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Hi All-

This is the annual letter of “Oh- it’s that time of year again”. January should be bringing us snow and lots of “important tax documents enclosed”. When those documents come in- put them on top of the fridge, in a bag, in last year’s folder or wherever you put your important papers. Put this one with it.

I would like for you to know that the website is up. I am going to have a client login with your last 4 of the primary taxpayer’s social security followed by the first 3 letters of the last name. For example, mine would be 1473hix. This should let everyone upload information to me and only come in to pick it up, or to download your tax return. I still have to tweak that. Call me if you are interested in that! Please visit it. It has my newspaper articles in it, as well as some cool links and information. Let me know what ya’ll think!

The tax changes are wide and varied:

- DID YOU MAKE SURE TO CHANGE YOUR WITHHOLDING??? The brackets have changed, and with the extra money in your check, your refund will be lower if not and there is a possibility that you will be owing.
- The energy credit is better. Siding, lights, HVAC, insulation and some new roofs will qualify, as does Geothermal heating. **This is the final year for it.**
- The New Home Credit has changed, yet again. Now, you don’t have to have a first home. They extended to people moving up or down in their homes. You have to close on your home by June 30, 2010, and have a contract by April 30, 2010.
- Unemployment is NO LONGER tax free for Federal.
- College Education has changed. The credit is now for 4 years for the Hope and it looks like they are doing away with the Lifetime Credit with the dollar amount increasing. You can now also claim books and laptops with the credit.

These times are hard and troubling. There are different circumstances and situations, but if you found yourself in default on a credit card, loan or house, please know that you will be getting another piece of paper in the mail. It's a 1099C – it is important to have this on your tax return, or you will get a love letter from the IRS in about 18 months.

I know that there are a lot of questions and uncertainty. I will do my best to answer these and guide you and your family in the right direction.

So, here is the annual list of what to bring when you come in:

- W-2's (all of them)
- 1099's (all of them) and all expenses that pertain to them
- Cash in an IRA, 401(k) or anything else? You need the 1099
- House interest statement- if you bought or sold- the settlement statement as well
- Car taxes and boat/trailer taxes (registration slip)
- Any job related expenses - **MILEAGE**
- Any charitable donations
- Medical expenses (and health insurance) This also includes Health Savings Account information.
- Any home based business (make-up, baskets, fun, candles, home interior etc.)
- Any other form of income: Unemployment, boat or track winnings, lottery winnings, interest and dividends.
- Student Loan interest paid
- Education expenses
- Daycare provider's ID number, address and how much spent
- ANY NEW DEPENDENT INFORMATION- you know who you are!!**
- If you sold any stocks during the year, I need all of the basis information from all of the buying of those stocks ☺
- If you bought anything large- camper, car, boat etc. This is for the sales tax deduction to see if it would be better than the local tax deduction.

I can't wait to see you again and thanks for sending me your friends. Your referral is the best advertisement that money can buy.

Happy Holidays and see you soon,

Kris