

NFCC PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR
CREDIT COUNSELING

*Knowing the difference can
make all the difference.*

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NFCC MARKS FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH WITH SERIES OF EVENTS

Silver Spring, MD – The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) is proud to continue its six-decade long mission of promoting financial literacy, and commends Congress for recognizing the importance of financial education by designating April as Financial Literacy Month.

“The NFCC continues to set the standard as we strive to realize our vision of creating a national culture of financial responsibility in this country,” said NFCC president and CEO Susan C. Keating. “Financial Literacy Month offers the opportunity to focus and maintain attention on this critical issue.”

Even though every month is Financial Literacy Month at the NFCC, April takes on a special significance when the NFCC and its Member Agencies seize the opportunity to create increased awareness around financial education with a series of events, including:

- **New Online Financial Blog Launched.** In addition to the existing financial tools and resources on its Web site, www.DebtAdvice.org, on April 1 the NFCC added a financial blog. Initial posts will be from NFCC president and CEO, Susan C. Keating, financial expert and media personality, Jean Chatzky, as well as the NFCC’s 2009 Peer Achievement and Counseling Excellence Award winners in the three categories of Client, Counselor and Educator of the Year. The Web site currently features important consumer tools including budget and mortgage calculators, financial literacy quizzes, *Financial Fast Facts* video tips and information on how to reach local certified credit and housing counselors. The site also provides helpful information on a number of issues from bankruptcy counseling and education to foreclosure prevention and identity theft.
- **Spanish Web site launched.** Continuing to expand its financial education outreach, the NFCC created a new Spanish Web site as a financial resource tool specific to the Hispanic community. Among the financial education resources available on the site, www.Terminconsudeuda.org, consumers will find a consumer tips section relevant to their everyday concerns. Located within this area are a budget worksheet, multiple calculators and consumer tips articles. Those interested in credit counseling will find an overview of the credit counseling process, a frequently asked questions area, and information on how to locate an NFCC Member Agency to set an appointment for counseling in Spanish. Additionally, useful information is provided for those needing housing counseling or fearing foreclosure, along with an overview of the bankruptcy process for those in deep financial distress.
- **Presentation of National Survey Results on Consumer Financial Literacy.** The fourth annual national survey, conducted by Harris Interactive, Inc. is rich with data around consumers’ shifts in spending and saving in recent years, what circumstances Americans feel are acceptable reasons for defaulting on a mortgage, how closely they monitor and keep track of their own finances, who

they turn to for advice and help, how receptive they are to professional financial advice and education and their overall financial health. The complete results of this survey will be released on Capitol Hill on April 13.

- **NFCC Members Visit Capitol Hill.** Also on April 13, dozens of NFCC Member Agency CEOs and senior staff will call on legislators, further bringing attention to the need for increased financial literacy and the funding of financial education.
- **National Poster Contest Winner Announced.** Each year the NFCC hosts the Be MoneyWi\$e National Financial Literacy Poster Contest to introduce school-aged children to the concept of financial literacy, allowing them to express their concepts through artwork. This year more than 3,000 students from grades three through 12 submitted posters around the theme of \$mart Money Choices = A Brighter Future. The national winner will be announced and honored at the 2010 Jump\$tart Coalition Awards Dinner in Washington, DC on April 14.
- **Direct Consumer Assistance Through Special MSN Message Board Event.** On April 27, NFCC-certified counselors will be on-hand from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern Time on the MSN Money “Ask a Counselor” message board through an open forum answering consumers financial questions.
- **NFCC Member Agencies** nationwide will be hosting local events specific to their communities during Financial Literacy Month.

“The wide variety of events that we have planned for Financial Literacy Month is a real indication of how important it is to raise the level of financial know-how in this country,” continued Keating. “From school children to seniors, it is vitally important that all Americans take responsibility for their financial future.”

To find the NFCC Member Agency closest to you, or to learn about Financial Literacy Month events in your area, call (800) 388-2227, or go online to www.DebtAdvice.org. For information en Español, dial (800) 682-9832 or visit www.Terminconsudeuda.org.

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The National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC), founded in 1951, is the nation’s largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling organization. The NFCC’s mission is to promote the national agenda for financially responsible behavior and build capacity for its Members to deliver the highest quality financial education and counseling services. NFCC Members annually help four million consumers through close to 830 community-based offices nationwide. For free and affordable confidential advice through a reputable NFCC Member, call (800) 388-2227, (en Español (800) 682-9832) or visit www.nfcc.org. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NFCCDebtAdvice> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/NFCCDebtAdvice>.