

What's Your Plan for 2011?



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The end of another year is upon us. What surprises will the New Year hold? Let's reflect; You are a year older and wiser, your time frame to retirement has gotten one year shorter, you've watched as your children grew physically and mentally over the last year, we've seen our friends and family deal with the economic issues during this past recession and what changes many have made to put their family in a better financial situation. So another year is upon us, some may say thankfully. Ask yourself, how can I make this my best year ever?

Staying on top of all the issues in your life can be a difficult task, even if you weren't busy. Why? Most people are using the bulk of their efforts for their day job or running their business. So in turn, the saying "I'll get to that next weekend" is what ends up happening. In addition, just staying current with the activities of children and/or birthdays for family and friends can be challenging. So getting a grasp on your retirement planning, the college planning for your children or grandchildren, and everything that goes in between is usually the last thing on most investor's minds. It takes time and effort.

So what to expect from the New Year is more of what last year brought us, if you continue to put off the planning issues. For instance, you will get a mailbox full of statements to sort out, the economy will continuously change and your family will continue to have triumphs and

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challenges just like last year. How do we fix it? They say it takes 21 days to create a long term habit. That means if you start pulling together all of your data, you might be in a position to put a plan together in a month's time. Is it worth it? Well, how do you know how you are doing if you don't have a plan? Even if you are making a resolution to lose weight, you have to answer the questions, how much do I want to lose? How many days a week can I commit to working out? Aren't you and your family important enough to get to the top of the list?

If you run a business, manage a company or department of people, you delegate tasks. If you have a full plate on the personal front, why not evaluate what you can delegate? There are things that you can and can't delegate. For example, being at your child's sporting events, their plays, birthday parties, are things your family and friends want to see you at. So if you have a finite amount of time, here are some ideas of how or what you can leverage delegating your responsibilities: Home maintenance and cleaning, your tax planning and preparation to a CPA, hire a personal trainer to get fit and hold you accountable, legal advice, and yes you can hire a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ to create and update your plan annually for you or whenever a major financial issues has occurred in your life. I would assume for most of us that the last three years could be considered a major financial issue. It wouldn't be a bad idea if your CFP® even communicated with your CPA and attorney at that to plan on your behalf.

So . . . What's Your Plan for 2011? Going to the gym? Where's your next vacation? How is that cholesterol? That salad will taste exactly the same as it did the year before you know.

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