

OCTOBER 2011

GreenPath Graduate Clients Win 2011 NFCC Clients of the Year Award

Jerry and Sue Bailey, recent GreenPath debt management program (DMP) graduate clients, were recognized in September with the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) Professional Achievement and Counseling Excellence (PACE) Clients of the Year Award.

Searching for alternatives to repay their debt obligations, their credit union suggested they reach out to GreenPath Debt Solutions. Taking that advice began their journey to financial freedom.

Their financial troubles were deep, with \$92,000 of debt spread across 17 credit cards. Jerry recalls, "It was so easy to get a credit card with a high limit at the time." Jerry was the bill-payer in the family, leaving Sue unaware of their financial situation until Jerry suggested to her that she put the costs associated with their daughter's wedding reception on credit. Looking back, she realizes that should have been a clue.

The Baileys will be the first to admit that paying off that much debt was a struggle, but a struggle worth making. While on the GreenPath DMP, Sue required surgery, putting her off work for six months. Jerry had already taken on a second job, and they had sold one car because they could not afford to repair it, so the loss of Sue's income seemed insurmountable. It was at that point that GreenPath again came to the rescue by contacting their creditors who agreed to once more adjust their payments until Sue could return to work.

"When we received the call from GreenPath informing us that our debts were paid in full, I had to ask them to repeat it," said Jerry. "We are forever in debt to GreenPath, but that's a kind of debt we don't mind."

"We are so pleased that the Baileys were chosen as the 2011 NFCC PACE Clients of the Year," said Jane McNamara, president and CEO for GreenPath Debt Solutions. "With GreenPath's help, they developed and implemented a plan to successfully pay off their debts. They are a shining example of how hard work

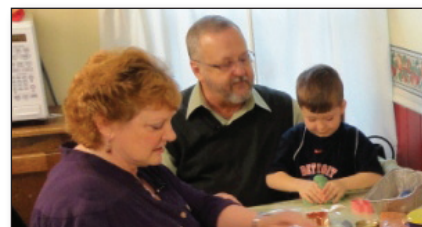


2011 NFCC Graduate Clients of the Year Award - (left to right): Susan Keating, president, NFCC; Jerry Bailey; Sue Bailey; and Jane McNamara, president and CEO, GreenPath Debt Solutions

and perseverance can really pay off through a debt management program. "

The Baileys join Don and Carole Carroll, 2010 NFCC Clients of the Year, also graduate clients from GreenPath.

The NFCC, founded in 1951, is the nation's largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling membership organization. The NFCC's mission is to promote the national agenda for financially responsible behavior, and build capacity for its members to deliver the highest-quality financial education and counseling services. NFCC members annually help more than three million consumers through close to 800 community-based offices nationwide.



Paper Savings Bonds Will Be Harder to Get Starting in 2012

Savings bonds seem to be a long-standing tradition in America. They are purchased to celebrate a newborn, they are given by grandparents for birthdays, holidays and other special occasions and have been considered a safe investment for years. But come 2012, paper versions of certain bonds are going to be harder to come by.



According to *MONEY Magazine*, on January 1, 2012, you will no longer be able to walk into a bank and purchase a paper savings bond. The Treasury announced earlier this summer that series EE and I bonds will be available for purchase only through www.treasurydirect.gov or via your tax refund.

Lunch Seems to Be Getting in the Way at Work

GreenPath always reminds individuals that if you want to help save money, it's wise to pack your lunch at home and bring it to work. Couple that with the reality of workers doing more with less help, the answer to a recent poll question, "Where do about one-third of workers eat their lunch?" shouldn't be surprising.

If you said, "at their desks," you would win the prize.

That's what was found in an online survey of 751 North American workers by **Right Management**, the work force consulting arm of **Manpower Group**.

Thirty-four percent of respondents said they do regularly take a lunch break, but usually stay right at their desks. Another 31 percent said they take lunch breaks seldom or from time to time.

As for those wolfing down lunch within arm's reach of their computers and phones, "whether it's a true break is open to question," said Joseph Johnson, Right's talent management practice leader.

There's a value to people stepping away to clear their heads, reduce tension and boost energy, he said in a release.

Also, desk eating can lead to overeating, said MaryAnn Jones, a certified health coach in Manhasset, N.Y.

"If you're not focused on your food, your body isn't getting signaled that it's being nourished and satisfied." Even the busiest people should try to spare a minimum of 15 minutes to step away, she says. (Source: Patricia Kitchen, *Newsday*)

GreenPath Facebook Feedback

Clients give us feedback on our Facebook page from time to time. Here's a recent message from Mark:

THANK YOU, THANK YOU... My wife & I have been involved with this group for over 2 years... started with over \$47,000 in DEBT down to a little over \$22,000 in a little over the past 2 years... our goal is to wipe this clean within 15 more months, could not have done this without GreenPath Debt Solutions...

You can 'like' GreenPath by logging onto our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/greenpathdebt.

Halloween Handouts First Start With Cash



Halloween certainly conjures up images of candy, ghosts and goblins, but another image coming into focus is the amount of money that people spend to celebrate the holiday.

The **National Retail Federation** said we spent nearly \$6 billion on Halloween in 2010, including an average of \$23 on a costume and \$20 on candy.

Also, Halloween falling on a Monday this year means possibly shelling out even more money on weekend related parties and activities.

GreenPath reminds you that simple things like going through your closet to assemble homemade costumes or sharing outgrown kids costumes with your family, friends and neighbors, can help keep your 2011 Halloween budget in check.