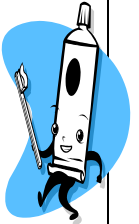


Source: *Becky Winters, Education Developer for Novadebt*

Community Impact

A new year and a new beginning. Novadebt's Outreach team is always looking to help ease the needs of those in our communities. Need knows no boundaries. You can be young, old, sick, healthy, sheltered, or homeless. During 2007, as we continue our already established relationships, Novadebt employees have decided to take on two new initiatives as of January 1st. Both efforts involve working with the Child Protection Center at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, New Jersey. The Child Protection Center at Jersey Shore provides comprehensive assessments of children suspected to be victims of child abuse or neglect. The goal of the center is to protect children from abuse and provide resources to help them heal.



The Center is planning on holding its first ever sibling reunion in the Spring or Summer of 2007. This reunion, which will take place at Camp Arrowhead in New Jersey, will provide a fun filled setting for siblings who have been separated while in foster care, to be reunited for a day. The planning for this day is well underway and our Outreach group has decided to hold various bake sales, raffles and whatever else may come our way, in order to raise funds to be donated in support of this project. Novadebt employees will also volunteer their own time, if needed, to coordinate the day.

The second initiative involving the Child Protection Center is called "Tidy Totes". Children often come to the center with only the clothes on their back and then are whisked away to a strange home in a strange place, with little feeling of safety or security. The Child Protection Center provides medical support, but more importantly, they provide security and reassurance to the children that they are now safe.

"Tidy Totes" is an initiative where donated travel size items are grouped together and placed in travel size cosmetic bags. These totes are then distributed to the parent/guardian and children who come to the Center, in order to allow them to have a little something of their own to help keep them clean. Collections of travel size items such as toiletries, combs, brushes, hand wipes, cosmetic bags, dental floss, mirrors, Q-Tips and underwear (girls & boys—from toddler to teenager) are being donated by Novadebt employees and then grouped into cosmetic bags. This initiative will be ongoing, with donations sent to the Child Protection Center on a quarterly basis, or perhaps monthly, depending on amounts contributed.



We are excited to begin work with these new efforts and constantly seek out other opportunities to offer help where needed. As the year progresses, we will keep you informed. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too find we can accomplish some special things.

What Our Clients Are Saying...

"Working with Novadebt has eased my mind considerably. The people I spoke with were very professional and did not make me feel like a loser because I was having difficulty paying my bills. It's an embarrassing situation to begin with and I was treated with respect and compassion. My original counselor actually made me cry, she was so supportive. She gave me a great big light at the end of a very dark, long tunnel. I am actually very close to paying off all my debts and I am extremely grateful and satisfied. I would definitely recommend your company to anyone who needs support and understanding to get them through a difficult and embarrassing time. Keep up the great work! Thank You very much!"

DW, New Jersey





7 Steps To Becoming Debt-Free In '07

Source: www.bankrate.com

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get closer to becoming debt-free, this column is for you. Steering clear of unwanted debt is a great way to manage your finances and relieve daily stress, which seems to become increasingly more stressful each year.

1. **Live below your means.** You cannot become debt-free if you spend more than you earn. It's that simple! Financial stress relief is called "money in the bank" or "positive cash flow".
2. **Decide where you want to spend your money.** Don't let others decide for you. Know how much money you are bringing in, how much goes out and to where it goes. If you are not satisfied with the answers you get from this exercise, now is the time to change your spending habits. You (and your significant other) are ultimately responsible for how your money is spent.

3. **Pay your bills on time, every time.** Managing monthly bills is an essential part of staying debt free and maintaining a good credit rating. If you find this difficult, come up with a system to ensure that bills are not paid late.
4. **Set financial goals, both short and long-term.** Having goals in place makes it easier to make the necessary spending cuts to get what you really want. Without reasons to cut spending and save, you will constantly be under pressure to spend money you don't have for things you don't need.
5. **Use credit only as a tool and with a plan.** Figure out how and when you will pay the balance. Imagine building a house without a plan or blueprints. That's what your financial house will look like, too, without a plan.

6. **Have an adequate emergency savings fund.** Life will throw curveballs at you, ranging from the need to replace a worn-out washing machine to a temporary job loss. Three to six months' worth of bare-bones living expenses should shield you from most of these problems. Can't do three months' worth? Start with three days' worth and watch it grow as saving becomes a habit.
7. **Learn how to invest your savings.** Your money has to earn more money to keep you out of debt, especially in your later years. Take a class, find a referral to a great adviser or just start reading. Do it your way, but do it; and start now!

May you have a debt-free New Year!

Set Your "Sites" on Your Next Vacation

Source: *American Center for Credit Education—ACCE*



The web has become a benefit to would-be travelers looking to book vacations quickly, easily, and affordably. With easy access to air and hotel packages, as well as all-inclusive deals, sites like www.worryfreevacations.com truly take the hassle out of planning a Caribbean vacation. *Worryfree Vacations* has flights departing from eight major cities and has packages available to Cancun, Cozumel, and the Riviera Maya.

Other sites, such as www.suntrips.com, offer travel theme links for budget getaways, romantic escapes, cruises, and family friendly vacations. And for those wanting to book ski vacations or trips to Europe, www.applevacations.com is worth exploring.

All of the vacation sites listed have last-minute deals, where those with flexible schedules can land themselves a luxury vacation at a fraction of the price. Keep in mind, however, that beginning January 1, 2007, all travel to Canada, Bermuda, Panama, and Mexico requires a passport. For first-time applicants, the process can take as long as eight weeks, so if you think you may want to take advantage of any last-minute travel deals, you should plan accordingly.

