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C.A.R.E. TODAY

CARE IN 47 STATES

Since our June 2007 Newsletter, thanks primarily to the efforts of those mentioned, CARE Programs have started in Hawaii (Judge Robert Faris), Iowa (Sean McAvoy), Montana (Judge John Peterson), Nebraska (Patricia Dugan Fahey), New Mexico (Arin Berkson), North Carolina (Pam McAfee), Rhode Island

(Patricia Antonelli) and South Dakota (Judge Charles Nail).

Judges Terry Myers (Idaho), Mark Vaughn (New Hampshire) and William Hill (North Dakota) have all indicated their commitment to work with other bankruptcy professionals to bring CARE to those states, and expect to have Programs ready to make presentations in the first quarter of 2008. Then CARE will have a presence in all 50 states.

Congratulations to all of you for this incredible accomplishment.

If you are a bankruptcy professional in a community where there is no CARE Program, please consider this. If you would be interested in and willing to make a financial literacy education CARE-type presentation for a high school or college in your community, if they asked you, why not be listed on the CARE Web site as a contact person. With CARE's national publicity and Web site, you may be contacted for a presentation.

JUMP\$TART COALITION...

We're on the Web:
www.careprogram.us

There are numerous opportunities for members of both organizations to work together, and state coalitions can expose CARE Programs to many new educators. Please consider contacting your state Jump\$tart Coalition representative to explore ways that you can work together. To find your local state representative go on the Jump\$tart Coalition Web site, www.jumpstartcoalition.org, and click on "state coalitions." **IF YOU DO A PROGRAM FOR OR WITH JUMP\$TART, OR OTHERWISE COLLABORATE WITH A STATE PROGRAM, PLEASE TELL US. WE WILL POST IT ON THE JUMP\$TART LINK ON THE CARE WEB SITE.**

CARE IS NOW A SECTION 501(c)(3) CORPORATION...

CARE is now a Section 501(c)(3) Corporation.

We continue to be interested in projects CARE could fund or help fund that would improve or promote the Program on a national basis.

For example, CARE has agreed to help the Ft. Wayne, Indiana CARE Program (Judge Robert Grant) underwrite a thirty-minute video to be produced by WFWA-DT PBS 39 as part of its video field trip series. The video directed to high school students will be a

financial literacy program based on the lessons, tactics and techniques of CARE. It will air on PBS 39 over the course of two years, and will be distributed, along with related materials, to private and parochial schools in the viewing area as well as public libraries. The video will also be posted on the CARE Web site so it will be available for use by CARE Programs nationwide. For example, you may want to use parts of the video in presentations.

CARE also will have buttons made with a modified CARE

logo that will be distributed to local CARE Program representatives at national bankruptcy community conferences, such as NCBJ, FJC and ABI conferences. CARE presenters will be able to wear these buttons when they are making CARE presentations and otherwise in order to promote CARE in their communities. The idea of these CARE buttons came from the Portland, Oregon CARE Program.

PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY PROJECTS THAT CARE CAN FUND OR HELP FUND THAT WOULD IMPROVE OR PROMOTE THE PROGRAM ON A NATIONAL BASIS.

GLAD (Greeks Learning to Avoid Debt)

Thanks to the efforts of Dwayne M. Murray, Esq., Kappa Alpha Psi and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, GLAD presentations have been made this Fall at Arizona State University (Judge Neilson, Carry Forrester, Carolyn Johnsen and Gary Ringler, Clerk) and Indiana University Purdue University—Indianapolis (IUPUI) (Jenice Golson-Dunlap). GLAD is also scheduled for a presentation at Louisiana State University in the Spring (Judge Douglas Dodd and Monica Menier).

We expect a significant number of presentations to be requested in 2008, so please be ready to help.

Visit the Fraternities and Sororities link on the CARE Web site to learn more about our GLAD initiative.

HELP US WITH THE NEWSLETTER

We can use all of the suggestions and help that you can offer for the Newsletter. In addition, please feel free to write an article for the Newsletter on any topic you think will be helpful to the presenters, educators and other interested people who have signed up for our mailing list.

TIPS & FACTS...

1 One of CARE's principal lessons is to use cash as much as possible, because people who use cash make better spending decisions, they spend less. We encourage people to use cash if it's under \$20 or they can eat it or drink it. As a next best alternative, use a check or a debit card without overlimit protection, where you actually make a ledger entry whenever you write the check or use a debit card, so that you actually see your balance reducing.

You have all seen the new TV ads that present the counter-message to this important lesson. The cafeteria line crashes or the NFL store line stops dead because someone has the audacity to use cash.

Discussing one of these commercials during a presentation while you talk about the importance of using cash is very effective in focusing the students on what the credit card industry's commercials like these are really about. Then you can discuss how the million dollar commercials also encourage them to do "priceless things" and live richly, whether they can afford it or not.



2 In your presentations you may wish to discuss the recent Congressional hearings on risk-based repricing (credit card companies increase interest rates when a borrower's credit score goes down, perhaps because they applied for too many new credit cards or missed a payment on a department store charge, or a number of other events which could reduce their credit score.)

The value of discussing this is to educate them of the reality that, the last time we checked, the credit card companies can raise your rate for any reason, require you to pay the whole balance due at any time, raise the minimum payment, or do pretty much anything else they want, because once you carry a balance on that credit card, you are essentially at their mercy. Every time there is an issue like this that comes up, universal defaults, credit risk repricing, or doubling the minimum payments, it's always interesting to hear the commentators say that, although it's legal under their contracts for the credit card companies to do these things, somehow it's not fair to the consumer. Credit card borrowers need to understand if they are carrying a balance, eventually they will be caught by some of the hidden fees and other rights and remedies that the credit card company's have as part of their agreements that no one ever reads.

read on for more TIPS & FACTS

TIPS & FACTS (con't)...

3 In 2006, Americans paid \$55 billion in late fees on their consumer credit obligations. Thank you Larry Friedman, the former Director of the U.S. Trustee Program, for this information. As shocking as this number is, it is a good starting point to discuss all of the hidden fees that the consumer credit industry charges, including the credit card company that simply added a \$75 fee to all of their borrower's bills one month, intending to eliminate the fee if the borrowers called and complained. As you would expect, many did not. With so many Americans buried in credit card debt that they will never repay, often with 5, 10, 15, 20 or more credit cards, do they actually ever look at the charges on all of those statements to find that arbitrary fee? Of course the best way to avoid the hidden fees and other default and interest rate traps is to be a "deadbeat" and pay the balance off on time, in full, every month. Otherwise start reading those contracts that Harvard Law students recently admitted they could not fully understand.

4 Posted on the CARE Web site is a series of seven monthly articles written by Judge Ninfo for the Rochester, New York Italian Community Newspaper about financial literacy matters and CARE's lessons, tactics and techniques (click on "[Italian American Community News](#)," from the Home Page). Writing articles for any of your local newspapers is a great way to increase financial literacy and get the CARE message out to more people. At least a half a dozen people indicated that after they read those articles, they photocopied them and mailed them off to their children at college.

5 A great way to get into more schools, especially in rural areas, is to offer to do a presentation for the Rotary Club. The members are community leaders with great contacts and they are very proactive. This has worked well for Judge Pat Williams (Spokane, Washington) and Kevin Tompsett, Esq. (Rochester, New York).

6 Beth Bivona, Esq. (Buffalo, New York) was successful in having a local high school guidance office post the "How to Create a Realistic College Budget That You Can Stick To" handout and other CARE materials on its separate Web site.

New on the CARE Web site

WE HAVE POSTED AN EXCELLENT BROCHURE PREPARED BY THE PORTLAND, OREGON CARE PROGRAM ON THE PRESENTATION MATERIALS LINK THAT YOU SHOULD VIEW. WE HAVE ALSO MADE CARY FORRESTER'S OVERVIEW OF PREDATORY LENDING TRAPS INTO A HANDOUT. THIS IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN SOME OF THE SCHOOLS YOU WILL VISIT.

Say it ain't so San Diego...



Judge John Hargrove (San Diego) will be retiring on January 4, 2008, and his Judicial Assistant, Karen Nickerson, will also be leaving the Court. Judge Hargrove was one of the first Bankruptcy Judges in the United States to bring a CARE Program to his community, and has been a local and national advocate of the Program almost since its inception. He has been responsible for one of CARE's most successful local Programs and in encouraging Bankruptcy Judges and other bankruptcy professionals, especially in the Ninth Circuit, to bring CARE to their communities. The Judge has been on National Public Radio, Channel One Distance Learning and has been the subject of a number of newspaper articles in connection with financial literacy education. Karen has not only been important to the San Diego CARE Program, but she has provided many other Programs with critical help in getting started. Judge Hargrove has indicated that he will be staying active in CARE in his retirement, which is great news for everyone. Thank you both Judge Hargrove and Karen for everything that you have done for the CARE Program. We can't thank you enough.

This is a good reminder that retired bankruptcy professionals, with their more flexible schedules, are a great resource for CARE Programs. Their schedule often permits them to do presentations that otherwise would be difficult for others to make, and they are a great back-up presenter should an emergency arise for a scheduled presenter.

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) Program

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**A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM
JUDGE NINFO:**

I am so proud of all of our local CARE Programs and presenters. You are truly making a difference. Recently a college student wrote me a note that said, "You must keep doing what you are doing. It's making a real difference."

That note is for all of you.

STAY IN TOUCH...

Please continue to stay in touch with us about what you are doing locally. Send us presentation materials you feel we should post on the Web site, any local publicity you receive for posting on the Web site, and any suggestions that you believe could help CARE improve and expand.

**Please have a
Happy and Safe
Holiday Season.**