

Mission and History

The mission of DoughMain Financial Literacy Foundation is to prepare today's students and the larger community for a lifetime of financial responsibility. In today's fast-paced consumer society, financial literacy is an essential everyday life skill. It can mean the difference between having the ability to understand and manage limited financial resources and risks effectively, and the total financial collapse of generations of families. It helps people make informed choices, day-to-day and throughout their lives.

The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity, was founded in 2012 in the wake of the 2008 global recession after extensive discussion and planning among various constituents: New Jersey parents, educators and entrepreneurs interested in promoting lifelong financial literacy, responsibility and ethical financial behavior among youth. After spending several years in development of an original, 60-hour personal finance education curriculum, we rolled out our FitKit Program to NJ and PA schools where teachers have provided our financial literacy training to more than *6,500 middle and high school students* in the Central NJ, Bucks Co. PA region. We currently serve a growing number of schools (approved for approx. 40,000 students) in PA, NJ, SC, DC, WY, GA and the Barney Charter School Initiative (OH, CO, TX, NM, GA, AR, NV, FL, MI, IN) with ethnically and socio-economically challenged populations. The outcomes have been impressive, and testimonials show the course is improving students' money-spending habits and altering their financial decision-making processes. We are currently developing Community versions of the curriculum catered toward vulnerable populations outside the school system. Our financial literacy programs are offered at no cost to schools and communities with the financial support of local business and organizations.

Reversing the Decline in Financial Literacy

The Foundation is working to reverse the decline in financial literacy in our country and build stronger, more financially literate youth and communities. Whether at school or in the home, 95% of U.S. youth are not receiving the instruction they need to understand the basic tenets of being financially literate or make healthy financial decisions. A Forbes Magazine Article on April 3, 2018, says "America Has a Financial Literacy Problem", and reports: Two thirds of American adults cannot pass a *basic* financial literacy test; 44% of Americans do not have enough cash to cover a \$400 emergency; 43% of student loan borrowers are not making payments; 38% of U.S. households have credit card debt and 33% of American adults have \$0 saved for retirement.

Our Goals for 2020

The Foundation is seeking your support to help us reach more students and communities in 2020 and beyond. Our young people are losing their ability to be self-sufficient, saddled by excessive credit card debt, student loans it will take them decades to pay off and other financial obstacles to independence. Through our school programs, we are working to reverse this trend before it jeopardizes the ability of our youth to be self-sufficient and financially-independent adults. We are expanding our reach to more schools and communities beyond the NJ-PA-NY region nationally, with a focus on reaching underprivileged youth.

Our goal is to reach 100,000 students over the next 12-18 months and over 1 million in the next 3-4 years.

To our knowledge, the Foundation's is the only curriculum to meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards for 21st-Century Life and Careers, National Standards for Financial Literacy by the Council for Economic Education, JumpStart Coalition National Standards for Personal Finance Education and National Common Core.

Cost Per School: The FitKit has online components as well as print materials for teachers and students. Bringing the FitKit into a new school costs about \$3,995 for H.S. and \$1995 for Middle Schools. That includes print and electronic copies of the educator master set, 25 student books and all resources. Depending on how many times a day and per week the class is taught at the school, the number of students taking the course can be anywhere from 25 to multiples of hundreds. Moreover, the existing materials can be used year after year, making the cost per student less and less with each added year of use. DoughMain Financial Literacy Foundation also offers an electronic teacher presentation platform that is available for subscription with downloadable student resources, as well as small group educator professional development workshops and one-to-one mentoring programs (additional cost) to assist educators.

Successful Outcomes and Measurable Achievements

Our Foundation measures program effectiveness and ensures accountability through qualitative and quantitative data, which has revealed the successful outcomes of the FitKit programs:

- The FitKit increased positive attitudes related to learning about personal finance from 19% to 91%
- Financial literacy scores increase by an average 40% for students that participate in the FitKit Program
- The FitKit has gained recognition as an "Innovative Educational Program" in Pennsylvania (2016-2020)
- The Foundation established a culturally diverse and scalable model of the FitKit and successfully piloted it at New Hope Solebury, PA and Woodbridge (NJ) High School, which has a 65-80% minority student population (2016/17)
- The Foundation developed an online Teacher Presentation Platform with plans for online classroom and self-guided course
- The Foundation has implemented the FitKit programs in NJ, PA, SC, WY with additional schools in multiple states adopting or reviewing
- The initial development of FitKit Middle School Edition to pilot in 2020.

The FitKit Express Program is a 6-hour offshoot of highly successful school programs aimed at underserved adult communities. It is positioned to be another impactful program for a variety of reasons:

- Content areas are based on the original FitKit with sound methodology and content
- It has relevant and relatable video content, custom-made for the target audience
- It is designed based on the established principles of adult learning
- There is existing demand for such a versatile adult personal finance program both online and locally
- The Foundation enjoys good relations with local community centers, libraries and businesses to help scale and spread the program to vulnerable populations in need of financial literacy skills.

We look forward to discussing our vision and ways in which our Foundation can partner with your organization to take personal financial literacy to disenfranchised and vulnerable youth and families in an effective way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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