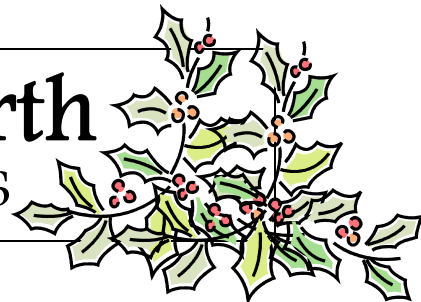


Build Your Net Worth

News & Tools ~December 2006



Gift of Time

By Sherry Ridge

In our December 2005 issue we published ideas from clients that committed themselves to the Transforming Debt Into Wealth®



debt elimination plan, and one way that they chose to cut expenses so they could add to their

accelerator margin was to rethink their gift giving, not just for Christmas but during their entire year.

This past year we have shared these ideas with hundreds of people attending our workshops. One constant theme was truly giving of oneself and one's time is "priceless."

Many shared that when asked about gift ideas, their children, parents, siblings, friends, etc. wanted more time with their loved one.

We live in a fast paced world and one that is full of stress. Stress we bring on ourselves trying to keep up with the Jones or just to keep ahead of the bill collector.

I recall a father who shared that he worked 12 hours a day in his own business and that did not allow a lot of time for his son. Matter of fact he could not remember the last time he was home to eat dinner with his family. He made a commitment to join

Cub Scouts with his son, whom he thought was a video game junkie.

They started making things, camping and having new adventures together.

Three out the five weekdays he comes home for dinner then goes back to his shop. His life, relationship with his son and entire family are



stronger and better than he ever thought possible.

I've said it many times, money can't buy happiness, but your debt sure can stop it.

Sherry Ridge a National Sales Manager with Tower Financial Services™, conducts Transforming Debt into Wealth® workshops all over Lake County, Illinois. She eliminated over \$150,000 in debt in 7.3 years.

Giving of ourselves, by giving our time is worth more than any "hot new IT item"

A few years ago, my husband, started giving me the gift of one lunch or dinner each month. We have dined at expensive restaurants and sub shops, it's not the meal, it is the company that I cherish.

Look around you, listen to what your friends and family ask of you and think about the positive impact it will have on them and you if this holiday season, you give of yourself, you give your time and energy.

Happy Holidays!!

Withdrawal Symptoms

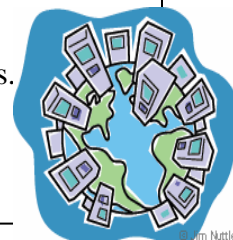
Courtesy of Forbes Magazine

There are more than 1.5 million ATMs in the world.

The biggest immediate gratification addict?

The United States.

More than 400,000 of the cash-dispensing machines have been installed in the country's banks, convenience stores and shops.



A New Year is shortly ahead, many people start the New Year with a new home...Below are 6 easy ways to help sell your house:

Clean, Clean, Clean: Scrub everything, walls, faucets, switches. Hire a professional maid service if need be.

De-Clutter:
If it can fit in a bread basket, pack it up and put it away. Your collectibles are only valuable to you and your family.

Neutral Colors:
Paint rooms in neutral colors that help to make it appear bigger. Your favorite color may be just the opposite of a prospective buyer.

Spacious Master bedroom:
Most master bedrooms have way too much furniture, only have the necessities.

Last minute details:
Put laundry away, remove the shoes by the front door, empty the trash cans, put the toilet seat down, and make all the beds.

Hire a professional stager:
If the job is too big and you just don't know where to start ask your agent for a list of stagers...they can help seal the deal.



Handling Fear and Taking Responsibility

In the June 2006 edition we published an article on *The Fear of Money*, by Sherry Ridge, below are basic principles about handling fear and taking responsibility...

The only way to get rid of the fear of doing something is to go out and do it.

Taking responsibility means that you never blame anyone else for anything you are doing or feeling.

Pushing through fear is less frightening than living with the underlying fear that comes with feeling helpless.

Taking responsibility means that you stop blaming others for the things you are not doing.

Not only will you experience fear whenever you are on unfamiliar territory, but so does everyone else.

Taking responsibility means that you figure out what it is you want to do with/in your life and taking action to achieve it.

Taking responsibility means that YOU stop

that destructive tape recording in your mind and change it with affirmations of your self and dreams.

*Where have you been all my life?
... the client reaction!*

Here is what some of our clients are saying about our debt elimination and wealth building programs

Your debt elimination series workshops were insightful. I thought the materials were easy to understand and practical. I truly feel so relieved knowing I now have a plan.

Thank you very much!!

Helen H.
Spring Valley, IL

Our banker recommended your workshop; he shared some of the book with us. He told us it was the best book he has ever read on personal finances.

We can't wait to get started.

Barb M.
Libertyville, IL

You have started us on a good path. We have surely gotten a wake up call from your class. Although I could KICK myself for not attending sooner. Thank you and we will keep you posted!

Sue J.
Gurnee, IL

Prioritizing your debts

In a recent Bankrate article a “financial advisor” suggested the following methods for prioritizing your debts:

1. Pay off the highest interest rate first
2. List your debts in order of smallest to largest and start with the smallest balance.

These are the same methods that conventional wisdom has been telling us to use for decades. Yet, revolving debt in our country increased in October, 2006 to over \$845 billion dollars, this represents a \$100 billion dollar increase in the last 5 years.

Remember that the Transforming Debt Into Wealth © program is a mathematical equation that is designed to get you out of debt in the fastest possible way. To date no other method is faster.



Can't remember what order to pay off YOUR debts? Contact the consultant that sent you this newsletter to find out

how fast our program will have you out of debt, including your mortgage.

**Federal Reserve Statistical Release, October 6, 2006*

Cost Cutting

Staff Writer

Back by popular demand...so many of our clients ask us for real life practical ways that they can cut costs. You can save hundreds if not thousands of dollars by following these proven cost cutting strategies.

Automobiles

Don't warm your car up by letting it idle. The engine warms up faster when driving than it does when idling and idling wastes about four liters of gas every 15 minutes.

When purchasing a car, compare the prices of at least five dealers before deciding, and remember to negotiate with each one to learn their best price and trade-in offers.



Combine errands into one trip and avoid backtracking whenever possible, this will save you money at the gas pump.

Wait until the last two days of the month to buy a car. The sales staff is normally on commission and are highly motivated to sell cars by the end of the month so that they can “meet their numbers.”

Kitchenware/Appliances

A little-known place where you can get good-quality kitchen utensils and appliances at low prices is restaurant supply companies. Many sell to the general public, and the quality is great, since the products are industrial “built to last” strength.

Consult consumer reports, for energy consumption and

durability before buying a new appliance.

Check at least four stores for prices before buying a new appliance, and remember to negotiate with the salesperson.

Dollar stores are an excellent source for inexpensive smaller items such as kitchenware, utensils, glassware, bedding and bathroom accessories.

Buy a floor or demo model. They are usually sold for less.

Food

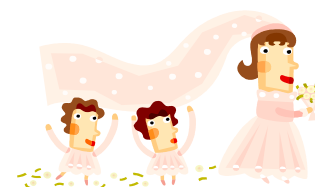
Develop a grocery budget and stick to it to avoid unplanned purchases.

Check weekly flyers to learn which items are on sale and plan weekly meals around these goods.

You can save hundreds of dollars a year by comparing price per unit on shelf labels, and stocking up on cheaper items.

Shop at discount grocery stores, they often carry the same brands as regular grocery stores but you pay less.

Purchase the house-brand products instead of name-brand products. House brands are often substantially cheaper and remember most are, produced by the same manufacturer as the name brands.



Planning a wedding?

Look for Wedding

Cost Cutting ideas in our next edition.