

IMPACT



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Secure Your Future

The Situation

In 2000, the AARP reported that 36% of survey respondents 50 and older had neither advance directives for health care nor up-to-date wills or trusts and that only 17% had all three. Although these legal documents are essential to preparing for financial security in later life, a 2004 Martindale-Hubbell survey revealed that 70% of respondents lacked both a living will and medical directives and only 27% had filed powers of attorney for health care. The American Bar Association estimates that three in five Americans die without a will. Across the nation, Americans admit that they procrastinate and hesitate when it comes to discussing and dealing with issues of death or incapacitation.

Our Response

The Canyon/Owyhee Financial Literacy Coalition, led by UI Extension educator Beverly Healy, teamed with community organizations to fill an unmet need for unbiased, low-cost education on the important legal issues associated with later life. With local attorneys, they offered four *Legally Secure Your Financial Future: Organize, Communicate, Prepare (LSYFF)* workshops in Boise and Caldwell. Instructors guided participants through an evaluation of their important documents and legal affairs and suggested resources to contact for self-help or professional assistance.



Program Outcomes

More than 300 people attended four seminars in Boise and Caldwell. Six months later, the first class reported that:

- 75% had organized family records
- 61% had organized property records
- 57% had written wills
- 50% had inventoried important papers
- 50% had developed household recordkeeping systems

In addition, 81% of participants indicated that they were better prepared for end-of-life issues, and 70% said they had increased their estate-planning knowledge "a lot" or "a great deal."

The LSYFF instructional materials placed on the Web were accessed for 16,189 browsing sessions by individuals from all 50 states and, indeed, from every continent except Antarctica. Check out the curriculum at www.csrees.usda.gov.



June 21, 2005, "Secure Your Future" seminar

The Future

Response to the *LSYFF* seminars has been overwhelming. Summer and fall workshops were filled to capacity, and more workshops are planned for 2006:

- February 2006, Boise

Cooperators and Co-sponsors

A Better Way Coalition
Caldwell Public Library
Caldwell Senior Citizen Center
Community Volunteers
Howdy Neighbor
Idaho Camera
Idaho Power Company
Internal Revenue Service
Mercy Medical Center
NORCO
Preferred Retirement Options
SW Idaho Area Agency on Aging
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center
St. Luke's Regional Medical Center
Western Idaho Community Action Partnerships

For More Information

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