

AUGUST 2009

CCCS UNVEILS 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

CCCS AWARDS THREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

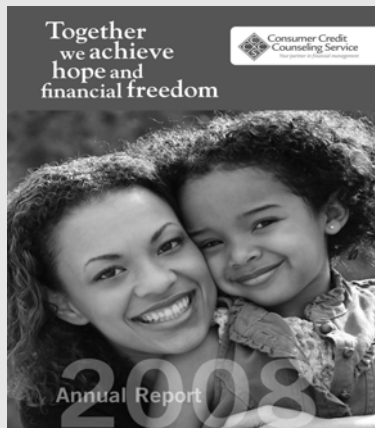
FINANCIAL STRESS TEST

SEPTEMBER CLASSES

The Counselor

Published monthly by
CCCS of Greater Dallas, Inc.
© All Rights Reserved

Marcia B. Cooper, Editor



Toll free (866) 881-2227

WWW.CCCS.NET

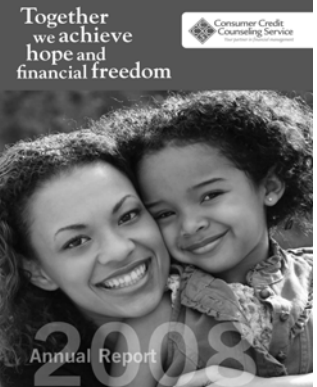
Call CCCS; we care!



CCCS UNVEILS 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

If you have questions about our company—its operations, services, financial status, staff or counselors, accomplishments and future goals—this information and more appears in our *2008 CCCS Annual Report*.

See the pictures of those who serve you in our offices, classes, and in the communities of Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico. Read the entire report online through our CCCS website at www.cccs.net or ask for a copy at one of our many offices. CCCS makes news!



CCCS AWARDS THREE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS



CCCS of Greater Dallas originated a special college scholarship in 1998 as a way of giving back to deserving individuals in the communities we serve. This year marks the eleventh year, CCCS has awarded scholarships to deserving clients who successfully completed the Debt Management Plan (DMP).

If the award winner wishes, the scholarship may go to a member of the client's immediate family. In keeping with our policy of confidentiality, CCCS does not publish the names or pictures of the winners or their families.

Three members comprise the Scholarship Committee, one from our Education Department and two representatives from the Communities Foundation of Texas

(CFT), which administers our scholarship funds, as required by Texas law.

Winners are selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, participation in extra curricular activities and/or community involvement, demonstrated leadership ability, long-range goals and financial need.

Scholarship winners receive a total of \$6000 to assist with tuition, fees and textbooks during the school year.

This year, three scholarship recipients were chosen from ten applications. The winners include one student from Amarillo who wants to be a Kindergarten teacher; one from the Dallas area who wants to be a television broadcaster and a third from the Arlington area who wants to go into the medical field.

Congratulations, scholarship winners!

CCCS FINANCIAL STRESS TEST

Created by Todd Mark, Vice President of Education,
reprinted from *The Dallas Morning News*



Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Dallas recently developed a consumer financial stress test for *The Dallas Morning News*. We asked questions such as, "How will I cope if an external factor impacts me, such as losing a job, an unexpected illness, or if my property value drops? How long would I be able to survive financially?"

A low score on the test doesn't mean you are destined for failure. "It does mean you need to bolster your financial strength so you can weather a storm. Todd Mark, CCCS Vice President of Education, urges consumers, "Put a cash cushion in the bank rather expect to draw on a credit line that may not be there when you need it."

(See Stress Test, page 2.)

SEPTEMBER 2009 CLASSES

Most CCCS classes are **FREE & open to the public**. There is a small fee for bankruptcy classes. **NO CHILD CARE AVAILABLE.** *Limited seating, please call to reserve a place.*

DALLAS

So You Want To Be A Home Owner

Prepares prospective home owners for mortgage readiness, their responsibilities and the home buying process.

Spanish

Saturday, September 19, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Managing Your Money & Credit

Teaches basics of money & credit in 4 steps.

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Understanding & Improving Credit

Explains how credit bureaus work. Shows consumers how to improve their own credit scores.

Saturday, September 12, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Pre-Discharge Bankruptcy Class (\$)

(Pre-requisites: Complete counseling session and bring case number to class.) Certificate.

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

To Register, call the Education Department:

(214)-638-2227, Ext. 6862,
toll free at (866) 881-2227 or online at

www.ccs.net

AUSTIN

So You Want to Be a Homeowner

Tuesday, September 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Part 1

Tuesday, September 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Part 2

Money Matters

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Pre-Discharge Bankruptcy Class (\$)

Saturday, September 26 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

All classes are taught at **CCCS Office**, Twin Towers, Suite 490W, 1106 Clayton Lane.

Please register by calling (512) 447-0711.

COLORADO SPRINGS

So You Want To Be A Homeowner

Wednesday, September 16, 5:30-10:30 p.m.

Money Matters

Wednesday, September 23, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Pre-Discharge Bankruptcy Class (\$)

Monday, September 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

All classes are held at CCCS, 1233 Lake Plaza Dr., Suite A. Please register at (719) 576-0909 or (800) 798-3328, Ext. 237.

PUEBLO

So You Want To Be A Homeowner

Saturday, September 26, 9:30 am-3:30 pm

Pre-Discharge Bankruptcy

Tuesday, September 15, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Classes meet at CCCS, 200 W. 1st St., Suite 302. Please register by calling (719) 542-6620 or (888) 218-5741.

I haven't heard of anybody who wants to stop living on account of the cost.

F. McKinney Hubbard,
1868-1930



STRESS TEST 2009

CCCS has identified four key factors that determine your overall financial health and ability to cope if faced with financial hardship. To determine your financial stress test score, do the math for each factor and then find out how you score.

1. Enter yearly gross income. _____
2. Enter monthly net income. _____
3. Enter total monthly expenses. (If needed, see CCCS budget sheet.)

4. Enter total unsecured debt (credit cards, student loans, etc.).

5. Enter total amount of emergency savings.

6. Enter the dollar amount of any equity in your home.

7. Enter total retirement savings from company plans such as a 401(k) or any personal plans such as an IRA. Do not include any unvested dollars.

Factor One: Disposable income ratio Your ability to absorb a drop in income or an increase in expenses. To calculate: Subtract monthly expenses from monthly income to determine disposable income or shortfall. Then divide your disposable income by monthly net income to determine your disposable income ratio.

Factor Two: Surviving on savings Amount of time you can survive on emergency savings without a job. To calculate: Divide your total emergency savings by monthly expenses to determine how many months you can get by without income.

Factor Three: Total spend-down How many months you could live before becoming completely broke. To calculate: Add your emergency savings to the amount of home equity and your total retirement savings to determine your total assets, then divide by your monthly expenses.

Factor Four: Debt-to-income ratio The ratio between your level of debt and your income. To calculate: Divide your total unsecured debt by yearly gross income.

TEST SCORING

Factor One: Disposable income ratio

- 25 percent or more = 25 points
- 15 to 24 percent = 20 points
- 10 to 14 percent = 15 points
- 5 to 9 percent = 5 points
- 4 percent or less = 0 points

Factor Two: Surviving on savings

- Six or more months = 25 points
- Three to five months = 20 points
- Two months = 15 points
- One month = 5 points
- Zero months = 0 points

Factor Three: Total spend-down

- More than 48 months = 25 points
- 36 to 48 months = 20 points
- 24 to 36 months = 15 points
- 12 to 24 months = 10 points
- 12 months or less = 0 points

Factor Four: Debt-to-income ratio

- Less than 10 percent = 25 points
- 10 to 19 percent = 20 points
- 20 to 35 percent = 10 points
- 36 to 50 percent or more = 5 points
- More than 50 percent = 0 points

FINAL SCORE

Total the four categories to receive your financial stress test score.

- 0-25 points:** Poor health – You are living dangerously and may already be in crisis.
- 25-50 points:** Fair health – Change or unplanned events could lead to financial crisis.
- 50-75 points:** Good health – You have the options to cope with change.
- 75-100 points:** Excellent health – You are well prepared to handle adversity.