

MONEY SENSE

Genesis
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INC.

Volume 3, Issue 5

May 2007

NEW BEGINNINGS, DEBT FREE

I Just Received a Notice From the IRS...What Do I Do?

Tax season may be over, but there are certain tax issues we can't just set on the shelf until next year. In light of that fact, we're pleased to bring you the following article, contributed by Marcia Bailey, a Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS.

It's a moment many taxpayers dread. A letter arrives from the IRS — and it's not a refund check. Don't panic; many of these letters can be dealt with simply and painlessly.

Each year, the IRS sends millions of letters and notices to taxpayers to request payment of taxes, notify them of a change to their account or request additional information. The notice you receive normally covers a very specific issue about your account or tax return. Each letter and notice offers specific instructions on what you are asked to do to satisfy the inquiry. You should review the correspondence and compare it with the information on your return.

- **Agree?** If you agree with the correction to your account, no reply is necessary unless a payment is due.
- **Disagree?** If you do not agree with the correction the IRS made, it is important that you respond as requested. Write to explain why you

disagree. Include any documents and information you wish the IRS to consider, along with the bottom tear-off portion of the notice. Mail the information to the IRS address shown in the upper left-hand corner of the notice. Allow at least 30 days for a response.

Questions? Most correspondence can be handled without calling or visiting an IRS office if you follow the instructions in the letter or notice. However, if you have questions, call the telephone number in the upper right-hand corner of the notice. Have a copy of your tax return and the correspondence available when you call so your account can be readily accessed.

Sometimes, the IRS sends a second letter or notice requesting additional information or providing additional information to you. Be sure to keep copies of any correspondence with your records.

For more information about IRS notices and bills, see Publication 594, "What You Should Know about the IRS Collection Process". Information about penalties and interest charges is available in Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax". Both publications are available at IRS.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Dollar Savers:

The Power of \$50

If you could save just \$50 each month, you could have. . .

\$300 in 6 months

\$600 in one year

\$3000 in five years

Think you can't find an extra \$50? Try these simple ideas:

1) "Keep the change." Rather than digging around to give exact change, break the dollar and keep the change. When you get home, drop that change into a savings jar, and you'd be surprised how fast it will grow into \$50.

2) Cut back on at least one luxury item for a month. If you buy a cup of coffee every morning before work at \$2.50, have a cup at home or work and you'll have your \$50 saved!

Have you got a money-saving tip to share? Send your tips to our Corporate address—or email them through the "Contact Us" link on our website- and we'll try to include them in an upcoming issue.

Payment Address

Genesis Financial Management
14025 Riveredge Drive Suite 505
Tampa, FL 33637

Genesis Reminder:

Please be advised that we have closed our payment lockbox in Maryland. Please begin sending payments directly to our corporate office in Tampa, Florida.



Free 411 Calls:

And they say nothing in life is free anymore! Well check this out—instead of paying anywhere from \$.50 to \$1.50 or more for 411 directory assistance calls on your home or cell phone, dial 1-800-FREE 411 instead. That's 1-800-373-3411. In exchange for listening to a brief ad, you get free 411 calls. Program this number into speed dial right now—for those times when you just don't have a phone book handy! You can also access the service online at Free411.com

“Family vacations are about FAMILY, not about how much money you spend. You can have fun without breaking the bank.”

Genesis Financial Management

14025 Riveredge Dr
Suite 505
Tampa, FL 33637

Phone: (800) 460-8641
Fax (813) 866-5120

Pay It Forward: Check out *Modest Needs*

How do we stop poverty before it starts? Well, *Modest Needs*, founded in 2002, came up with a novel concept that does just that.

Modest Needs is an award winning charity that works to stop the cycle of financial hardship before it starts by providing small grants to modest-income workers struggling to afford emergency expenses like the unexpected auto repair, doctor bills, and unusually high electrical bill.

Through *Modest Needs*, people with basic financial needs can post their requests for help, and interested donors can read each and

every request and score it on how strongly they feel about it being funded. As a donor, you have the satisfaction of knowing your money is going directly to that person or family to meet a very real, very concrete need – such as paying an overdue light bill, buying medicine or preventing a car from being repossessed- that you yourself may have had or could have at some point.

An ordinary donation runs anywhere from \$5-\$100 at a time. Since *Modest Needs* began in 2002, they have been able to assist 3,281 individuals and families who could have lost

every-
thing
over a
short-term
financial
problem.



The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Allowance has given *Modest Needs* their highest charity rating, so you can give with confidence

For more questions or concerns regarding donation to *Modest Needs*, or if you would like to apply for assistance, please visit their website at <http://www.modestneeds.org/>.

Money Smart Topic of the Month: Family Fun and Summer Savings!

Summer is right around the corner, and you know what that means. The kids are almost out of school and may be lobbying for road trips, visits to theme parks and other pricey adventures; but what do you do if you are short on cash? How can you have fun and still save money...read on!

1) **Don't wait until the last minute!** Plan ahead. With a little advance research, it is very possible to plan a great vacation that all will remember and that's friendly on the wallet.

2) **You don't have to start the summer off with a trip.** Families can take advantage of great summer vacations for a fraction of

the cost by just waiting until the season slows down. June and July are summer's peak vacation times, so plan a trip during mid to late August, or early September. Usually you will find cheaper packages, and you can end the kids' summer break with a bang!

3) **Find other fun alternatives!** You don't have to spend a lot of money on a theme park or an exotic cruise. Think outside the box and try camping. You can save money by not staying in a hotel, grilling out instead of eating at a restaurant, and most importantly...you spend quality time together as opposed to standing in line to get on a

ride. Look into renting an RV or pop-up camper for maximum comfort.

4) **Look locally.** You don't have to travel to be on vacation. Your own community may offer all kinds of free or low-cost entertainment options during the summer, from festivals to concerts and more. Check your local paper for details.

Finally, remember that family vacations are not about spending money, they are about family. For as much as they may beg for Disney World, your kids will remember the quality of the time you spend with them much more than they'll remember the place you spent it in.

Please Note: Our Website Offers Wealth Of Resources

If you haven't yet had a chance to scope out the many links on our website, we wanted to let you know that there's a lot of good stuff to see!

Check out our "E-

Learning" page in particular for articles and links to information on topics ranging from fair credit laws to understanding 401k plans to dealing with identify theft.

We also have some great

financial calculators available that can help you estimate the length of time it will take to pay off your debts, figure your debt-to-income ratio and take a snapshot of your monthly cash flow.

Check Us Out Online!: www.YourGFM.com