



In support of ***The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement*** built around celebrating the strategic venues of

- April known as *Financial Literacy Month*
- October known as *Estate & Gift Planning Awareness Month*

This feature column contains some very important messages

Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Feature Column Series 001 Issue | Vol 1 | 2022

Organization & Planning are YOUR KEYS to Financial Success

Managing personal finances today is more complicated / more important than ever. We're living longer, but saving proportionately less. Scores of us feel less secure in our jobs and homes than we did in the past. We see our money being drained by the high cost of housing, taxes, education, health care, while dealing with the uncertainty of investments and our economy. We worry about the future, or unfortunately in many cases, simply try not to think about it.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together"
~ Vincent Van Gogh

With so many people on the path to or verge of running out of money before their life expectancy, many families burdened with large amounts of student loans and other forms of debt, and more than half of our adults not having up-to-date estate and financial plans to protect themselves and their families, we have a serious problem. This lack of financial awareness and financial literacy places a HUGE growing amount of pressure on families and friends, employers, nonprofits; as well as the government.

There is a real solution to this lack of financial awareness and financial literacy epidemic that revolves around better educating the general public, financial service and nonprofit professionals to the **essential principles to smart money management** while motivating them to take appropriate actions. People need access to better personal financial management tools and information, to communicate and work more effectively with their financial advisors, and to make better every day informed money decisions.

Sensible financial management means much more than budgeting and putting money away for retirement. It's being equipped to handle a lifetime of financial challenges, needs and changes, figuring out how to build assets and staying ahead of inflation, taking advantage of deflation, and choosing wisely from a constantly widening field of savings, investment and insurance options. When it comes to finances, people are faced with more pressures and more possibilities than ever before.

The good news is that as complex as today's financial world is, there's no real mystery to sound personal money management. You don't need a master's degree in finance or accounting to get ahead.

What you do need are the solid basic principles of **organization, personal finance, and decision-making**, plus the **willingness** to put them into action. Anyone with a fundamental education and the desire to handle money wisely can do it.



The FINANCIAL AWARENESS Foundation

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization Dedicated to Significantly
Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy...[™]

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Effective financial management does involve certain procedures that you don't automatically learn from your parents or associates – and they certainly aren't taught in our schools. It's more than just a matter of gathering enough information and then making a logical decision. In fact, for many people, the constant bombardment of economic news, fragmented financial information and investment product advertisements is part of the problem. Information overload can be a major obstacle to sorting out choices and making wise decisions.

To save time and money, and help you to better manage your finances, over the years we developed a personal financial management system called Your *financial* PARTNER. It's a clear, step-by-step process designed to save you time and money and puts all the essential areas of personal finance in front of you with their core principles.

The process centers on helping you to get organized, on staying aware of your money issues, and on making deliberate choices about the ways you spend, save and invest instead of following your emotions or simply "going with the flow." The illustration above represents the **Your *financial* PARTNER System**, an 11-part process that's divided into two phases: Getting Organized and Financial Planning.

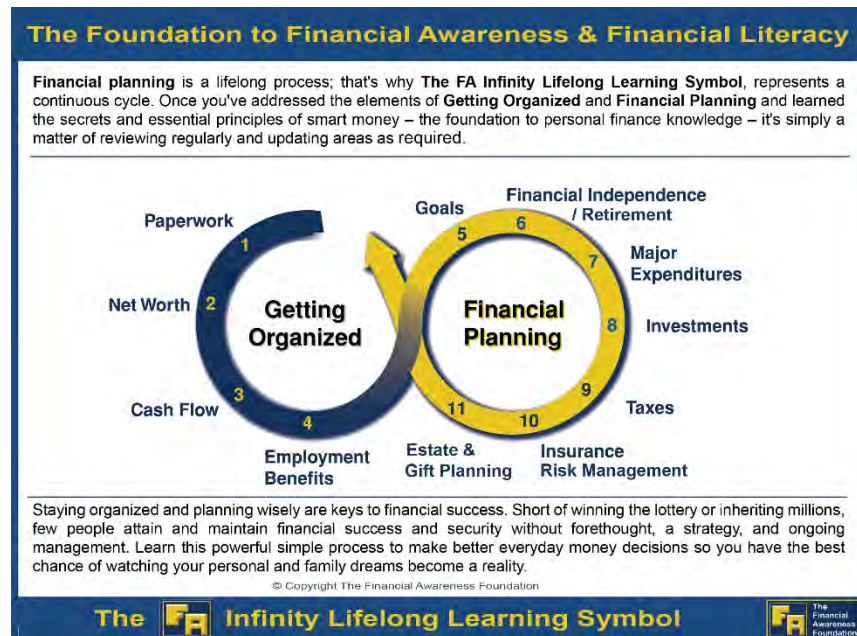
GETTING ORGANIZED

1. Paperwork: Everyone has some primary financial documents – bank and brokerage statements, retirement plan statements, tax returns, insurance policies, passwords, digital paperwork, etc. Keep this information in a central location and tie it into your filing system.

2. Net Worth: Know where you stand by inventorying what you own and what you owe. Do this at least annually so you can evaluate your progress.

3. Cash Flow: Gain control of your cash flow by spending according to your plan, not impulsively.

4. Employment Benefits: For those employed understand and utilize your employment benefits fully; they can improve your cash flow. Any amount your employer contributes toward your health insurance, life insurance, retirement and other benefits is money you don't need to spend.



FINANCIAL PLANNING

5. Goal Setting: To begin your financial planning, ask yourself what's really important to you, financially and personally. Where do you want to be in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years? These are key elements of planning your future; it affects your decisions and choices.

6. Financial Independence and Retirement Planning: A comfortable retirement, perhaps at an early age, is one of the most common reasons people become interested in financial planning. Determine what is a reasonable “nest egg” to reach and maintain your level of financial independence and how to make it a reality.

7. Major Expenditures Planning: A home, a car and your child's college education – these are all “big ticket” items that are best planned for in advance. Develop financial strategies early on for effectively achieving the funding needed for those “big bills” down the road.

8. Investments Planning: For most of us, wise investing is the key to achieving and maintaining our financial independence, as well as our other financial goals. Investing is expanding money, time or assets with the expectation of achieving a profit. As in life achieving a profit from investing is never for sure. Establish your investment goals, assess your risk tolerance, and then select an asset allocation model that best fits you.

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9. Tax Planning: Your financial planning should include tax considerations, regardless of your level of wealth. Proactively take advantage of opportunities for minimizing you tax obligations.

10. Insurance / Risk Management Planning: Decide what to self-insure and what risks to pass off to insurance companies and at what price.

11. Estate & Gift Planning: Develop or update your estate & gift plan. If you get sick, or die without an up-to-date estate and gift plan, rich or poor or some ware in-between the management and distribution of your assets can become a time-consuming and costly financial challenge for your loved ones and survivors.



ANNUAL FINANCIAL CHECKLIST

- 1. Keep an updated Things To Do list
- 2. Keep a financial calendar for action
- 3. Organize your paperwork
- 4. Get an accurate picture of your net-worth
- 5. Use a workable cash-flow plan
- 6. Save money with cost-cutting/ strategies
- 7. Make the most of your employment benefits
- 8. Define what really matters to you
- 9. Understand the planning processes
- 10. Invest for your financial independence / retirement
- 11. Begin planning for major expenditures
- 12. Develop / implement a tax-reduction plan
- 13. Review your risk management; purchase only the insurance you and your family need
- 14. Create or update your estate & gift plan to protect yourself and your family.



Complimentary Copy of the

Your *financial* PARTNER System



In the spirit of Improving financial awareness & financial literacy we would like to share with you a complimentary copy of Your *financial* PARTNER System. To get your free copy click here.

www.TheFinancialAwarenessFoundation.org

*This is the first in a series of feature columns outlining the Your financial PARTNER Personal Financial Management System. Next we'll address **Getting Organized**.*

Visit The Financial Awareness Foundation's website to learn more about The Movement and financial, estate and gift planning. www.TheFinancialAwarenessFoundation.org



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Introducing... The Financial Awareness Foundation (TFAF)

TFAF is a 501(c)(3) USA based nonprofit organization. Its mission is to significantly help solve a major social challenge dealing with the lack of financial awareness along with the financial illiteracy epidemic. They believe that teaching financial awareness, financial literacy and the essential principles to smart money management are so very important. This provides people the tools of empowerment for making lifelong informed money decisions, giving them the best probability of living a quality life without outliving their wealth; and for passing on personal values, knowledge & assets to future generations to make their lives & this world a better place.



TFAF has two main focal points and they revolve around:

- Taking an active leadership role to recognize organizations and their management that are championing improving financial awareness and financial literacy. Unite them with other associations, organizations, nonprofits, educational institutions, municipalities, employers and the news media to actively focus their vast community resources into **The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement** around a growing concentrated semi-annual personal finance content media blitz through the strategic campaign venues April known as **Financial Literacy Month** and six months later October known as **Estate & Gift Planning Awareness Month**.

The plan is to touch the majority of the general public, high net worth individuals, financial service and nonprofit professionals and their organizations at least twice a year through these strategic venues, with educational and motivating reminders to get and keep their financial house in order with current financial, estate, and gift plans.

<http://thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TFAF-PublicSupportfortheImprovingFinancialAwareness.pdf>

The Movement began in the USA over a decade ago; global financial literacy initiatives are increasing; we are contacted regularly for assistance, content, and ideas from around the world. In 2018 we began The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement in several East African Countries. This will touch ~ 150 million people; modeled after our work in the US. In 2020 we began Movements in West Africa - Ghana, Brazil, and India. We now have The Movement is developing within 10 countries over 4 continents. We also have initiated development activities and discussions for **The International Improving Financial Awareness and Financial Literacy Research Centers** within strategic universities, domestically and internationally. They are planning on taking leadership roles within the countries and community's improving financial awareness and financial literacy activities.

<http://www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TheMovementWorldWide.pdf>

- Delivers and develops exceptional educational content and programs for We The People - the general public – rich to poor; and for financial service, nonprofit, and charitable gift planning professionals, and educational institutions that support the public's financial and estate and gift planning and charitable planning needs.

Organizations and individuals are never required to financially support TFAF in any way. They do not pay any marketing or membership fee, or contribute in order to participate in **The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement**, campaigns and programs. TFAF also develops and distribute high quality materials at 'NO Cost' used for nonprofit educational purposes. But as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, financial support and contributions are always welcomed and very much appreciated.



Valentino Sabuco is the Executive Director, and you can learn more about TFAF, The Movement, and becoming an **Ambassador, Strategic Partner, Volunteer, or Supporter** at www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/

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The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement

♦ Are you aware of The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement?

To help address the global lack of financial awareness and the financial illiteracy epidemic over a decade ago in the USA we began taking an active leadership role to recognize organizations and their management, and individuals that are championing improving financial awareness and financial literacy. We are then uniting them with other associations, organizations, nonprofits, educational institutions, municipalities, employers, the news media and concerned individuals to actively focus this vast community resource into **The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement** with its semi-



annual concentrated personal finance content media blitz built around celebrating the strategic campaign venues

- ✓ **April being known as Financial Literacy Month** and six months later with
- ✓ **October being known as Estate & Gift Planning Awareness Month.** (We worked with Congressman Thompson's Office during 2007 and 2008 to help create an Estate Planning Awareness proclamation that was co-authored by 50 bi-partisan Congresswomen & Congressmen; we have helped advance and promote it since.)

The plan is to touch everyone at least twice a year through these strategic campaign venues, with educational and motivating content, reminders and tools for making wise informed lifelong financial decisions and to **get and keep your financial house in order by having current financial, estate and gift plans.**

Below is a link to our annual **The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Report & Magazine.** This provides a sampling of the community participation, including supporting proclamations from over 20 US State Governors, leading financial service, planned giving, and nonprofit associations and their professionals, and academia and news media efforts along with a comprehensive collection of reports including how financially literate each state and country is, and so much more.

<http://www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TFAF-FallCampaignReport&Magazine.pdf>

For financial service professionals

- ✓ **The Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Movement Can Increase Your Bottom Line**

<http://www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TFAF-Advisors-CanIncreaseYourBottomLine.pdf>

For We The People - The General Public –

- ✓ **Supporting Improving Financial Awareness & Financial Literacy Is A Winning Opportunity For All**

<http://www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TFAF-PublicSupportfortheImprovingFinancialAwareness.pdf>



To learn more about The Movement or become a volunteer or Ambassador or Strategic Partner in the US or worldwide.

www.thefinancialawarenessfoundation.org/pdf/TFAF-Ambassador-Volunteer-Overview.pdf

Hope you find this of interest and look forward to meeting you.

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