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FORWARD
THINKING

Benefits/Feature: Financial Services Program

One of the benefits of being a USPTO employee is the opportunity to take advantage of various Employee Assistance Programs designed to help you and your family in a number of ways. Our Financial Services Program, which is available at no cost to you, puts you in touch with a financial advisor that can guide you through the program and educate you on how to make the most of your earnings. In fact, the goal of the program is to help you eliminate your debt so you can successfully obtain financial security.

Our financial advisors will help you accomplish your objectives by providing information on a wide range of issues, such as:

- Buying vs. leasing a car
- Selecting which credit card to pay off first
- Family budgeting
- The basics of financial planning
- Savings and investment strategies
- Determining how much you will need to save for a comfortable retirement

All you have to do to get started is schedule an appointment — immediate assistance is available 24 hours a day. Just call (800) 222-0364 toll-free within the US. There is also a toll-free TTY number for the hearing impaired: (888) 262-7874.

Living & Working in D.C.: Museums & Galleries — Must-Sees and Small Gems

As one of the most historic and culturally diverse cities in the United States, Washington, DC offers some of the most engaging museums and galleries you'll find anywhere in the world. Whether you're interested in fine arts, science and industry, history or the outer reaches of our galaxy, you'll find something new to explore every time you visit the vast selection of ever-changing exhibits. And, since so many museums are located along the National Mall, you can experience a wide array of exhibits in a short amount of time, with a quick walk between buildings.

FROM PTO

Could You "Be a Star in Someone's Life"?

On October 8, the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) kicked off its annual charitable donation program, presenting an opportunity for all federal employees to help change the lives of those in need, in their neighborhoods, across the country and even around the world. Their contributions will be designated to more than 3,600 approved charities, and individuals can split their donations between as many charities as they wish.

This year, USPTO has made it our goal to raise \$1.346 million of the CFC's ultimate \$61 million goal. How easy will it be for us to hit our target? Last year, we exceeded our goal of \$1.275 million with an actual donation intake of \$1.416 million. Now, we'd like to do even better, and we've set the highest goal of any of the Department of Commerce agencies. We know we can reach it with the help of our employees — and, we've already raised more than \$500,000. But we don't plan to stop there.

To help us hit our target, we're hosting a variety of upcoming fundraising events — from bake goods and used book sales, to raffles, holiday gift wrapping and video game challenges, to breakfast with the Under Secretary. So, our employees will have plenty of chances to get into the spirit of the season, and the spirit of giving. We encourage you to do the same, so you, too, can "be a star."

Learn more about the CFC's program [here](#).

The Smithsonian Museums:

- **Arts and Industries Building:** The High Victorian style of the building's architecture inspired its nickname "The Castle." It originally housed the National Museum when it opened in 1881.
- **Freer and Sackler Galleries:** The variety of exhibitions ranges from American to ancient Egyptian to Japanese art.
- **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden:** This gallery features some of the most prestigious and intriguing international modern and contemporary art.
- **National Air and Space Museum and Udvar-Hazy Center (Smithsonian):** Travel back in time or across the universe through exhibits that feature man's exploration of the sky, and beyond.
- **National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian):** Traditional and contemporary art galleries present a variety of artwork for individuals of all ages to enjoy.
- **National Museum of American History (Smithsonian):** From advertising to computers, food to photography, music to sports, this museum showcases the story of America and its culture.
- **National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian):** The natural world is on display at this museum that welcomes visitors via "Henry the Elephant," situated majestically in its rotunda.
- **National Museum of the American Indian (Smithsonian):** Discover the heritage of the indigenous peoples of the North American continent in art, textiles and artifacts.
- **National Portrait Gallery:** From the heyday of Hollywood to the distinction of the White House, some of the most noted faces that have been captured on canvas and film are on display.

More DC-Area Museums and Galleries:

- **Addison/Ripley Gallery Ltd.:** Paintings, sculpture, photography and fine arts are presented at this gallery. Established in 1981, it has become one of the area's foremost contemporary galleries.
- **Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum:** You don't have to be a railroad enthusiast to enjoy a trip through American railroading history.
- **International Spy Museum:** Experience the real world of espionage in this venue that won't require you to go undercover.
- **National Building Museum:** From Victorian homes to city skyscrapers, the art of architecture is featured at this museum designed to inspire.
- **National Gallery of Art:** From Renaissance to Modernity, sculpture to paper, this museum features masterworks from American and European artists.

▶ FAST FACTS

Are you ready for flu season?

It's the time of year when we start to question whether to get a flu shot in hopes of avoiding it, or just take our chances. One thing to keep in mind is that although the basic symptoms — headache, muscle weakness, cough, sore throat and fever — don't seem particularly fatal, the flu actually kills nearly 36,000 people in the US each year. Some patented products and services that can help you handle your symptoms include:

- **Kleenex® Tissues.** Initially invented to help remove makeup and cold cream, Kimberly-Clark Corporation became intrigued by customers who used their product as a disposable handkerchief. So, they conducted a test by placing two similar ads in the newspaper, each stressing one of the two uses. When readers' responses showed that 60% of them used the tissue for blowing their nose, advertising was changed and product sales doubled.
- **Infrared Thermometers.** In recent years, there have been many designs developed for this device that works similarly to a camera. It offers the advantage of being easily inserted into a person's ear to take a snapshot of the heat radiating from their eardrum. It also provides a near-instant digital reading — a technological breakthrough, compared with the process of using a traditional glass-mercury thermometer.
- **LYSOL® Disinfectant.** Using LYSOL disinfectant wipes or spray cleaners on surfaces you regularly touch can help you fight certain strains of the flu, such as variations of the bird flu. In fact, the product has been approved by the EPA to kill the H1N1 strain of Avian Influenza wherever

- **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:** One of the world's most poignant museums, this memorial is dedicated to the strength and spirit of individuals who experienced one of history's tragedies.
- **National Museum of Women in the Arts:** More than 3,000 works by women are showcased at this gallery that will guide you through the 16th Century to the present day.
- **Newseum:** Get the story of American news-telling at this museum dedicated to the true-life stories that have touched and changed our lives.

poultry is handled, such as in food processing plants.

Ready to get your flu shot? USPTO Health Units offer FREE annual influenza immunization — going on now through January 30, 2009, while supplies last.

If you have questions, would like to opt-out of receiving future newsletters, or would like to change your email address for future newsletters, please contact newsletter@uspto.gov and reference USPTO Newsletter in the subject line.