Financial Frequency Check Up 2.0

Make 2025 the year that you commit to securing your financial future, getting your financial house in order & protecting your loved ones!

As we continue this series, here are some basic first steps as you start your journey to financial freedom & success!

Emergency Fund: Set aside a minimum of 3 months of household expenses in a savings account. This will protect you against life's bigger surprises, like the loss of a job, unexpected illness, car repair or veterinarian bill. It's also wise to have an automatic withdrawal into an emergency fund, which can be tapped for unexpected expenses.

Pay Off Credit Cards and other High Interest Debt: If the option is available for you to transfer high interest debt to 0% interest, you should definitely take advantage of this option to save money on interest and put more to the principle. Start by listing all of your debts except for your mortgage. Put them in order by balance from smallest to largest—regardless of interest rate. Pay minimum payments on everything but start tackling the smallest balance. Once it's gone, take that payment and put it toward the second-smallest debt, making minimum payments on the rest.

Invest in Your Retirement: If you have a retirement plan with your employer, you should contribute, especially if your emplore matches your contributions.

Save for Your Children's College Fund

529 college savings plans or ESAs (Education Savings Accounts) can be great vehicles to set aside funds for your children's college.

Create Your Personal Budget: Knowing where your money goes is key to finding financial freedom and security. Credit Karma offers a free tool to track your expenses. CLICK HERE to sign up today! This is also helpful to see if you are paying for monthly subscriptions that you no longer need.

Contribute to a Traditional IRA: If you do not have an employer sponsored plan at work, you should consider contribution to an IRA. The maximum contribution for 2025 is $7,000 ($8,000 if over 50 years old). This contribution will lower your taxable income.

Contribute to a Health Savings Account: An HSA is a tax-advantaged account that can be used to pay for qualified medical expenses, including copays, prescriptions, dental care, contacts and eyeglasses, bandages, X-rays, and a lot more. It's "tax-advantaged" because your contributions reduce your taxable income, and the money isn't taxed while it's in the account—even if it earns interest or investment returns. The maximum for an individual is $4,300and $8,550 for families.

With Gratitude,
~Jill DiSalvo