



# Tampa CARE Chapter Holds Kickoff Orientation

by Michael Hooi



A 2014 Standard & Poor's survey shows that slightly more than half of American adults are financially literate. The other half is at great risk of incurring high debt and saving less. The survey also finds that the young are a vulnerable group and an important target for financial-education programs. Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) seeks to fill that need. CARE is a national, nonprofit organization that educates students and young adults about what it takes to make wise financial decisions. CARE volunteers give financial-education presentations in high schools, colleges, and community organizations. The CARE network of about 1,000 volunteers continues to expand.

So has the CARE curriculum. The Tampa Chapter has until now used one slideshow for CARE presentations. At our kickoff orientation in early October 2019, the 20 or so of us who attended reviewed CARE's current curriculum, which includes four different slideshows that focus on different financial skills. These include budgeting, obtaining and using credit, handling student loans, and reaching financial independence. A CARE volunteer can now pick a presentation most appropriate for a given audience.

The kickoff orientation included some sharing time. We had several veteran CARE volunteers share stories about their experiences. We were also honored to be joined by representatives from the Hillsborough County Public Schools and the Florida Council on Economic Education, who shared ideas about opportunities to make CARE presentations. We are excited about the opportunity to build relationships with these organizations.

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Since 2007, CARE volunteers from the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association have reached an estimated 5,000+ students and young adults in Hillsborough County alone. With an expanded curriculum and new friends, we look forward to building on our past success in reaching young people with CARE.





Pictured: Representatives from the Hillsborough County Public School System



Pictured: Representatives of the Florida Council on Economic Education