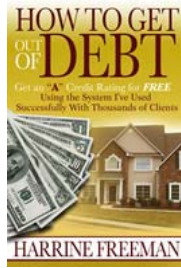


Debt Free
How to Become Financially Independent



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I would like to acknowledge the following people for inspiring me to write this book, Judine Slaughter, Taundra Hayes, Noriko Reid, Norman Turner, all of my family, friends, and others who have always supported me. I also want to thank my editor Lisa Tener for her excellent work, advice and support.

5 Ways to Become Financially Independent

1. **Become a Homeowner.** Becoming a homeowner increases your credit score, proves that you are a responsible spender, provides a tax write-off, provides you with an asset that will appreciate over time which will provide you with equity and increases your financial worth.

2. **Buy Health, Life and Disability Insurance.** Life insurance is critical because medical costs increase by 10-20% each year. Disability insurance will help you in the event you become seriously ill and have to be off work for an extended period of time.

3. **Start a Business.** Find out what your passion is, what you love to do more than anything else. Do your research before starting your business and take small steps. Start your business in your home; there are many tax write-offs for home based businesses.

4. **Purchase Investment Property.** Investment property provides cash flow that can be used to generate wealth and allows more opportunities to become available to you. If you are not sure how to begin, do research and buy 2 or more books on buying investment property, join a real estate group, and listen to financial investment shows to find out the best way to get started.

5. **Plan for Your retirement.** Determine what age you want to retire and develop a plan to reach that goal. Join your employer's retirement plan and ask questions about your plan, i.e. how much will your plan be worth when you retire and how much you need to contribute to reach your goal.

Financial Resources

1. Zero Debt by Lynnette Khalfani
2. The Ultimate Credit Handbook by Gerri Detweiler
3. Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill
4. Protecting Your Financial Future by Lee and Kristy Phillips

Harrine's Tips to Get Out of Debt

Financial Planning

- Setup an emergency fund, savings account, retirement, college fund
- Buy health, life and disability insurance

Retirement Plan/401(K)

- Allocate the maximum (usually 10% of your paycheck) to your retirement plan or 401(K).

Savings

- Save at least 3% of your paycheck to a savings account.

Emergency Fund

- An emergency fund should be enough savings to pay your bills for at least 3 to 6 months. Emergency fund should be readily accessible and stored in a checking or savings account, preferably a high interest savings account such as Emigrant Direct or ING.

Reduce Expenses

- Expenses can be reduced by: bringing your lunch to work, canceling your pager, internet, cable or cell phone service or get the cheapest plan available, carpool, catch the subway or bus to work, use coupons when buying groceries or shop at wholesales stores and sell unused items at a yard sale or donate to charity.

Create a Budget

- Having a budget makes you responsible and accountable for your finances. Once you create your budget you can easily see if you have too many expenses or if your money is not being managed properly. The easiest task to accomplish this is determining if you have too many expenses, you simply cut down on your expenses to gain additional money.

Harrine Freeman is a member of the American Association of Daily Money Managers, the National Association of Women Writers, SPAWN, Toastmasters, the Women Network, AAUW, IEEE, and WIT. She has provided credit



repair services for issues such as bankruptcies, judgments, student loans, delinquent debts and much more. She has been a guest speaker at local churches and schools, Fortune 100 companies, libraries and local and national radio shows.

Her experience began by repairing my own credit. She was \$19,000 in debt and was making only \$21,000 a year. She has been debt free for the past 10 years. In 2000, she began providing credit repair services to family and friends. In 2002, she began a credit repair and personal finance business and has helped thousands of clients of all ages and economic backgrounds go on to purchase homes, cars, start businesses and purchase investment property. Her passion and first love is helping people get out of debt. She rejoices in her clients success stories and continually provides encouragement and support to her clients.

She writes frequently and has written technical documentation for the IEEE Instrumentation and Measurement Magazine, as well as written several ezine articles on personal finance that have appeared on Ezine Articles and internet blogs. Her first book *How to Get out of Debt: Get an "A" Credit Rating for Free Using the System I've Used Successfully with Thousands of Clients* was published by Adept Publishers and was available in bookstores in December 15, 2006. She currently lives in Washington DC.

