

A STRAIGHT TALK ON DEBT

My Debt Story Part 1-Meadow Devor

MeadowDeVor Sat, Dec 15 2012 8:00 AM | 2

On January 18, 2009, I owed \$571,817.68 in debt. After a decade of living beyond my means. A couple of lousy real estate transactions. And a failed marriage.

I carried this debt for nearly three years.

Watching each month as the numbers crawled toward zero. And on November 14, 2011, I made my very last payment. New balance: \$0.00. And it remains \$0.00 to this day.

If I stacked 571,817 dollar bills into a pile and weighed it - it would be 1,167 pounds. That's literally HALF a ton.

The debt I carried weighed as much as a grizzly bear. If I stacked 571,817 dollar bills - the column would be 205 feet tall.

That's over three times taller than any building in my town. Longer than a space shuttle. To say that I'm proud of myself doesn't even come close to doing this feeling justice. This is one of the most monumental feats of my life.

During this process...

- I learned invaluable things about myself. About money. About life.
- I learned that it's not easy or comfortable to completely turn your life around. Nor should it be.
- I learned that most things worth having - don't happen quickly. You put in time and effort. And you slowly create what you want. I learned that debt, poverty, wealth - none of these happen on accident. They are deliberately created. By the way we think. And the actions we take.
- I learned that freedom is more important than a pair of shoes.
- I learned that self respect is more valuable than living beyond my means.
- I learned that I can completely take care of myself. And that dependency is just another form of slavery. I learned that pretending is painful. And the truth will always set me free.
- I learned that I can work. A lot. Sometimes three jobs at once. And that hard work is something to be treasured - not avoided.
- And I learned that this journey wouldn't have been the same without my readers, who are now my friends. My blog's monumental success was created by them. It spread like wildfire through their hands. They gave me inspiration when I thought I might want to give up. They gave me a reason to keep writing.

The answer to paying off debt is pretty simple...

1. Stop using credit.
2. Earn more than you spend.
3. Use the extra earnings to pay off debt.

It's not romantic. It's not complicated. It's actually very straight forward. I, however, do not typically do things the easy or simple way.

In hindsight, I can see that the first year of my "debt repayment program" wasn't debt repayment at all. It was more like debt shuffling. I made a few tough decisions and made good progress toward paying off my debt. But, I continued to use credit cards. And I continued to earn less than I was spending.

Until I hit rock bottom. And had to reconcile with what I had done. And come to terms with the fact that the only person who could save me... was me.

To be continued...How I got out

Meadow DeVor



Meadow DeVor is a Master Certified Money Coach who has devoted her practice to helping her clients create a healthy relationship with money. She believes that everyone has the power to transform their lives, find their own financial freedom and create a better relationship with money by changing the way we think. She has been a guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show and her articles have been featured in Women's Day Magazine. She is known for her take-no-prisoners approach to coaching, her radical authenticity, and most of all... for her giggle. She is committed to doing serious work while making it as fun as possible. She's the author of Money Love - A Guide to Changing the Way You Think About Money. She writes a popular blog, video blog, and podcast about money, love, life and other stuff. You can read more of her work at www.MeadowDeVor.com. Chat with her on [twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

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mdavis1964

Sun, Dec 16 2012 7:31 AM

WOW!! I am looking forward to part 2. I hope maybe there is a part 3 as well to help those of us that have gotten out of debt, but seem to struggle trying to figure out where the extra money should go. Thank you for sharing!!

About

A Straight Talk on Debt gives you the real deal on debt, straight from our employees and industry insiders. Learn more about our debt relief plans and important industry updates.

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Total Unsecured Debt:

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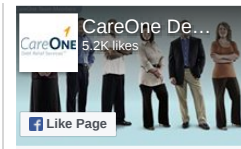
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kwikquid

Tue, Jan 22 2013 7:12 AM

Debt teaches us the way to live, work and saves accordingly, as many are facing the loads but you are one of the luckiest to overcome. It's all because of self determination and sacrifices you have made for the long period to get rid of that debt you owed.



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