, critically, important rules of thumb for determining the amount of student loans that the students can afford.
- **Bankruptcy**: this program focuses on why you don’t want to go into bankruptcy. We provide background on the different type of bankruptcies, bankruptcy disclosure obligations and the ramifications of filing bankruptcy.

With all of our programs we attempt to keep the students engaged by telling personal war stories and using interactive PowerPoints, videos (from SNL, the Daily Show, DEE-1 the rapper and College Humor), skits and Kahoot games. We allow time for and welcome student questions.

We have no hidden agenda. We work for **free**. We get satisfaction from knowing that that we have done our part to educate the audience on the optimal strategy for intelligent use of credit cards, for smart management of student loans and for other strategies to avoid being head over heels in debt.

If you would like to learn more, please contact one of us (contact information below). Or if you would like to schedule a presentation, just go to this link and fill out our easy, short questionnaire, and we’ll get back to you right away:

[CARE Request for Presentation](#)

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