

## MONEY MATTERS

# Live richer in 2011

BY JAYNE DI VINCENZO, PRESIDENT, LIONS BRIDGE FINANCIAL



Thousands of books and articles have been written on how to get richer. I'd like to stray from that and offer you some ideas on how to live a richer life in 2011. Many studies show that people who do for others and give generously of their time and money are happier, healthier people.

A few ideas for a richer life in 2011:

**1. Update your will and do something surprising.** Shave off some money that would normally go to your children or another heir and give 10 percent—or whatever you think is appropriate—to a charity or to a friend or family member who you think would benefit from your generosity. Some day, when you're not around to be thanked, you will have made a difference to something or someone who wasn't expecting it.

**2. Consider gifting during your lifetime if you've been blessed.** It's an easy and often tax-efficient way to donate appreciated stock or other assets to a non-profit if you don't want to use your cash.

**3. Keep enough life insurance coverage,** especially if you have children or debts that must be repaid when you're gone. Your survivors will find out how much you love them—enough to not want them to suffer needlessly if you unexpectedly pass away.

**4. Spend some while you're living,** especially if you've saved faithfully and invested wisely and you have an ample nest egg. I know a retiree who is taking his entire family on a cruise next year. He said he would much rather see his children and grandchildren have a great time than he'd enjoy taking several trips alone.

**5. Keep saving if you don't have that nest egg.** Live freer and richer by not racking up large debts that require a great deal of your income to repay. The freedom that comes from simple living has great rewards. It decreases stress, allows you to sleep better, argue less, there's less to clean and it gives you the freedom to do small things like picking up the lunch tab when you're out with a friend or giving some help to a loved one raising money for a cause or school.

**6. Celebrate others.** Take time to buy a greeting card and send best wishes, congratulations or just thinking-about-you notes. Surprise a friend by delivering a meal, or invite someone over for dinner.

**7. Be interested in the world.** Host an exchange student, travel to a poor country and take a "working" vacation building water tanks. Send support to a child in need overseas. Learn a foreign language—no matter what your age. Read books by authors from other countries.

**8. Recycle.** Be the person who picks up the discarded water bottle in the parking lot or the Coke can in the park. Start recycling at work. Not a tree-hugger?

Consider this: cities don't recycle just because they're environmentally friendly. They recycle because less trash in landfills lengthens their life span—saving a lot of money.

**9. Volunteer.** There are plenty of organizations that need you and your skills, even if they can't pay you a dime. The work you do will make you feel better, but as importantly, it will make someone else feel better.

**10. Walk.** If you can't find time to get to the gym, take a walk every day. We adopted a five-year-old labrador retriever who makes sure we do.

To a richer, healthier, wiser 2011. ◀

*Jayne Di Vincenzo has worked in financial services for more than 14 years and holds her Series 7, 63, 65, 31, 53 and 24 General Securities Principal and insurance licenses, with Securities registrations. Di Vincenzo offers securities through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Lions Bridge Financial 732 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Suite 304, Newport News, VA 23606. Jayne can be reached at 757-599-9111, email: Jayne@LionsBridgeFinancial.com*



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