Honoré Financial Services

At Honoré Financial Services we offer planning and money management advice and work with you to design a realistic and attainable family budget. Before you can build wealth, you need to create and maintain a budget to enable you to save money and get out of debt. We have found that the secret to a successful budget is discipline. Once a budget is established, you must live within the budget, learn to spend less money than you make, and start a saving and investment plan. Following this simple strategy will allow you to become debt free, live a more stress-free life, and achieve wealth over time.

To get started in preparing a budget, you need to determine where your money is going. Figure out where you spend your income and determine how to reduce your household expenses. We provide you with a budget worksheet you will complete. Use this worksheet to record your income and expenses. We will help you analyze your monthly budget and then begin the process of lowering your debt and investing your money.

**Gathering Information**

Preparing a budget requires gathering information and documents. As you prepare your budget you will need to determine the following:

1. Determine your average monthly income. Take your pay stubs for the last three months, add the amounts, and then divide by three. The result is your average monthly income.
2. Determine your monthly fixed expenses. Gather three months of fixed expenses (mortgage, car payments, credit card payments, insurance payments, bills, etc.). Add the amounts of these fixed expenses and then divide the amount by three.
3. Determine your monthly variable expenses. Gather three months of variable expenses (savings, groceries, dining out, car maintenance and gasoline, home repairs and decor, shopping, vacations, children, doctor visits, donations, etc.). Add the amounts of these variable expenses and then divide by three.
4. Evaluate your expenses. Review each of your variable expenses and look for opportunities to trim your spending.
5. Track all of your expenses by keeping receipts. Calculate receipt totals on a daily and then a weekly basis.
6. Set goals and objectives. Setting goals and objectives will help you trim your variable expenses so you can save and invest your money.

**Tips on Preparing a Budget**

Working together as a family will improve the accuracy and usefulness of the budget. As you begin the budgeting process, sit down with each member of the family and explain the goals and objectives of the budget. Establish budgeting and savings goals as a family and specify rewards for achieving the goals. As you work with your budget, schedule evaluation times. This should be a time each week and month to sit down as a family and record expenses, evaluate progress, and set the following month’s budget. A successful budget will help you attain all your family goals. Let us help you achieve those goals!