

# Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma, Inc.

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News, views, & comments from your not-for-profit agency that has been helping people improve their quality of life since 1968.

## Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma celebrates 40 years.

It is hard to believe Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. But it's not hard to believe that thousands of consumers have come to know and trust there is an agency like CCCS

service approach. CCCS, year after year, has provided financial and budget counseling programs designed to assist families and individuals to better plan their spending and learn to budget funds in the most efficient manner possible. With certified

“Our proven track record of client success and quality services represents the best practices of the credit counseling industry. This is due to our personal commitment to helping people overcome debt stress, as well as our commitment to protecting the interests of the people



consumer credit counselors, consumers have come to rely on CCCS for quality assistance when seeking financial management advice and relief from mounting debt.

“CCCS has been an established member of the local community for 40 years and we are

that makes a difference in their lives – making a difference for 40 years.

While a lot of things have changed over the years, one thing will never change – our dedicated, compassionate and true community

here to help consumers take the guesswork out of who to trust for confidential money management advice, financial education and debt relief,” says President & CEO Margo Mitchell.

### 40 Years of Success.

- Counseled over 137,000 families and individuals
- Returned in excess of \$237 million to the credit community on behalf of our clients
- Facilitated credit and budgeting workshops for 127,000+ people in eastern Oklahoma.

we serve.”

As a leading nonprofit credit counseling agency, CCCS is truly an agency that has made a difference in Eastern Oklahoma.

Congratulations to our Board of Directors, our staff, Tulsa Area United Way, our sponsors and partners! We could not have done it without you.

**1968**  
Opened Doors in a Borrowed Trailer with Three Employees

**1970**  
Received Articles of Incorporation

**1971**  
Received 501(c)3 IRS Tax Ruling

**1972**  
Joined National Foundation for Credit Counseling

**1981**  
Granted Full Membership into the Tulsa Area United Way

**1986**  
Established Senior Financial Service Program

**1988**  
Opened First Branches in Bixby, Broken Arrow and Sapulpa

**1996**  
Launched Website

**1997**  
Earned our First Accreditation

**2005**  
Approved to Provide Bankruptcy Education and Counseling

# Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma Elects 2008 Board of Directors

Credit Counseling Centers of Oklahoma (CCCO) announces 2008 Board of Directors and Board Officers. Phil Mulkins, Tulsa World was elected to serve as CCCO Board of Directors Chairman. Mulkins has been an active member of the Board for the last six years.



**Phil Mulkins, CCCO Board of Directors Chairman**

*"The reason I wanted to be an intern with CCCS is, I have seen first hand the positive impact that CCCS has on individuals and their families. CCCS looks at the whole financial situation and not just the problem areas, they educate and truly help people develop financial security for themselves."*

"This is going to be a rewarding year as we educate clients and the public at large of the services CCCO provides. Almost everyone can benefit from some type of credit counseling. What better person to lead our board with this communication goal than Mr. Mulkins." says CCCO President and CEO Margo Mitchell.

The other officers for 2008 include: Chair-Elect Floyd Schulte, Public Service Company of

Oklahoma; Vice-Chair, Phil Hart, Tulsa Federal Employees Credit Union; Secretary, Julie Linhardt, CSC Credit Services; and Treasurer Curt Daniel, Oklahoma Department of Consumer Credit. New Board Members this year include Sissy Osteen, OSU, DJ Morrow-Ingram, Oklahoma Credit Union League, and Sandy Bayles, Tulsa Police Department. Board Intern is Brian Easlon, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network.

## In Memoriam

Richard Walker  
Member of CCCS Board of Directors for 18 Years  
July 9, 1947 – May 8, 2008

Larry Stanberry  
Employee for 2-1/2 years.  
April 8, 1952 – May 15, 2008

## Losing the American Dream? Consumers Need to Take Steps Now to Prevent This From Happening.

Due to adjusting loans and tightening credit, today's consumers are finding themselves losing the American Dream. Foreclosure rates are on the rise and are increasing nationwide. But, often times, this does not have to happen.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, as much as 50% of the people who lose their homes to foreclosure never contact their lender. They avoid calls and letters from their mortgage company because they are scared and embarrassed.



Many homeowners are unaware of potential workout plans. Often times, clients seek assistance too late in the process. When consumers

know they cannot make their mortgage payment, they should contact their lender or a trusted housing counselor immediately.

CCCS works daily with consumers who are struggling to meet their mortgage payments and with CCCS' loss mitigation counseling, consumers can now avoid foreclosure. But the first step is up to the consumer. Don't ignore the calls and letters –

become an advocate for your situation. And with help from CCCS, the American Dream will not slip from your fingers.

# Community Education Seminars for Adults

In today's world, everyone needs to understand budgeting, the wise use of credit, balancing a check-book, credit reports, credit scoring, money management, savings and the latest information about identity theft. CCCS Education Director Mary Thomas says "This is a perfect opportunity for adults to learn money management and is ideal for your company, church, school, civic organization or community agency....everyone really."

Currently, CCCS offers a variety of seminars, including:

## **Taking Control of Your Money**

Participants will be introduced to basic budgeting principles and techniques. You will learn budgeting principles and how to apply them to your lifestyle. The class will also cover ways to reduce expenses and how to understand your relationship with money.

## **Twenty-Five Ways to Save Money**

The class will cover basic budgeting techniques and how to identify and

avoid leaks in spending. The class will also cover various ways you can cut costs including groceries, housing, transportation, entertainment, clothing and other general living expenses.



## **Credit Identity Theft**

This class will cover the fastest growing crime in America. Participants learn why identity theft is a problem, how thieves get your personal information, signs of identity theft, prevention of identity theft and what steps to take if you are a victim of identity theft.

## **What You Need to Know About Credit Cards**

This session helps participants understand how credit cards work and how credit cards can impact

your credit history. Participants will learn to understand the different types of credit cards available, how to sort through credit card offers and choose the right card to suit your personal needs. You will also begin to understand credit terms, conditions, how to avoid fees and penalty rates and where to seek information and assistance when credit problems occur.

## **The Elf Who Downsized the Holidays**

This session prepares you on how to plan for the holiday's expenses. Participants will learn how to create a written plan to make better choices managing your holiday spending and gift-giving months in advance.

**All education programs can be adapted to suit a particular group's needs, simply by calling Mary Thomas at 918-744-5611 extension 1030.**

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Suzanne Warren on your 10 Years with CCCS.

# Save Money, But How?

There are three rules for saving money...

*Pay yourself first.* Before paying your bills, make a deposit to your savings account. If you wait until the end of the month, you might not have the money.

*Before buying anything, ask, "Is this a 'need' or a 'want'?"* A need is necessary for survival. A want is something extra that you can do without. You can save money if you eliminate the wants from your spending habits.

*Calculate the true value of an item*

*by figuring how many hours you must work to pay for it.* A pair of \$200 shoes will cost you 2-1/2 days of work at \$10 an hour. This can help you choose a cheaper pair of shoes or to do without new shoes for the time being – either choice saving you money.



### Offices in Northeast Oklahoma

CCCS of Oklahoma has trained and certified consumer credit counselors who offer financial management and credit education services from 5 locations throughout Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma.

#### Broken Arrow

317 South Main

#### Claremore

104 South Missouri, Suite 205

#### Muskogee

323 West Broadway, Suite 404

#### Sapulpa

19 North Main  
Community Resource Center

#### Tulsa

4646 South Harvard

### CCCS Services

CCCS of Oklahoma is a not-for-profit agency that has been helping people improve their quality of life since 1968.

#### Financial Counseling

Certified consumer credit counselors provide you with confidential advice about credit, budgeting and money management; and will work with you to develop a financial action plan specifically suited for your needs.

### Debt Management Plan (DMP)

If you are overextended, you may qualify for a Debt Management Plan where you may receive reduced interest rates, waived late fees, fewer collection calls and peace of mind. DMPs serve the dual purpose of helping you repay debts and helping your creditors receive the money you owe.

### Housing/Reverse Mortgage Counseling

This program is certified by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development as a comprehensive housing counseling program. The services range from pre-purchase counseling to reverse mortgage counseling.

### Senior Financial Service

For people that are homebound and experiencing a financial crisis, our senior specialist will provide guidance, assistance and referrals.

### Community Education

Ideal for your company, church, school, civic organization or community agency, everyone will learn to understand budgeting, the wise use of credit, balancing a checkbook, credit reports, credit scoring, money management, savings and identity theft.

### Bankruptcy Counseling

Includes Pre-filing Counseling where you receive budget and credit counseling now required during the six months prior to filing. Then before the bankruptcy is discharged, you must complete a financial management course – CCCS services include a Pre-Discharge Education course to meet this requirement. CCCS is approved to issue certificates in compliance with the Bankruptcy Code. Approval does not endorse or assure the quality of an agency's services.

### Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oklahoma

4646 South Harvard

Tulsa, OK 74135-2908



CCCS of Oklahoma is a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides confidential counseling, guidance, debt management and education programs to financially troubled customers. A Member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling® (NFCC). For more information on CCCS, call (918) 744-5611 or visit [www.cccsofok.org](http://www.cccsofok.org)