



SPRING 2010

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## **AmeriCorps Member Developing Money \$mart Financial Literacy Program**

Your Expertise and Knowledge in Financial Matters Could Help

Coalition for Kids is proud to be hosting an AmeriCorps member, Elizabeth James, who is serving as a Financial Literacy Specialist to help us design and launch Money \$mart, a financial literacy program. Elizabeth started at the end of February and will be working with us through August to provide education programs on financial literacy.

The goal of Money \$mart is to help individuals and families build financial skills and knowledge so they can make fully informed money management decisions. We will offer financial literacy workshops as well as one-

on-one support for individuals seeking assistance in setting personal finance goals and creating family budgets. You can learn more about the Money \$mart program on our website at [www.cfk-gp.org/MoneySmart/MoneySmart.htm](http://www.cfk-gp.org/MoneySmart/MoneySmart.htm).

Financial literacy workshops will be announced on our website and in the community as they are scheduled. If you or someone you know could benefit from some additional financial literacy education or personal financial assistance, visit our website or contact Elizabeth for more information.

### **Do you have a background in banking and finance or excellent skills in personal finance?**

Elizabeth is looking for volunteers to help adapt and present the curriculum for financial literacy workshops. Volunteers may also work with individuals to help them with budgeting and other personal finance matters. There will be a variety of opportunities, whether you want to volunteer for one workshop or on an ongoing basis, so if you are interested call Elizabeth at 541-479-1929 or email her at [elizabeth@cfk-gp.org](mailto:elizabeth@cfk-gp.org).

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## **RSVP & AARP Partnered to Help Prepare Over 2500 Tax Returns**

Free Tax Preparation Services Huge Relief to Seniors and Low-Income Families

Josephine County RSVP has partnered with AARP for over 30 years to provide its free Tax Aide program to seniors and low- to mid-income families. In addition to the site at the Family Resource Center volunteers also provide services in the Illinois Valley and Rogue River.

The final numbers haven't been tallied, but volunteers completed and filed over 2500 tax returns this year.

Kathie Saunders, the local Tax Aide coordinator, shared the following story of how the program helped one local couple this year. Of course, this is just one of many wonderful stories.

*One evening we had a couple come in for an appointment to have their taxes done and it was obvious that they were very apprehensive. It seems they had been told by someone at a local store front tax preparation company that they would need to pay approximately \$200 to have their taxes prepared and that it appeared from his inspection of their documents that they would also owe about the same amount in additional taxes.*

*When they had received this news, they knew they could not afford to do this and stewed about it for several more weeks before learning of our services. They made an appointment with us expecting to at least save half of what they anticipated having to come up with in hard earned dollars.*

*We prepared their federal and state tax returns and told them that they were getting just under \$1,000 in combined refunds. It was a huge joy to see their relief at this news. Not only did we complete their tax returns for free, but the huge tax bill they had expected was instead a major refund. They were so extremely grateful for our services and everyone got hugs!!!*

*It is situations like this that keep us all volunteering for*



## Consider Charitable Giving When Creating A Financial Plan

Whether you want to give hundreds of dollars or hundreds of thousands, a planned approach to charitable giving will help your donations go farther and have a bigger impact. By integrating your charitable giving goals into your financial plan, you can use your assets to their fullest potential and make financial contributions as effective as possible. A planned approach allows you to incorporate charitable giving into your everyday money habits and ongoing financial goals.

In addition to the altruistic and goodwill benefits any charitable contribution brings, it can also have significant tax advantages. When deciding your estate-planning strategies, consider a charitable contribution to help the charity of your choice as well as provide you with a steady stream of income and potential tax benefits. There are different options for setting up a

charitable contribution through your estate plan. The easiest is a simple bequest through your will.

### Before creating your plan for charitable giving, ask yourself the following questions:

- Why do you want to give?
- What kind of good works do you value most?
- How much can you afford to give?
- How active do you want to be with your giving?
- How much of your estate do you want to leave to heirs?
- Do you need income from your assets?
- Are you looking for tax deductions?

Remember that charitable contributions are 100% deductible from estate taxes, if estate taxes apply.

What may be even more beneficial for you than a simple

bequest is a charitable remainder trust (CRT). A CRT is an irrevocable, tax-exempt trust in which you place assets to provide income for you or your beneficiaries during a specific period of time (i.e., your/their lifetime or a term not to exceed 20 years). At the end of that period, the remaining assets will be turned over to the charity of your choice. The trust can be funded with a wide assortment of assets, including bonds, mutual funds, stocks, and real estate and may be set up during life or through your will (testamentary trust).

Your financial advisor can give you more information about these options and others. There are also many resources online if you'd like to research the topic more yourself. Whatever option you choose, including charitable giving in your financial plan will allow you to leave a legacy that reflects your interests and values.

*Excerpted from [www.ameriprise.com](http://www.ameriprise.com)*

## Meet Our AmeriCorps Member, Elizabeth James

Please join us in welcoming Elizabeth to the Coalition for Kids family and our community. If you see her in the halls or out in the community introduce yourself and say hello.

Elizabeth was born and raised in Grants Pass and graduated from North Valley High School in 2005. She attended University of Oregon where she majored in International Studies with a minor in African Studies, and graduated with a Bachelor of

Arts in June 2009.

Elizabeth studied in East Africa for four and a half months during the Spring of 2007 and is proficient in Swahili. Following graduation she relocated to Europe, and has just returned to Oregon in January.

While her future career aspirations are not clear Elizabeth can imagine herself doing many different types of work. As she says, "I just want to be happy and make positive contributions."



**Do you know someone who would make a great CFK board member?  
Is that someone you?**

Coalition for Kids is always looking for individuals, passionate about our mission, who might like to serve on our Board of Directors.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone you know, or learn more about board service, visit our website at [www.cfk-gp.org](http://www.cfk-gp.org) and click the Board Nominations button on the left menu.

**Thank You!**

