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Budget & Credit Solutions Press Release
For Immediate Release

THE POWER OF TWENTY DOLLARS

Budget & Credit Solutions Advises

That There's Still Time Remaining in 2009 to Improve Your Personal Financial Picture

Austin, TX – Remember back in January when you made those New Year's Resolutions? Odds are that they included some financial vows, promises to stop charging, start saving and improve your overall financial well-being. How are you doing?

You may not be as far along as they'd hoped to be at this mid-year point. But don't be discouraged. There's still time to make a positive difference in your finances and start 2010 in a much better place.

Budget & Credit Solutions (BCS) believes that small changes can yield huge results. Putting \$20 per week to work for you can improve your entire financial picture. Consider the following and see how you can best utilize \$20:

- **Debt** – Find an extra \$20 per week for the remainder of the year, and put it toward debt reduction. Not worth the trouble? Consider this: If you currently owe \$1,000 on a credit card, have an Annual Percentage Rate of 18 percent, and are making a minimum monthly payment of 2 percent of balance, even if no further charges are ever added to the account, you won't have that \$1,000 paid off for 12 years. You don't want to still be paying for 2009 charges in 2021.
- **Saving** – If your savings account is low or non-existent, do something about it. After all, it's not a matter of *if* the financial emergency will occur, but *when*. Prepare for the inevitable by socking away \$20 per week until the end of the year. When December 31 rolls around, you'll have \$500 in your savings account, a cushion that should see you through most everyday emergencies.

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- **Holiday Expenses** – Remember the old Holiday Accounts where you methodically deposited money throughout the year and then drew it out during December to pay cash for your purchases? That idea is one that we should take out of the moth balls, dust off and put into practice. Now is the time to establish your own personal Holiday Account. Find an extra \$20 per week and start making out your gift list, as you'll have \$500 to spend. And the best gift of all will be the one that you give to yourself...a debt-free holiday.

Imagine starting off 2010 with debt paid down, savings built up, and no holiday bills in the mailbox. Go on and pinch yourself, because you're not dreaming. This could be a reality, but it all starts with a commitment from you. If you can't tackle all three areas, address the one that troubles you most. Odds are that you'll enjoy moving toward financial stability so much that you carry your good habits into the New Year.

“Finding an extra \$20 per week is always easier said than done,” said George Merkle, President and CEO. “There are only three ways to do it: spend less, earn more, or both. Those choices may not sound ideal, but you will not regret the effort when you get on stable financial ground.”

If you need help finding that extra \$20 per week, creating a realistic budget you can live with, or tackling overwhelming debt, reach out to BCS. To find the one closest to you, contact 512.451.9443 or 1.888.880.6337 toll-free or online at www.debt.org.

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BCS is a member of the nation's largest and longest serving national nonprofit credit counseling organization, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, Inc. Their collective mission is to provide services to consumers to help them achieve financial wellness through financial management counseling, financial education and when appropriate debt reduction services through debt management plans. As a condition of membership, BCS is required to maintain high quality services through standards set by The Council on Accreditation and the NFCC.

