Creating an envelope system, paying only with cash, and splitting up every paycheck immediately into different spending categories are all viable budgeting solutions that help keep your spending on track. With the holiday season upon us, we know a lot of people are worried about spending too much. Donnalee and Courtney, coordinators at Evangel Classical Christian School in Alabaster, Alabama, have figured out a way to budget their money without worry: use scrip!

The concept of using a fundraiser to budget might sound a little crazy, as most fundraisers revolve around parents digging into their pockets. But as Donnalee and Courtney have discovered, scrip is an awesome way to budget your money—an novel idea to keep your spending in check this holiday season!

Obviously, if you’re sending your kids to Christian, Private, or Parochial school, a sizeable portion of your household budget will be going toward tuition. But the beautiful thing is that parents like Donnalee and Courtney are reducing their tuition costs by using scrip on all of their other purchases and honing their budgeting skills at the same time. “The most helpful benefit that I’ve experienced with scrip is that I budget my money better than ever before,” Donnalee said. “If you are a strict budget person, this program is so easy to use. Just purchase gift cards for each budget line. I’ve taken a little time to set some budget amounts and purchase gift cards with each paycheck, and stick to that. I even feel like I have ‘free’ money when there is a little left on the gift card that carries over til the next paycheck.”

Donnalee and Courtney, who have been coordinators of the scrip program for six and a half and five and a half years respectively, have figured out a system as scrip shoppers to use scrip on nearly everything. Both coordinators spend a set amount of money on scrip every week and keep their cards organized in a file. Additionally, they both carry around a permanent marker to update each card’s remaining balance. And for their electronic scrip purchases? They’re never without MyScripWallet™. “It’s really handy when I’m out shopping,” Courtney said. Donnalee added, “I use MyScripWallet whenever I can, reloading my gas cards, and eating out. My husband already knows that I don’t want to shop somewhere unless I have my scrip.”

While this is good news for their household budgets, it’s also great for their small k-12 school. “The funds raised with scrip go into the school’s development fund to pay for advertising, recruitment, future planning and projects related to developing and growing our school,” Donnalee said. “At one point, it helped pay off some of our building fund and has also treated our teachers to some most deserved goodies.”

Donnalee and Courtney are thankful the days of selling over-priced products are behind them. Donnalee mentioned, “I’m so grateful not to have to sell any wrapping paper, candles, wreaths, donuts, or candy. I want to support my daughter’s school, but I don’t want to buy all that
Donnalee has even mastered the art of Christmas gift-giving without the stress. "Saving up for Christmas shopping a little each month has made Christmas gift giving a little less stressful," Donnalee said. "I purchase a few gift cards every month and set them aside until I’m ready to start shopping. Better budgeting, less shopping stress, lower tuition — I love using scrip!"

Donnalee and Courtney’s love for using scrip shows, and it’s one reason why they make a great coordinator duo! Another testament to their work: six years ago, their school raised $1,000-2,000, and now they’re up to roughly $20,000 in earnings per year. So it’s safe to say their budgeting strategy is paying off for both themselves and their school! This holiday season, take a tip from their scrip experience and try budgeting with scrip. You’ll be like a kid on Christmas morning when you see how much you’ll earn.

Picture this: you’re standing in a store after making your Christmas shopping haul, and you’re waiting to check out. You pull out your phone to purchase ScripNow® on MyScripWallet, and you can’t load the page. You look at the top of your phone and see that you have one bar of service, so you try to connect to WiFi to no avail. What do you do? You made this trip, and you wanted to use scrip, but your phone, which is 100% convenient every other day of the week, had other plans.

While you’re caught up in the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping, wouldn’t it be nice if you didn’t have to worry about not being able to use scrip? After all, our virtual products—ScripNow, Reload, and ReloadNow®—are all meant to be convenient time-savers for you. The good news is that this scenario is completely avoidable!

If you want to get rid of checkout line pressure, and make your shopping trip more focused from the get-go, order your ScripNow or Reloads before you even go to the store! Buying scrip ahead of time takes a little more planning, obviously, but when it comes to Christmas shopping, chances are you already have a rough estimate or budget for how much you’re going to spend! Purchasing scrip before your shopping trip is less stressful and it will keep you from putting other items in your cart.

There you have it! A tip that will alleviate holiday shopping stress and will keep you within your budget all in a single snapshot.

Let’s Get Crafty: Gift Card Wrapping

We know you love giving gift cards as presents during the holidays, but let’s be honest, there aren’t that many good ways to wrap them! So you probably wind up sticking it in a card and calling it a day, right? Well this year, you can try wrapping up gift cards in these adorable little boxes that you can make at home in no time.

Step 1: Using a compass set to 1 and ¾ inches, draw four circles.
Step 2: Cut out each circle (they don’t have to be perfect).
Step 3: Fold each circle in half.
Step 4: Arrange the circles so they overlap and form a square.
Step 5: Glue the overlapping parts together.
Step 6: Put the gift card in the box.
Step 7: Fold down edges like you would with a box.
Step 8: Tie a pretty ribbon around your little box…
...and you’re done!

If you want, you can write who the present is for on the front, or even slip a note on the inside before tying it up. One of our customers, Kelli N., had an idea about promoting scrip by writing, “Happy Holidays! We hope you enjoy this gift card! A portion of the purchase of this card benefited our children’s [school/sports team/band], which runs a unique scrip gift card fundraiser.” They’ll be excited about the gift card, and intrigued to learn more about scrip!
Stuff Some Stockings with Low Denomination Scrip!

Are you looking for a few extra goodies to put into your kids’ stockings this Christmas? Luckily for you, we’re offering low denomination gift cards through December 16 or while supplies last!

Unlike special orders where there’s a $500 face value minimum to order, there are no requirements for our low denomination cards! While we offer many $10 and under gift cards all year long, these low denomination cards are limited time only, so get them while you still can!

Regional Retailers are Simplifying

Do you offer smaller, regional retailers through your scrip program? If you do, we’ve got some news: certain retailers who have offered multiple card denominations in the past are simplifying their stock a little and will now only be offering a $50 denomination.

This change shouldn’t affect your organization at all; it’s just something to keep in mind while you’re stocking your inventory. It’s a good idea to let your families know about this change too so they can plan their scrip purchases accordingly!

2016 Holiday Calendar

Here is a reference to help you schedule your holiday orders. Please note the first two weeks of December are our busiest weeks of the year. We’ll try to achieve a 1-day turnaround during this time, but help us out by getting your orders in as early as you can before the 3:00 p.m. Eastern time cutoff.

Another date to note: our office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd. But we’ll get back to normal after the holiday season on Tuesday, January 3rd!

*December 21 - Christmas Cutoff. Place your order before 3:00 p.m. Eastern and choose Priority or Standard Overnight shipping to receive your order before Christmas.

Retailer News

New Retailers

SiriusXM Satellite Radio: ScripNow $30, $50 – 4%

List as of 11/02/16 - Visit the Specials tab on ShopWithScrip.com for current bonuses.

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