

February 16, 2009

Meads Mill Middle School in Northville celebrates Student-Run Credit Union Grand Opening

Meads Mill Middle School in Northville recently celebrated the grand opening of the school's student-run credit union in partnership with Community Financial.

Meads Mill is the second middle school within Northville Public Schools to partner with Community Financial's student-run credit union program which provides students a convenient way to get into the savings habit and gives volunteers an excellent opportunity to learn career skills.

According to Mary Kerwin, education partnership coordinator at Community Financial, students who volunteer to work for the student-run credit union participate in an extensive application and interviewing process.

Seventh grade students from Laura DeMarti's Math Enrichment class were given the opportunity to learn valuable career skills when applying to fill the volunteer positions of branch managers, marketing representatives, tellers, bookkeepers and computer operators.

"We ask them a series of questions including what skills and qualities they can bring to their student credit union positions," said Kerwin. "By going through this process, they gain a better understanding of what it takes to prepare for the future."

"The credit union is a great learning opportunity for the students and helps to provide good personal skills, the importance of saving as well as a better understanding of finances, how banking works and the basics of how money circulates," said DeMarti.

"It's great to have this partnership with Community Financial," added Principal Dr. Sue Meyer. "The PTA helped out with the interviewing process and their support is also appreciated."

Five of Northville's elementary schools have student-run credit unions which feed into similar programs at Meads Mill and Hillside Middle Schools and, subsequently, to Northville High School.

Kerwin said, "Our program is designed to help students build on their financial skills as they progress from elementary school to the upper grade levels."

Along with the student-run credit union program, Community Financial team members give classroom presentations throughout the district to students about saving basics, various economic concepts and skills for making educated financial decisions.

Membership in Community Financial is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in the Michigan cities, townships or counties of Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Novi, Alpena, Otsego and Montmorency. With more than 40,000 members, Community Financial provides financial services to members at eight branch locations and through a variety of automated and online services. For more information, visit the credit union web site at www.cfcu.org or call (734) 453-1200 or (877) 937-2328, toll free.

Photo Caption: Community Financial and Meads Mill Middle School in Northville celebrate the grand opening of the student-run credit union. Principal Dr. Sue Meyer cuts the ribbon with the help of seventh grade student volunteers and in the back row, from r. to l. Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Mary Kay Gallagher, Teacher Laura DeMarti and Mary Kerwin, Community Financial education partnership coordinator.

