



Homepage > EDUCATION

## Workshops Help Adults In Uncertain Economy

By Rachel McNeill

POSTED: 3:03 pm CST December 11, 2008

UPDATED: 3:19 pm CST December 11, 2008



**HOUSTON** -- Eight months ago, Dekeisha Fitzgerald and Teresita Veleros were separated from their husbands, each raising three children and struggling to get ahead financially.

Veleros said, "I found myself in a difficult situation that I could not get myself out of."

They signed up for the Skills for Living 20-20 Power Workshops, which help low- to moderate-income families increase their income and net worth by at least 20 percent.

Skills for Living Vice President Ken Decker told KPRC Local 2, "Our preferred audience are the families who are hardworking, goal-oriented, want to get ahead. They just don't have all of the skills."

The workshops cover everything from getting out from under debt, networking and interviewing skills to navigating insurance, home and car buying.

Fitzgerald said, "The greatest lesson I learned was about saving -- how you can just take a few dollars a day out of each paycheck and save it and let that money make money."

For every extra dollar earned by a student who goes through the program, they manage to save or reduce their debt by about 81 cents.

Decker explained, "The last graduating class had an increase in income of \$1,000 a month. Now, could you use an extra \$1,000 a month? You bet, we all could."

For Veleros and Fitzgerald, their biggest success comes from within.

Veleros said, "It's empowering. It has empowered me to be my own advocate, to be an advocate for my children."

Fitzgerald added, "My son actually said to me the other day, 'Mom, are we rich now?' So I said, 'We're not rich, but we're making better choices with what we have.'"

The next series of workshops begin in January and are free for qualified families if registered by Dec. 15.

The Skills for Living 20-20 Power Workshops are held at 11 locations and there are evening and Saturday classes available.

### More Information:

- [www.skills4living.org](http://www.skills4living.org)

*If you have a story idea that impacts students or schools, KPRC Local 2 wants to hear from you. E-mail us at [youreducationstation@click2houston.com](mailto:youreducationstation@click2houston.com)*

*Copyright 2008 by Click2Houston.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

Education headlines on KPRC sponsored by:



Home

Your Education Station

College Loans

College Scholarships

Search For Classes

Credit Cards



+ News

+ Weather

Hurricanes

Local 2 Investigates

Traffic

+ Sports

Friday Football Frenzy

Politics

+ Entertainment

+ Healthbeat

+ Money

+ Your Education Station

Season 2 Give

+ Family

+ Going Green

+ Technology

Video

Eyes of Texas

Jefferson Awards

Beyond Headlines

Community Events

MARKETPLACE

BBB Advertisers

Holidays

Heart Healthy

Local 2 Experts!

+ Automotive

Dating

+ Travel

+ Houston Jobs

EXTRAS

Click2Win

Click2Houston

Rewards

Gallery Pro Pigskin

Pick'Em

Pets