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Protecting A Lifetime Of Memories

Where Your Retirement Dreams Become Reality...



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Beware- Is It Really 'Interest Free'?

"All of this can be yours with no interest payments for a year!".... Sound familiar? This style of advertising is becoming more and more frequent. And, these types of offers can be very enticing to a lot of people. For example: A young couple who just rented their first apartment may need some new furniture or, a new home owner may be looking for a ride-on lawnmower to mow his yard. Normally, they would have to wait and save up for these expensive purchases. But the enticement of the offer is that it allows them to get these purchases immediately, and pay only a portion of the cost up front. But what's the "catch"?

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but this offer isn't for everyone. Even though it sounds sweet, it can get very sour rather quickly. A lot of companies are now offering some form of interest free plan. The problem is that there really is no such thing as interest free! They are simply withholding the interest until the end of the time period specified on your contract. Meaning, at the end of your term if you have not paid off your purchase in full within the "interest free period" BAM you get hit with all the interest from the date of purchase!

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The Phases of Retirement

There are three phases when it comes to your retirement, accumulation, distribution, and legacy. Each of these phases plays a significant role in determining the strategies you will need to use. And, the amount of money you are willing to put at risk.

The accumulation phase is where, throughout your life, you put money away for your retirement. You may invest in the Stock Market, CD's, mutual funds, bonds, a 401k, annuity, or something else altogether. The goal of this phase is to grow your nest-egg, as much as possible. During this phase, your risk tolerance may be aggressive or conservative. Usually, people tend to be more aggressive, as they have time on their side. However, this is only the first phase of retirement planning.

The next phase is the distribution phase. This is where all that saving has finally paid off. This is where you get to spend your money on the things you've always wanted to do! In this phase you need to determine how much money you can safely spend each year and still make it last a lifetime. How do you position your money to minimize income taxes, prepare for inflation, and prepare for unexpected events? How do you maximize your spendable income, while making sure you never run out of money? In this phase, it is important to remember the safety of your nest-egg is paramount.

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Interesting Facts:

-Fresh Bread is the most commonly purchased food in the United States.

-Lemons are one of the healthiest foods in the world. They contain vitamin C, cleanses the liver, boost immunity and aids in weight loss.

-Almost without exception, the highest-calorie fast food item is a milkshake (1,680 calories).

-Turkey, fish, and cheese have the highest protein-to-calorie ratio of foods.

-Americans consume the most ice cream in the world. Most of the ice cream is consumed between 9 and 11pm.

Tired Of Losing Money?

Now you can get stock market type returns without the stock market risks.

Plus, it offers tax deferred interest and tax free income at retirement.

Call Our Office Today for More Information!

*Are you unnecessarily paying income taxes on your social security call now for your **FREE** report
"How to Stop the Taxation of Your Social Security Income"
Call now while supplies last.*

"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Special Holidays

We're thinking of you this time of year,

Wishing you happiness, joy, and cheer.

May all your days be warm and bright,

And your nights enhanced by holiday light.

Enjoy your delectable holiday foods,

As parties and gifts create holiday moods.

Favorite people play a meaningful part,

While treasured rituals warm your heart.

You are special to us in many ways,

So we wish you Happy Holidays!

By Joanna Fuchs

Beware- Is It Really 'Interest Free'?

Another problem you may face is the amount of interest they will charge. Most companies who advertise this way tend to charge a higher interest rate leaving you to pay even more interest on their so called "interest free" deal!

Did you go into more than one of these types of plans at once? Now, you are going to get stuck with two times the interest payments at once. Is your wallet prepared for that?

Don't get me wrong it's not to say that these investments aren't good at all. The idea of holding off interest for a year is not all bad. It can allow for you to make payments toward that new furniture, lawnmower, computer, etc. Things you may otherwise not have been able to purchase at that time. Just make sure to do your homework first. Can you afford to put away money each month to pay off the interest at the end of your term or can you pay a higher payment toward your purchase each month to help pay off the interest rate.

These deals can be beneficial if you are in a position to handle them. But they can be devastating if you are not. So, the next time you hear "no interest for one year", remember that at the end of that year all your interest will be waiting for you.

The Phases of Retirement

How much of your money are you willing to lose? If you are relying on it for income, *can you afford to lose any of it?* There are strategies that will allow you to make sure you never lose a dime, while maximizing your spendable income, and guaranteeing you never run out of money.

The last phase occurs simultaneously with the distribution phase, and is the legacy phase. This is where you determine how your money will be handled when you are gone. Will your spouse have enough income to live on? Will there be money to pass on to your heirs, church or charities? Will there be debts left behind? How much taxes will have to be paid on the money left behind?

Throughout your lifetime, you will need to use different strategies depending on what you want to accomplish... your priorities. There is much more to retirement planning than just accumulating money and getting the highest investment returns. To accomplish your goals, you need to be planning ahead so you can position your money as wisely as possible, to meet the challenges of all 3 retirement phases. No matter what phase you are in, please don't be afraid to call my office for help. Remember, there is never any charge or obligation to work with me, and even if you already have an advisor, I would be happy to review your situation.