

JEDI — Helping Build Prosperity



Mary
O'Kelly

Mary's Little Lambs
Yreka, CA.



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More than I thought possible!"
~Mary O'Kelly

Spreading the Savings Message

"We at Mary's Little Lambs home child care program, children are learning the value of savings. In an exciting turn, Mary O'Kelly, owner of the Yreka child care business and JEDI participant, has taken her new-found financial wisdom and shared it with the kids

It all started," she recalls, "when I found myself in a big financial mess. I took JEDI's Making Your Money Work class to get into their Building Assets Program, and see how I could get out of my jam."

The Building Assets Program helps people save towards an investment in their future by teaching them about how to manage their money effectively. JEDI matches the savings \$2 for every \$1 they invest towards self-employment, home ownership or education. Accounts are held at Scott Valley Bank.

"I learned so much from this class, more than I thought possible. I learned all about managing my money, budgeting and saving. What the Program Director, Nancy Swift, had to say really made sense. And because of the savings program, I was able to buy a safe van to transport a greater number of kids and help my day care center grow."

Mary was so pleased with what she had learned about saving that she wanted to share it with her own children. "I took them out and started them with savings accounts right away. Now she will be setting up savings accounts for all the children in her day care. They will have a weekly "bank day" where the kids will each deposit whatever pennies they may have into their new accounts, and have a fun time doing it together.

Mary reflects on how far she has come in her own financial understanding. "I now know how to keep my personal finances separate from my business, and have this new van that I couldn't have afforded before. I didn't know how to save, and it hurt me. With my help, these kids should have a brighter future growing up with good savings habits."