

# SAVE MORE FOR TOMORROW

## CUT EXPENSES TODAY!

**S**aving money is important, especially when it comes to your retirement. One of the best and easiest ways to save for tomorrow is to cut expenses today, which will allow you to contribute more to your 401(k) plan. By stretching your dollars to the max, you'll come closer to reaching your savings goals!

- ◆ Pay off credit cards monthly. If you can't pay the balance, you shouldn't be charging it.
- ◆ If you must charge, use a no-fee or low-fee credit card. Visit [www.bankrate.com](http://www.bankrate.com) to compare rates.
- ◆ Shift your higher rate credit card debt to a lower rate line of credit.
- ◆ Then you can deduct the interest on your tax return if you itemize on Schedule A.
- ◆ Use a home-equity loan to pay off auto loans. The interest is tax-deductible.
- ◆ Make your mortgage payment bi-weekly instead of monthly. You'll save interest payments and be able to pay off your mortgage sooner.
- ◆ Pay extra principal payments when paying your mortgage. As above, you'll save interest payments and be able to pay off your mortgage sooner.
- ◆ If your house down payment was for less than 20% of the value of the home, cancel your private mortgage insurance once your mortgage balance is 80% or less of the value of your home.
- ◆ Lock in a fixed mortgage rate so that you don't find yourself in a position where your interest rate increases to a point at which you can no longer make your house payments.
- ◆ Only use ATMs that don't charge service fees.
- ◆ Pay cash whenever possible. Psychologically it's harder to spend than using credit cards. Plus, you'll save on interest charges.