

## **Stay Out of Debt in 2012**

### *Texas Society of CPAs Give Tips to Get Out of Debt-A-Swimming*

Do you find yourself trying not to drown in past due payments, mortgage worries and tax concerns? You won't free yourself from money woes overnight, but Texas Society of CPAs say that with time, the ugly duckling that was once your financial state can blossom into a beautiful debt-free, swan.

The first step in the right direction is defining your goals. Whether you want to be completely clear and free of debt, or just clearing one issue at a time, knowing where you want to go is the first step in getting there.

According to TSCPA, spending less than you earn is the key to being able to save and invest money.

Always look for ways to cut your expenses and/or increase your income. Trying to live beneath your means, not above it, should be a priority. It also a good idea to contact a non-profit debt management organization.

According to CreditCards.com, the average outstanding credit card debt for households that have a credit card was \$15,799. Additionally, the total U.S. consumer debt is \$2.43 trillion, as of May 2011.

TSCPA also says that if you're carrying high credit card balances, you should consider consolidating your debt on one low interest credit card and making the highest monthly payment you can manage.

For several months, only make purchases that you can pay with cash. Start swimming out of debt by simply setting a plan and sticking to it.