



North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement Presents:

Paths To Creative Retirement

Newsletter – December 2008

Economics of Retirement Planning

The current global economic crisis affects everyone—foreclosures, recession, bankruptcy, lay offs, unemployment. Even those who feel themselves insulated from the center of the calamity are making choices to cope with their own shrinking resources and the dire needs in their community—limiting travel, eating in, increasing their charitable contributions and making only cash purchases.

What about retirees or those contemplating retirement? Some are trying to get back into the work force to supplement shrinking income. Others are delaying career changes or retirement. Still others have increased their volunteer productivity to help those in need—making home repairs for the elderly or collecting contributions for food banks.



Catherine recently attended the **Paths to Creative Retirement**. In her early 50s, she has achieved many accolades professionally but “itches” to develop new dimensions—work half-time, develop fluency in Spanish, live healthy, be contemplative and wise, volunteer more—for starters! During the summer, she had a plan and timetable as well as financial resources to implement. But by the fall she wrote:

I'll be working in my old job for the federal government for the foreseeable future. The stock market crashed, which had a significant impact on my net worth, and my financial adviser informed me that this downturn is so severe that I can't count on receiving stock dividends to supplement my pension. (About 50% of my projected retirement income was expected to come from stock dividends.) So on Friday afternoon, with great sadness, I withdrew my retirement papers.

One of our retiree mentors at the Paths Workshop told us “you just have to be flexible; sometimes things happen that you would never predict.” Well, that's true! I'll have all my plans in place for a time when the economy turns around.

What about you? Are you reassessing priorities, changing plans or going to “plan B?” We'd like to hear from you—tales of woe, words of advice, or humorous anecdotes. How are you moving toward 2009?

Cordially,
Denise Snodgrass
Assistant Director
NC Center for Creative Retirement