



A Special Thank You



We here at the College Kids Savings Program have a lot to be thankful for. We want to say a special 'thanks' to you for supporting our Giving Tuesday campaign. Your contribution has allowed us to continue our incentive program into the next year.

Harnessing the Power of Private Donors

It's no secret that the St. Louis Treasurer's Office deposits \$50 in to every College Kids account. This deposit is funded by parking revenue and made just once when the account is opened.

Not so well known, however, is the fact that we make additional incentive deposits in student's accounts. Incentives are designed to help a student grow her savings account, even if she's not able to deposit her own money at that time. Students can earn a variety of incentives including \$1 for every week of perfect school attendance, a dollar for dollar match on the first \$100 deposited, and \$5 for participating in financial education courses. Students and their families can earn incentives at any time and we're proud to say that over \$100,000 have been deposited in to students accounts for good attendance alone.

Unlike \$50 seed deposits, we don't use parking revenue to fund incentives. College Kids relies on private donors to completely fund every incentive we offer to our families. That means that every dollar you donate to College Kids gets deposited directly back in to a student's account as an incentive.

This past week, College Kids participated in Giving Tuesday. We're proud to write that, not only did we meet our small but mighty goal, we surpassed it. Because of our our dedicated network of supporters, we can now provide over \$2,000 more in incentives to St. Louis students.

Check out more from College Kids.



View our Annual Report online!

Take a look at the impact our College Savings Program made over the year. Visit www.stlofe.org/college-kids

[2018 College Kids Annual Report](#)

FICO AND OFE



Score a Better Future with the OFE

The Office of Financial Empowerment was on hand as credit scoring company FICO launched their new Score a Better Future program in St. Louis this week.

Score a Better Future is a new national program designed by FICO that brings together consumer advocates, credit educators and community leaders to help people learn about credit scores and the financial tools available to help people make better choices with their money.

The OFE co-sponsored the kickoff event at Harris Stowe State University and provided free credit counseling to attendees.



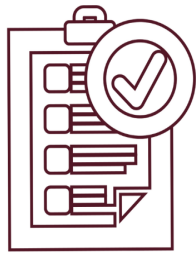
Lisa Gates, Director
Office of Financial Empowerment

Holiday Tips

Make the Most of Your Finances This Holiday Season
By Operation HOPE

Thanksgiving is over, Black Friday and Cyber Monday have come and gone, and the holiday season has officially begun. There's no question that it's the most wonderful time of the year, but for many households it can also be the most financially stressful.

Here are three tips that you can follow to make the most of the holidays finally, and prepare for a happy new year.



Tip #1 Set a Holiday Budget and Stick to It

This year the average American is expected to spend about \$885 on gifts during the holiday season. While it's exciting to spread the Yuletide cheer, be careful not to spend more than you can afford. Review your monthly expenses and establish a hard limit for your spending on presents, parties, and other holiday accessories. Once the season is over, you don't want to spend the new year climbing out of newly accrued debt.

Tip #2 Give the Gift of Stock or a CD

This year ditch the latest gadget or toy for your young family members as gifts and choose to invest in their future. Using apps like RobinHood and Stockpile, you can gift them a portion of stock and use this as an opportunity to teach them about the importance of delayed gratification and investing. Another great way to teach this important lesson in financial literacy is to give them a Certificate of Deposit, or CD. Both of these items accrue value over time and are potentially worth more later on than you first gave them. Check with an investment professional or your local banker to learn more.



Tip #3 Donate to a Charitable Cause or Non-Profit Organization



What better time to give than during the holiday season? With so many families in need and organizations working to advance social good, there are a myriad of opportunities to give back. To find a credible 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or cause, visit [CharityNavigator.com](https://www.charitynavigator.com). You'll find Operation HOPE and many other organizations in your community working to make the world a better place. In addition to the inward benefits of helping others, your gift may be eligible to help reduce your tax liability. If giving isn't an option this year, many of these same organizations welcome volunteers to serve in a number of capacities.

Happy Holidays from Your Friends at Operation HOPE!

About Operation HOPE

About Operation HOPE, Inc. Since 1992, Operation HOPE has been moving America from civil rights to "silver rights" with the mission of making free enterprise and capitalism

December Classes

Budgeting and Saving

December 5th, 12:30pm - 1:30pm
133 South 11th Street, Suite 300

Strategies for Fraud Prevention

December 6th, 12:30pm - 1:30pm
133 South 11th Street, Suite 300

Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness

December 11th, 12:30pm - 1:30pm
1520 Market Street, Room 1 on the First Floor

Financial Planning

December 12th, 12:30pm - 1:30pm
St. Louis Metropolitan Police Headquarters

For class descriptions and to RSVP, visit www.stlofe.org

Find us online



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Email us

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