

CAAB's newsletter is designed to ensure that our IDA/MDA Savers are fully informed about relevant money management topics, effective savings strategies, financial education opportunities in the DC area, and upcoming CAAB events. Every month, we will feature a different article focusing on strategies or products that can help you plan for and achieve your savings goals.

Instilling the Values of Savings and Wise Money Management in Our Children

by Matthew Peterson

Few experiences in life cause a person to stop and reflect on their values the way the birth of a first child does. A new parent takes on the challenge and responsibility of not only continuing to work through and live out their own values, but of now passing those values on to a child. This daunting, humbling, and wonderful responsibility began for my wife and me three weeks ago with the birth of our daughter Neva.

Of the many values that a parent passes on to a child, one that is sometimes forgotten is the responsibility of teaching our children about money. During a recent conversation with my wife, I was struck by how much each of our values concerning money are products of our upbringings. Years since leaving home, I continue to be influenced by the ways my parents taught me to manage money and the examples I saw of them managing their own money. As I prepare to begin teaching my own child about the value of savings and wise money management, I have tried to consider lessons I gained from my own experience growing up.

The Money Jar

For many children, including myself, one of their first experiences with money is collecting change in jars. Watching a jar fill with shiny

coins gave me a taste of the pleasure saving money can be and I remember how fervently I took to searching around my house and under couch cushions for spare change to fill it with.

In addition to helping a child learn to identify money, a money jar can help a child begin to understand that things cost money by letting them make purchases with their saved change.



A Child's First Savings Account

When I became older, I moved my savings from a money jar to my first savings account at our local bank. In addition to learning where money is kept and about the concepts of deposits and withdrawals, this was also my first introduction to interest. I remember thinking as a child what a great deal this was for me. Not only did the bank hold and protect my money, but they actually paid me to do this. Even though the interest I earned was minimal, I saw what seemed to be "free" money added into my account each month and began to learn early the value of making interest work for me.

A savings account for a child can help teach a number of other important lessons. By talking to a child about what they are saving for, a parent is helping to teach their child about the process of setting and reaching financial goals. Like adults, when a child knows specifically what they are saving for they become more determined and more likely to meet that goal. Furthermore, without a goal, a child can also become discouraged if they are forced to save without ever seeing the benefits of that savings. Finally, a savings goal can help teach the value of delaying gratification by showing the satisfaction that comes when a child is finally able to reach their goal and make their purchase.

Luckily, there are many low-fee or no-fee "starter" savings accounts available through DC Saves that can be your child's first account. Check out www.dcsaves.org/enroll/products.asp for the list.

The Allowance

When I was in high school I received an allowance—an amount of money which I could use for whatever I wanted, but it also had to cover certain necessities, like my clothing. Receiving an allowance forced me to budget money for the first time. I could choose how I used my money, but once it was gone it was gone and that forced me to look at the difference between wants, needs, and wishes. While

CONGRATULATIONS!

The following savers made asset purchases in the month of November:

Home

Lawanda Campbell
Lashoun Christian
Bernadette Morris

Education

Nasheia Conway
Sariane Leigh
Lenins Salinas
Carla Spence
Blondell Sykes
Stephanie Vann
LeWahn Wallace
Samantha Warren

Small Business

Gary Hill
Tracy Hines
Viviana Oxlej

my parents offered guidance, they were careful to let me make my own decisions. They believed it was important for me to have this because bad decisions, like spending a month's allowance just to have a brand name piece of clothing, are often the most valuable for a young adult learning to manage money.

These are just a few of the ways that a parent can help teach their child about savings and managing money. You can find more information and ideas at <http://life.familyeducation.com/money-and-kids/personal-finance/34481.html>

Last week, Neva received her first check for \$50 from her great-grandmother. I will be putting that check into a high interest bearing savings account for her and hoping by the time she knows what it is, my wife and I will have been able to help her understand how to use it wisely.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



STILL NOT COMPLETED YOUR REQUIRED 8 HOURS OF FINANCIAL EDUCATION TRAINING? DON'T DELAY!

New Round of Saturday and Weeknight Money Management 101 starts in January

Complete your financial education requirements for the IDA or MDA program and meet other people saving towards their life goals just like you. Refreshments will be provided.

- **Saturday Series:** Starts **JANUARY 10** and runs every Saturday morning from 10 a.m.– 12 p.m. through February 7.
- **Weeknight Series:** Starts **JANUARY 13** and runs every Tuesday evening (except Inauguration Day, January 20) from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. through February 17.

Call 202-419-1440 or email seminars@caab.org to register.

Career Training Opportunities at Goodwill

at Goodwill of Greater Washington, 2200 South Dakota Avenue NE (Rhode Island Avenue Metro Station, Bus B8/B9 or Brookland Metro Station, Bus H6)

Retail Customer Service Training

Learn how to prepare for a career in the customer service industry. You will learn cash handling procedures, strong communication skills, customer empathy, critical thinking skills, understanding customer needs, and more.

Intake Assessment Sessions: Tuesday, December 16 @ 9 a.m., Tuesday, December 23 @ 9 a.m., and Tuesday, January 6 @ 9 a.m.

Environmental Services (Custodial) Training

Free 6-week training program where you will learn basic floor care and green cleaning, interior office and restroom cleaning, hospital housekeeping, and job readiness and preparation for employment.

Intake Assessment Sessions: Tuesday, December 16 @ 1 p.m. and Tuesday, January 6 @ 1 p.m.

Call Joe Mitko at 202-715-2654 to learn more about assessment requirements.

CAAB CORNER

CAAB is recruiting a Communications & Development Intern to work in our office

This internship opportunity, which starts in January, comes with a transportation stipend and will provide a highly-motivated student with the opportunity to learn all aspects of nonprofit work in a small, collegial office. Be part of our team and help individuals and families take steps to increase their financial security and build brighter futures! View the position description at www.caab.org. To apply, send a letter of interest, resume, a one- or two-page writing sample, and contact information for at least two references to jobs@caab.org.

What Public Benefits Do You Qualify For?



Want to find out what public supports you're eligible for in housing, childcare, and health care?

Want to know what jobs in DC pay enough to take you to self-sufficiency?

Look no farther! **The DC Metro Area Self Sufficiency Calculator** is a benefits and career planning tool. Just enter in information about your income and family size and it will tell you what public benefits you're eligible for. Then check out the jobs section to learn about good paying jobs that will take you to the next level! Use the calculator today at <http://dcmassc.org/>



Income Tax Essentials 101

At 1801 K Street NW Suite M100

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

At this free CAAB seminar presented by tax consultant and trainer Tom Breslin, you'll get the answers to basic tax preparation questions, gain an understanding of the 1040 forms, learn about the types of tax deductions, learn why your filing status matters, learn how to file to get the best out of your tax return, and more. **Call 202-419-1440 to register.**

VOLUNTEERING PROMISES BIG RETURNS

This tax season you can be a part of a tremendous effort that brings more than \$6 million into the homes of DC's low-income working families each year.



Volunteer as a Tax Preparer or Savings Promoter with the **DC Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign** (www.dceitc.org)!

Volunteer 3-4 hours a week during tax season at one of 17 tax sites throughout the DC area and help boost the incomes of working families in DC.

Tax Preparer: No professional experience needed, all volunteers receive free IRS training and certification. Work one-on-one with customers to electronically file tax returns.

Savings Promoter: Educate clients about free financial resources available to DC residents, including DC Saves, MM 101, and credit counseling. Who better to promote savings than an IDA Saver!

Register Today! Go to www.dceitc.org and click "For Volunteers" or call 202-419-1442