



For Immediate Release

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**Meriwest Credit Union Announces Monthly
Financial Education Classes to Start in 2009**
Classes to be held at their Main Office in San Jose

SAN JOSE, CA – January 6, 2009– In light of the thousands of consumers facing a recessionary economy every day, Meriwest Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions serving Silicon Valley, the Greater Bay Area and Tucson, Arizona announced today that starting in January of 2009 it will be presenting a monthly workshop on Credit Myths and Repair for its adult members and a workshop on Reality Based Budgeting for its teenage members. The classes will be presented at Meriwest’s main office of at 5615 Chesbro Drive in San Jose. Each of the workshops will involve interactive Power Point Presentations, handouts of “Tip Sheets” and group discussions.

Adult Class

Myths of Credit and Credit Repair

There are a lot of beliefs about credit that are simply not true. The course on the Myths of Credit and Credit Repair will walk people through the top ten myths of accessing and managing credit. In addition, Meriwest will also provide the knowledge and the tools to manage your credit report. After this class, one would be able to access their credit report for free, review it, and then address any false or inaccurate items on their credit report and have the items removed permanently.



Youth Class

Reality Based Budgeting

Reality Based Budgeting takes young people through the process of renting an apartment, purchasing a used car, and managing their money in their future life after college. They will learn to make some hard choices in making personal spending decisions. Will they be a successful money manager and have some dollars set aside for a big dinner out with friends? Or will they be sitting at home on a milk carton eating warmed over ramen noodles? All teenagers should take this course and find out what the real world is like. Parents are invited to attend with their teen. Attend the workshop and start making smart money decisions immediately!

“We believe education is the key to financial independence.” said Christopher Owen, President and CEO for Meriwest Credit Union, “We have created these workshops to provide our members and our youth with financial information that can be put to use immediately. In developing these workshops, we focused on the most critical needs of our community: Credit Issues for adults and Money Management for our youth. In an effort to make our community financially sound we have decided to open these classes to the general public. Please watch our website at WWW.Meriwest.com for dates and times of classes and how to RSVP. “

About Meriwest Credit Union

Meriwest Credit Union, one of Silicon Valley’s largest and established financial institutions, has been providing proactive, personal, convenient and innovative financial services to more than 93,000 businesses and families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and Tucson, Arizona, for more than 47 years.

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**Meriwest Provides 7th Grade Classes with “Real World”
Financial Instruction**

Program reaches out to 96 students per week

SAN JOSE, CA – May 27, 2009—Seventh grade students at George Shirakawa Senior Elementary School have benefited from Meriwest Credit Union’s dedication to improving the financial literacy of the young people in their community. Meriwest Credit Union announced today that they have completed a three part program that provided the young people at the public school with education in money management, investment planning, and understanding credit. The program, “Real World Finance,” provided a revealing demonstration of some of the challenges these young adults will face when managing money in an adult world.

After introducing hundreds of students in area schools and in-branch seminars, to personal money management through the successful “Real World Budgeting” workshop created by Meriwest in 2007, not only did Meriwest introduce Shirakawa School’s students to managing an adult budget, they provided them with a future overview of investment and credit education as well. One day a week for three weeks, Community Relations Manager Greg Meyer served as the students’ guide to all things dealing with money. Each week he would meet with three classes of 7th grade students and provide each class with an hour of financial instruction.



“Due to our strict schedule of required courses, we had not been able to fit in any financial education until the very end of the school year.” said Teresa Sadler, a 7th Grade Teacher at George Shirakawa Senior Elementary (K-8) School. “As a member of Meriwest, I was happy to discover they had workshops created just for teenagers and young adults. I know I speak for my fellow 7th Grade teachers, Jade Lee and JoAnn Johnson, that introducing our students to this information early in their financial lives can provide a significant advantage in their ability to make important money management decisions when they are older.”

“Reaching out to the families and children around us and providing them with the financial education they need to improve their lives is a critical part of what a community credit union is all about,” said Greg Meyer, Community Relations Manager for Meriwest Credit Union, “Our number one priority is to educate our members and our community on ways to improve their lives through proper money and credit management. Perhaps one day we can put an end to all foreclosures, repossessions, and bankruptcies.”

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Meriwest Credit Union, one of Silicon Valley's largest and established financial institutions, has been providing proactive, personal, convenient and innovative financial services to more than 94,000 businesses and families throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and Tucson, Arizona, for more than 48 years.

Photo Caption: Greg Meyer, Meriwest Credit Union Community Relations Manager, reviews the budget for the seventh graders at George Shirakawa Senior Elementary.

