

Build Your Net Worth

News & Tools ~June 2007



Financial Struggles,

Where can I turn?

By Sherry Ridge

In my 15 years of helping families with their personal finances, it seems that as our economy and workforce continue to change the struggles of many families go beyond basic budgeting and debt elimination consulting.

Those of us debt free and/or on the path may never experience the challenges that a newly widowed mother, or divorced father goes through just trying to keep food on the table.

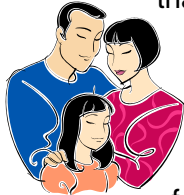
I participate in several non-profit groups that strive to help underserved community members, and each time I leave one of these families, I hear the words, "There by the grace of God go I."

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.

I acknowledge the gifts I have and the benefits that have come my way for being debt free. I thank God and John Cummuta (creator of the Transforming Debt Into Wealth® debt elimination program) everyday for making this information available to me and getting me in the frame of mind I needed to be in to receive the information.

Many families want this opportunity as well, but they feel that they are so far gone that they don't believe it is available to them or they struggle just to get gas in their car to go to work and long term thinking is not a luxury that they have right now.

For those of you who have friends or family that are



barely making it each month, the following are services/ideas that they can look into when times seem too tough to bare.

Utilize tech schools for minor car repairs, personal care (such as hair cuts and manicures), dental check up's and much more. Call your local community college to see what programs/service they have available to the public.

Contact your local Rotary, Kiwanis's or Exchange Clubs to see if they have a Children's Winter Coat program. Many of these service organizations donate new coats and gloves to children.

Get your children's lunch and some school fees reduced to pennies on the dollar, if any at all. Many families qualify for free lunch and when doing this they also qualify to have school registrations fees as well as sporting and club fees waived or reduced.

Ask your PTA's/PTO's and/or Athletic Booster Clubs if they have programs that help children with sporting equipment/school supplies.

Check with the YMCA or YWCA about programs they have to help families with child care costs.

Investigate the health insurance opportunities in your state. For example all children living in Illinois have health insurance benefits available to them, even those in families making \$60,000 a year.

Reach out to your church services department, many churches not only run pantries, but they also have programs to help families struggling to pay a utility bill.

Visit your local food pantry, you can call your town hall, church or even police station to see where one is close to you.

See a case manager at any social service organization to see what programs you and your children may qualify for. I know of an organization that offers homework help to children for free. Remember that these programs are mostly non-profit,

which means that most of them are operating by using our (yours and mine) tax dollars. To see a case manager should cost you nothing.

Look into health departments, health fairs from hospitals, Senior Centers, etc. for free immunizations and check-ups for families.

It's important for me that I personally give back more than I take. We all need a helping hand at

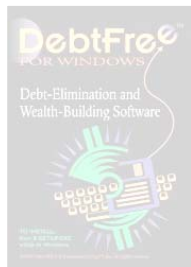


some point in our lives, it may be help to pay a medical bill, get school supplies for our kids, a ticket back home to attend a parent's funeral or simply a compassionate ear and heart to lean on.

We all need to give a helping hand as well as some point in our lives and when we are in a better position ourselves; we can offer more than we took when we needed it.

Don't sit and suffer alone, reach out to your community members, your friends, your neighbors and even the consultant that sent you this email can help you. We have a plan that truly changes lives, guaranteed!

Get a FREE copy **DebtFree™ for Windows®**



In just a few moments, DebtFree™ for Windows® will calculate and display your complete *Debt-FREE* &

Prosperous Living® debt-

elimination plan - year by year, month by month, and payment by payment.

In the "Debt-Elimination Mode":

It will monitor every credit card, consumer loan, or mortgage you have, rapidly paying them off one-by-one.

It takes into account starting totals, monthly payment amounts, and interest rates for all your debts, automatically determining the fastest route to total debt-freedom.

Plus it lets you test "what-if" scenarios, so you can see the effect they would have on achieving your debt-freedom goal.

Key Benefits

Debt-Elimination Mode helps you quickly eliminate ALL your debts

Debt-Elimination Mode displays and prints a complete, month-by-month, payment-by-payment plan to follow to debt-freedom.

Wealth-Building Mode helps you rapidly build retirement wealth.

Wealth-Building Mode also lets you print out your month-by-month plan.

Both modes allow "What-if" scenario testing, the program is simple to use - just fill in the blanks.

How can you get a FREE copy?

Our clients are always looking for new ways to save money and we need your help to provide that.

Submit your cost cutting ideas to the consultant that has sent you this newsletter by August 31, 2007. All entries will be put into a raffle to receive a FREE copy of the DebtFree™ for Windows® software, which retails for \$59.

The winner will be published in our next newsletter; winner will be notified via email by September 9, 2007. Make sure to include your name and address when emailing your ideas.

Making Money

Courtesy of
Forbes Magazine

Think money doesn't grow on trees?



It used to. From the third century B.C. up until the 19th century A.D, the Chinese cast their coins in tree-shaped molds. After the coins were removed, the stem was melted and reused.

Wedding Cost Cutting

Staff Writer



Newly engaged clients often ask us how they can cut their wedding costs, in this *Cost Cutting* column we offer the following

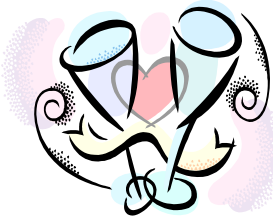
suggestions for the happy couple to be...

Don't leave your shopping to the last minute. The more time you have to shop around, the more you can negotiate. It's difficult to find bargains under pressure, so leave plenty of time to work with wedding vendors.

Avoid a Saturday date. Saturday is the busiest wedding day of the week, and the most expensive. If you can, try to have a Sunday or Friday wedding.

Avoid the busy summer wedding season. Better deals could be available during the winter months.

In addition to saving a bundle, you could make you mother very happy by wearing her or your grand mother's wedding dress. If not buy a sample wedding dress or rent your wedding gown.



Buy your wedding accessories from non-wedding

professionals.

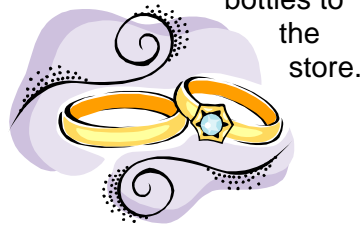
Many of your wedding accessories might be available at non-wedding vendors.

Hire businesses you know to get a great deal. If you have a friend who is a musician, a

photographer, a caterer, try to work out a deal with them.

If you want to save a lot of money, hire a non-wedding photographer. Almost any good photographer should be able to do a good job photographing your wedding.

Work with a wedding reception venue that allows you to provide your own alcoholic beverages. You can also save money by returning any unopened



bottles to the store.

Work with an airline to get a group discount on the plane tickets for your wedding guests. Your wedding guests will appreciate the savings, and you might save on your plane ticket to your honeymoon destination.

Above all, remember that the wedding is only the start of a life long relationship, don't put your future in jeopardy, thinking that the wedding is the end all. This topic (putting more effort in the wedding instead of the relationship) has been very popular in magazine, day time talk shows and even Dr. Phil.

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

With ups and downs we have "stuck" to our goals and by March 2007 we should be debt free, except for the mortgage. We will start on that in April.

Sincere Thanks!!
Mary S.
Vernon Hills, IL

I truly appreciate your newsletter. I hope that you have a great summer.

Phil D.
Libertyville, IL

Websites that help with cost cutting...

Use internet sites such as gassbuddy.com or gaspricewatch.com to make sure you are getting the best gas prices in your area

Want to cut back on your phone bill? An internet site, skype.com offers free calls between you and other site users and a discounted rate on landline calls. It's worth the time to check out and see if it fits your communication needs.