

NEWS RELEASE

May 2010

For More Information Contact:

Catherine Milone, President
Junior Achievement of New Jersey
609-419-0404 x 108
cmilone@ja-nj.org

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Pictured above are the Virtua volunteers.

Virtua Employee Role Models Make a Difference in the City of Camden

CAMDEN, NJ – Virtua partnered with Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) at D.U.E. Season Charter School to provide JA's financial literacy and economic educational programs to students in Camden, New Jersey. This two-day program, a true business-education partnership, involved 53 Virtua employee role models implementing JANJ's programs to inspire students in the Camden community. Virtua employees provided 332 elementary students in grades K-5 with financial education and the opportunity to learn about the economics of life through hands-on, activity-based programs. Marked by a reputation of underachievement and various social stigmas, students from Camden are often overlooked and overshadowed by the depravity that plagues their cities' once-thriving community. JANJ and the D.U.E Season Charter School are proud of our partnership with Virtua to bring the real world into the classroom through activities that encourage financial literacy and economic opportunity.

A JA Day event takes place at a local elementary school giving volunteers the opportunity to teach Junior Achievement's (JA's) financial literacy and work readiness curriculum in a condensed time frame. JA's activity-based programs are taught over the course of one school day (from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm) by teams of two or more volunteers. This program is a powerful team-building experience for volunteers as well as a memorable community service project for the school. The benefit for the school is a free program that meets educational standards with minimal time taken from the classroom. JA's curriculum is tied to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards as well as the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

At a time when the need for financial literacy education has never been more necessary or widespread, these corporate community volunteers provided the elementary school children with JA's interactive, colorful and information-rich curriculum and led hands-on games and activities designed to better equip the children with a fundamental understanding of personal finances. These volunteer role models connected with the students by sharing personal stories from their own childhood, educational and employment backgrounds, and key career success skills. Overall, the day was a rewarding experience for students, teachers and volunteers alike.

"Virtua is very grateful for the opportunity to partner with JANJ and D.U.E. Season Charter School," stated Chris Chekouras, Chief Operating Officer for Virtua Berlin Hospital, Camden & Post Acute Services. "The opportunity for Virtua employees to volunteer their time and share their expertise with the students of D.U.E. Season was both rewarding and inspiring. We look forward to our continued participation with both JANJ and D.U.E. Season."

"We are delighted to have our students participate in JANJ's rigorous and engaging program," said Dr Doris Carpenter, D.U.E. Season's Chief Education Officer. "Our participation advances our mission for our students to embrace the priceless contributions they can make to the American society. Having Virtua volunteers come in as exemplars has been an asset for our students. We are grateful to these volunteers and JANJ for bringing this remarkable program to our school."

About Virtua

We are dedicated to providing each patient and their family with an outstanding experience, and to ensuring the highest quality health care for the community. We are committed to providing our healthcare team with resources, technology and training as well as with opportunities for professional growth.

About D.U.E. Season

D.U.E. Season Charter School is a K-8 public school of choice that primarily serves students residing in Camden, NJ. We believe the children of Camden are not "at risk" but rather "at potential." We pride ourselves in providing a supportive environment permeated with protective factors that create the platform to effect learning and character development.

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement's (JA) mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. JA offers work readiness programs that focus on seven key content areas: business, citizenship, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics/character, financial literacy, and career development. JA Worldwide reaches 9.8 million students per year in 367,305 classrooms and after-school locations. JA programs are taught by volunteers in inner cities, suburbs, and rural areas throughout the United States of America and in 123 countries. For more information, visit www.ja.org. For information on JANJ, please visit www.jani.org