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**Letters to the Editor**

**Letter of the Month**

*For years, my wife and I have struggled with credit card debt, due partly to our own poor choices and to predatory lending tactics by credit card companies. Our only hope was a windfall, which never came.*

*Thankfully CCR has given us a realistic opportunity to put that debt behind us. We are still early in the process, but I am confident that with their help (and our improved discipline) we will be debt free in 2 to 3 years. This was NEVER a possibility before.*

*I have called CCR and their attorneys several times and am always greeted by a real and helpful person. We are extremely lucky to have found*

**News Update From Your Debt Relief Team**

May 6, 2009

**High School Students Receiving Unsolicited Credit Card Offers**

Watch your mailboxes for credit card offers by the dozens - aimed not at you, but at your children!



It seems that the banks want to loan some of their newly acquired "stimulus" money (at interest rates of between 13% and 22%) to your high school aged children. It is almost as if they are trying to increase the national credit card debt pool at the earliest age possible before any new proposed federal legislation can go into effect. This proposed legislation mandates, among other things, that no credit cards be issued to anyone under 21 years old. (It is anticipated, however, that the actual new law when passed will set the age at 18.)

For more information search the Internet for: Credit Card Bill of Rights.

In all seriousness, one of the most important conversations you can have with your children is about finances and managing credit responsibly. Go to the web and search for "Credit Education" and "Credit Tools for College."

Watch your incoming mail carefully and communicate with your family about the importance of using credit wisely.

**Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights Passes House Financial Services Committee**



On April 22, 2009, the House Financial Services Committee approved legislation that would provide credit card customers crucial protections against unfair, deceptive, and anti-competitive credit card practices, which include, among other things, double cycle billing, due-date gimmicks, and retroactive interest rate

*them and grateful for the service they provide. Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

*Sincerely,  
Jim in Dallas*

**EDITOR:** Thanks for the kind words, and congratulations, Jim! Your Trust Account will soon be credited with a monthly payment!

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM THE REST OF OUR CLIENTS, TOO! WRITE TO US AT:**

[letters@ccrnw.com](mailto:letters@ccrnw.com)  
and have a chance – just like Jim above - to win one monthly maintenance fee if you are a current Client, or \$49.95 if you are a graduated Client.

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If you are an enrolled Client, and need to talk to either a Client Care or Mediation Representative at the law firm of Dakich & Assoc., please call:

**1-800-376-0898**

or email us at

[ccare@ccrnw.com](mailto:ccare@ccrnw.com)

If you are currently still in the enrollment process, return calls should be made to our Processing/Underwriting Department, at:

**1-888-886-1719**

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**Credit Card Relief™**  
Preferred Financial Solutions,  
Inc.  
5656 W. 74th Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

hikes without notice.

**Credit Card Relief™** Clients will recognize these issues as policies your national mediation law firm has raised with nearly every card issuer when negotiating a lower settlement of your credit card balances.

As frustrating as the first months in the program are for any new Client, it should be comforting to know that your entire Client Care Team and the mediation law firm are building a file on your behalf to negotiate away these soon-to-be-forbidden practices that have cost credit card customers literally billions of dollars over the last thirty years.

What will these changes mean to **Credit Card Relief™**? We anticipate it will mean the end of credit card companies piling on charges to build even higher balances on the cards that you are no longer using. This should lead to faster and even better settlements. **Credit Card Relief™** members should report any creditor abuses to their Client Care Representatives immediately. And now with the Federal Reserve watching Card Issuers, and with Credit Card Company abuses getting the attention of the White House and the President himself, there has never been a better time to take advantage of this economic climate to mediate debt. Look for more news in future newsletters and “podcasts” about Credit Card Reform.

Together we are winning the war against Creditor abuse and holding the line on protecting creditor rights.

### ***What To Do If You Get Laid Off or Lose Your Job***

It is no secret that we are in the worst recession since the great depression, with over 500,000 men and women each month finding themselves unemployed. Unlike your credit card companies, however, we mean it when we say we want to help.



**Put together an action plan, based on the following tips.**

1. Call us immediately! Let your Client Care Representative know your employment hardship immediately.
2. Register for unemployment!
3. Check with your town/city, county and state offices of Employment Development. These are the offices that will be distributing the stimulus funds for jobs in your local community.
4. Find out who your Town Council or City Council members are as well as who your State Congressmen and Senators are and call all of their offices and ask what jobs programs are available - or are soon to be available - in your area as part of the stimulus program.
5. Don't be embarrassed to apply for every benefit available to you including special programs with your utility companies, mortgage companies, landlords and car lenders. Apply for food stamps. (Food stamp

benefits can be substantial and are usually delivered on a debit card so no one will know you are using food stamps.)

6. Sit down with your family and go around the kitchen table asking everyone to think about some way to save money. (Read about some networking tips and résumé help in other articles in this issue.).
7. Be Positive. We have all been through personal tough times before and usually come through them even stronger. Most importantly: remember that you are not in this alone - we are here to help!

### *Helpful Tips For Tough Times*

#### 1. **RÉSUMÉ HELP ON THE WEB**

Even if you and your wife are currently both working, it doesn't hurt to be prepared in case one - or even both of you - become unemployed. One of the best ways to do this is to update or create from scratch a résumé that shows off your skills and job and life experiences and any special training or skills you might have. Take a look at the Internet sites listed below: they have free templates and sample résumé for almost any type of job. And best of all they are free.

Go to: [Jobstar.org](http://Jobstar.org) and [Resume-help.org](http://Resume-help.org)

#### 2. **NETWORKING EVERYWHERE YOU GO**

Make a list of all the people you know, where you know them from, friends, relatives, fellow church members and previous employers and friends from previous jobs.

Experts and experience tell us that merely sending out résumés is not usually a successful strategy on its own. **You need to personally make contact with people who might know of a job opening (in your field or not) then hand them a résumé.**

Check out public job postings in the government - local, county, state and federal (they are getting plenty of stimulus funding for jobs). Also check on health care and law enforcement positions: these are always growing sectors of the economy.

Share your job seeking experience - good and bad - with relatives and close friends. You would be amazed at where job leads come from!

New jobs are out there, but you have to look, listen and ask!

#### 3. **WATCH WHAT, WHERE AND HOW YOU BUY GROCERIES**

If you've never used coupons before, try them. The savings are real and can make a big impact on your personal savings at the cash register - not just at groceries, but at drug stores, restaurants and discount stores.

Here's a helpful web site we found: take a look at: [Householdtips.org](http://Householdtips.org)

And search for grocery coupons on the Internet to check for deep savings on household necessities like paper towels, toilet paper, tooth paste, laundry detergent.

Don't pay ATM fees unless you absolutely have to ... no excuses! Get cash back when you buy groceries, or go



to your own bank where there are no fees for using your bank's ATM machine. Check out generic brands for everything from groceries to cold remedies. These generics are usually made by the more expensive name brand manufacturers to the same quality standards as their name brands and are marketed at a discount with a generic name. You can save big at the drug store on such items.

### *Have You Listened to Our Podcasts?*



Credit Card Relief™ is now publishing Podcasts to help our members cope with the financial pressures of credit card debt and to reacquaint all of you with the services we provide. Use the link below to listen to the Podcasts, and watch your email for future podcasts.

[www.ccrnow.com/podcasts/podcast5.mp3](http://www.ccrnow.com/podcasts/podcast5.mp3)

ccr-enewsletter/vol124-50708

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"Everyone at Credit Card Relief™ would like to thank you for your trust and confidence in us and the CCR program. We too look forward to the day when each of you can become a Credit Card Relief™ graduate. If you have any questions or problems, do not hesitate to contact us."

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