



Source: *Becky Winters, Education Developer for Novadebt*

Community Impact



The Holiday Season is in full swing and everyone here at Novadebt, along with those in our communities, are busy with lots of planning and preparation for holiday meals and family gatherings. We are thankful for what we have been blessed with and mindful of what others may need. Though excitement surrounds us, there are many who feel the added financial strain during this time of year. Novadebt employees speak year round to individuals who need assistance and seek to help with the added holiday needs of those in our own communities.

In mid November, we began our involvement in the United Way of Monmouth County's **Snowflake Wishes** efforts. Eighty Novadebt employees selected a "special person" who will hopefully have their holiday season made a little brighter by a gift selected by their adoptive "Santa". Tags for those United Way of Monmouth County pre-identified individuals noted three "wishes" and their ages were from infant to senior. It is always fun to see the gift selections arrive in our office and even more rewarding, when volunteers go to sort and help distribute the gifts to the agencies the United Way assists. On December 11, 2007, Novadebt will bring our gifts to a central location and volunteers from our office will help others in this task. Distribution of the gifts to the recipient agencies will occur on December 14, 2007, allowing time for holiday delivery!!!

As the year 2007 comes to a close, many individuals continue to struggle and are in need of help from their neighbors and communities. The default/foreclosure crisis in the housing market has continued to grow and as 2008 begins, Novadebt employees will extend a helping hand where needed and will continue our ongoing relationships. We are proud of the fact that not only can we help with financial counseling and education services, but we can hopefully have a positive impact on the lives of those who cannot always speak for themselves. May you have a happy and safe holiday season filled with peace and contentment and may you continue to remember those in your own communities who need help.



What Our Clients Are Saying!

"Everyone I dealt with was professional, kind and genuinely seemed to care! They never judged me for the debt I was in, nor did they ever make me feel uncomfortable. I truly appreciate everyone who made it possible for me to be debt free. Without Novadebt, that wouldn't have been possible!"

EM, New Jersey

"Your service agents and representatives have made an embarrassing and uncomfortable situation much more pleasant than I could have imagined. Your service is truly a gift."

SR, Vermont

"I can only say Thank You to all the kind and caring people at Novadebt. The help given to me has taken me out of the darkness of despair and into a solution that I could not have handled myself."

JL, New York

"I am hearing-impaired which means I need a special method of telephone calls. The people at this firm understood my needs very well, which amazed and impressed me. I am grateful to be enrolled in this program"

AV, Connecticut





Four Tips to Help You Stay Out of Debt During the Holidays

Source: www.about.com

Here are four simple steps to help you stay out of debt this holiday season and avoid that financial “holiday hangover”:

1. **Set spending limits.** Look at your monthly budget and figure out how much you can realistically afford to set aside towards holiday gift giving, without going into debt. Your intentions may be good, but the reality is that most people have a depressing amount of debt after the holidays and are not able to pay it off in as timely a manner as they had hoped.
2. **Make a list.** Follow Santa’s example. Make a list of all the people you need or want to buy gifts for, including small gifts for babysitters, teachers, newspaper deliverers, etc. These small gifts can add up and are often the cause of going over your gift budget. Include money you’ll spend on holiday cards, postage, holiday parties, decorations, holiday entertainment, etc.
3. **Set a limit.** Decide how much you will spend on each person on your gift list, then add everything up and make sure it doesn’t exceed your overall spending limit. Try to allow a cushion for unexpected items or price fluctuations.
4. **Decide where to shop.** As important as deciding what you’re going to buy is deciding where you’re going to buy it. If you don’t wait until the last minute, you’ll have time to comparison shop. Prices fluctuate significantly from store to store and from one month to another. Stores start cutting prices 10-25% on holiday items like decorations, gifts, and winter clothing the week before Thanksgiving (4th Thursday in November). As Christmas approaches, some items are marked down as much as 40%, but selections are limited. You’ll need to decide whether price or selection is more important to you and time your shopping accordingly.

Follow these simple steps and you’ll avoid the nagging feeling that you’ve overspent on holiday gifts. You’ll also avoid the struggle to pay off the credit card bills for months to come. Instead, you’ll feel in control and free of the dreaded financial “holiday hangover”.



How Bad Credit Can Impact Your life

Source: www.bankrate.com

Beat The Bad Credit Blues:



Don’t let bad credit impact your job. You may have aced the job interview, but you have one more hurdle: your credit. A few fixes to your history can help your first impression go a long way.



Don’t let bad credit impact your credit card use. Out of cash? A few restrictive credit card replacements can help you get by in an emergency.



Don’t let bad credit impact your car loan. It may not be the car that you desired, but it will be the transportation that you need.



Don’t let bad credit impact your insurance. Better to have some protection than none at all. Rest assured; your credit isn’t necessarily the main focus.



Don’t let bad credit impact your rent. Most likely, you won’t be homeless, but be prepared to pay more in certain areas.



Don’t let bad credit impact your mortgage. A house is a large investment. That’s why your credit plays a critical role. You won’t be shut out of a house, but your options to pay for it will be limited.



Don’t let bad credit impact your student loan. Your education is important, and the ability to get a student loan is one area where your credit is less likely to play a critical role.

“The Novadebt Connection” does not assume responsibility for any advice given. It is up to the reader to determine if advice is safe and suitable for their own situation.