

Please return the enrollment form to your local county agent:



CASH

Consumers Acquiring
Saving Habits

HACE-E-83

AUGUST 2010

The University of Georgia and Ft. Valley State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and counties of the state cooperating. Cooperative Extension, the University of Georgia Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Family and Consumer Sciences, offers educational programs, assistance and materials to all people without regard to race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Colleges of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences & Family and Consumer Sciences

Times are hard. Since 2007 thousands of jobs have been lost. Wages have not kept pace with inflation. For many, making ends meet is a challenge. Saving for goals such as a new home, a child's education, or retirement may seem difficult or impossible.

Nothing is impossible. Every day we hear stories about people who managed to save huge sums of money with only modest incomes. The key to success in every case is the consistent practice of saving habits.

Spending is a habit, too. Unlike saving, spending requires no special talents or abilities. Anyone can do it.

Your spending habits may be the only thing standing between you and your goals. A few dollars here and there every day, week after week and year after year add up. Replacing spending habits with saving habits will change your life.

Saving habits help you to spend less and save more. As with any skill, the more you practice the better you get and the easier it becomes. Saving habits include:

- Saving for emergencies and unexpected expenses
- Setting financial goals and saving money to achieve them
- Paying down and eliminating debt
- Spending less for routine expenses
- Comparison shopping
- Investing for long-term goals
- Teaching your children saving habits.

The Georgia CA\$H program is designed to help you develop and practice saving habits. To enroll in the program, complete and sign the enrollment form and return it to your local UGA Cooperative Extension office. The program is free and available to any Georgia resident 18 and over with an e-mail address. Participants without an e-mail address may be asked to pay a small fee upon enrollment to cover printing and mailing of a quarterly newsletter.

Georgia CA\$H Tips

The quarterly newsletter will include research-based information from nationally-recognized experts at the University of Georgia. The purpose of the Georgia CA\$H Tips newsletter is to help you replace spending habits with saving habits. Each issue of the newsletter will include:

- **Savings = Security.** Strategies to help you save more and spend less.
- **Learn the Lingo.** Definitions of important financial management terms.
- **Did You Know?** Interesting statistics and trivia about spending and saving habits.
- **Credit Crunches.** Tips to help you strengthen your credit report.
- **To Talk About...** Conversation starters for family discussions about money.

Benefits

As a Georgia CA\$H enrollee, you will receive a quarterly newsletter with tips and suggestions to help you develop saving habits. Enrollees may also receive notices about upcoming financial management programs taking place locally. The greatest benefit is the improved economic well-being that comes with the consistent practice of saving habits. You won't be sorry you saved. But you might be sorry you didn't.

Enrollment Form

Are you at least 18 years old? ____ Yes ____ No
(If no, you cannot participate in the program.)

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ County (Required) _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I want to save money so I can: (check all that apply)

____ Cover the cost of irregular expenses such as insurance premiums

____ Cover the cost of unexpected expenses such as car repairs

____ Pay off my bills/debt

____ Make a major purchase such as furniture, appliances, etc

____ Buy a new or used automobile

____ Do something special for myself or my family

____ Save for a special occasion such as a wedding

____ Go on a trip or vacation

____ Start investing

____ Buy a home

____ Pay for college for myself or my child

____ Retire by my goal date

____ Other _____

From the above list, circle the one that is most important to you.

I plan to save \$ _____ each month for _____ months to help me reach my goal(s).

and/or

I plan to reduce what I owe by \$ _____ per month.

I'd like to receive more information about:

___ Understanding my Insurance Options

___ Wills and Powers of Attorney

___ Income Tax Strategies

Georgia CA\$H Enrollment Form

You are about to take part in the Georgia CASH (Consumers Acquiring Saving Habits) Program. Georgia CA\$H is a University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension Program designed to help individuals and families develop and practice saving habits. The program is free and available to any Georgia resident 18 and over. Your participation is voluntary, and you may cancel your enrollment at any time by contacting Joan Koonce at (706) 542-4865 or jkoonce@fcs.uga.edu or Michael Rupured at (706) 583-0054 or mrupured@uga.edu.

UGA Cooperative Extension is committed to protecting your privacy. However, the collection of some personal information is necessary. All personal information will be treated as confidential. We will not share, sell, rent or disclose personally identifiable information to third parties. All data collected on enrollment forms will be input into an online database. Internet communications are insecure, and there is a limit to the confidentiality that can be guaranteed due to the technology itself. However, the online database will be password protected and accessible only by authorized individuals. You are under no obligation to provide this personal information. The personal data will allow UGA Cooperative Extension to tailor the program to the participants' individual needs and provide program benefits (for example, Georgia CA\$H newsletter, financial management information on topics of interest, notification of financial management workshops and seminars, etc.).

The research portion of the project will be anonymous. Data used for research purposes will not have any of your personally identifiable information attached. Your personal information will be separated from the data before researchers have access to the information. Only a summary of the aggregate data about number of enrollees, county of residence, financial goals, and amount enrollees plan to save and actually save will be used for research purposes. You are not obligated to allow the researchers to use this data for research purposes. The benefits you receive from the program are not affected by whether or not you participate in the research. You may refuse to allow your data to be used for research or may stop allowing the use of your data for research at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you wish to withdraw from the research project, please contact the researchers using the contact information above. Information that is identifiable as belonging to you will be removed from the records before the summary data are given to the researchers. Information that has already been stripped of individual identifiers cannot be withdrawn.

The primary purpose of the research is to determine whether or not a savings program will lead to positive financial management changes in Georgia families. Specifically, will the program encourage and motivate Georgians to save to reach their financial goals, increase their financial knowledge and make other positive changes in financial behavior.

If you have an email address, as part of the Georgia CA\$H program, you will receive a quarterly newsletter. If you have an email address and participate in the research, you will also receive an online survey that takes about five to ten minutes to complete approximately every 9 months. You can participate in the program and/or the research until you decide to cancel your participation or the program ceases to exist.

The only foreseeable risk or discomfort to participating in the research is the unauthorized use of personal information provided on the enrollment form. This risk or discomfort will be minimized by destroying (shredding) enrollment forms once the information is entered on the online database and having a password protected site that is only available to authorized individuals. No contact information will be provided to any entity for any reason.

This research may benefit consumers in Georgia by providing researchers with information that will assist them in creating and providing consumers with additional financial management resources and information to help them better manage their financial resources and develop saving habits. This may, in turn, reduce consumers over-reliance on credit and increase the likelihood Georgians will achieve long-term financial goals. Everyone in society benefits when its members are doing well financially. The research does not provide any direct participant benefits.

Questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant should be directed to the chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board, 629 Boyd GSRC, Athens, Georgia 30602-7411; telephone (706) 542-3199; email address: irb@uga.edu.

By completing the enrollment form, you are indicating that your participation is voluntary, and you are granting UGA Cooperative Extension permission to use your data collectively for evaluation and research purposes.