



## Prepare Your Child for a Strong Financial Future

Since 1895, Centier Bank has been introducing generations of bankers to products and services that afford consumers a chance to build and grow their money. From opening your first savings account to managing trust funds, Centier Bank is equipped to be your financial partner at every stage in life.



Equipping your child with an understanding of money is a fundamental step in raising a child who is comfortable and responsible with finances. Managing finances is a lifelong responsibility, and as experts of money management, Centier Bank has a genuine interest in providing guidance and advice in preparing your children for their future. Money fundamentals help build confidence for a healthy financial future that includes milestones such as purchasing a home, saving for a college education, and investing in a retirement account.

Establishing a dialogue with your child is the first step to learn to earn. In order to assist parents in familiarizing their kids with money fundamentals, Centier suggests the following steps to begin teaching your children about money:

**Help kids open their own bank savings account and make deposits regularly.** Your child can earn their first deposit by doing neighborhood chores or selling old toys at a community garage sale.

**Break the money taboo.** Talk to your kids about the family budget and include a discussion on wants versus needs. Reinforce this by budgeting for a family outing or purchase.

**Take advantage of teachable moments.** While children know that money doesn't grow on trees, they may think it comes out of a wall. Show them how an ATM machine works and explain that to take money out of a bank, you must first put it in.

**Give your kids positive feedback.** As children get older, give them responsibility over how they spend their money.

## The Benefits of Direct Deposit

Research shows that as many as 145 million Americans benefit from the convenience of direct deposit. Direct deposit is the process of payment directly into your checking or savings account, without being issued a paper check. The process has been around for more than 40 years, and is not only simple to use, it is a safe way of receiving payment since it eliminates the chance of checks getting lost in the mail. It's also quicker, since automatic deposit gives you access to your money faster than waiting for a paper check to clear.

Every year, more taxpayers are choosing direct deposit as the way to receive their tax returns. More than 61 million people had their tax refunds

## News Briefs

**Centier has received the Community Connect Award** from Bank Advisor magazine, a Colorado-based financial services trade publication. Centier was honored in the community bank category for its effective and innovative outreach to the Northern Indiana community.

**Centier welcomes Dan Peter, Vice President of Business Banking.** Peter joins the Business Banking team at Centier's Lafayette Business Banking Center, located at 414 Main St. in Lafayette, Indiana.

**The Centier Bank Schrage Family Scholarship Foundation** has been awarding college scholarships since 1995. To learn more about the scholarship, or to find out which high schools participate, visit [www.centier.com/scholarship](http://www.centier.com/scholarship).

*In observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, all offices will close at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2009.*

*In observance of President's Day, all offices will close at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16, 2009.*

*In observance of the Easter holiday, all grocery store branches will be closed Sunday, April 12, 2009.*

deposited directly into their bank accounts in 2007. The payment is secure and there is no check to get lost or stolen.

Consider using direct deposit in 2009. You can significantly reduce the potential threat of fraud, plus you can make the environment a little greener with less paper waste and fewer unnecessary trips to the bank.

For more information on direct deposit, visit your local Centier banker for details.



# Explanation of FDIC Insurance Coverage

On October 3, 2008, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) announced that the insurance limits on deposit accounts were temporarily raised from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor. This change applies to all banks that are members of the FDIC, which includes Centier Bank. This insurance coverage is slated to revert back to \$100,000 each on 12/31/2009\*.

The FDIC is an independent agency of the United States government that protects against the loss of insured deposits if an FDIC insured bank or savings association fails. FDIC insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.

The amount of deposit insurance a depositor has with each institution is determined by "ownership". Each ownership is insured separately, so individuals who have deposit accounts with different ownerships can multiply coverage many times. However, opening a number of accounts does not itself increase deposit insurance. The ownership must be different as well.

### Examples of Account Insurance:

**Individual Account** (owned by one person) — Insured up to \$250,000

**Joint Account** (two or more owners) — Insured up to \$250,000 per co-owner

**IRAs and certain other retirement accounts** — Insured up to \$250,000 per owner

**Trust Accounts** — \$250,000 per owner, per beneficiary and subject to specific limitations and requirements

*\*Coverage for IRAs and certain retirement accounts will remain at \$250,000 per owner with all other categories reverting back to \$100,000 per year.*

The FDIC is an independent agency of the United States government that protects against the loss of insured deposits.

## Share the news about Centier



Share this copy of *Illuminations* with a friend and spread the news about Centier! When your friend opens a new checking account, you and your friend will each earn

# 100 REWARD POINTS!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

1-888-CENTIER • Centier.com

\* Rewards valued from 100 to 100,000 points and are subject to change without notice and may be terminated at any time. Points valid for two years from date of issuance. Member FDIC.

## Centier Advantage Meetings

Lake County Public Library  
1919 W. 81st Avenue  
Merrillville, IN

9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Centier Advantage Meetings begin with blood pressure screenings conducted by St. Anthony Medical Center.

10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
Meetings conclude with Bingo and prizes with a Centier Guest Banker.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming meetings!

**Friday, January 9, 2009**  
**Using the Power of Your Mind**  
Guest speaker: Tim Schurr

**Friday, March 13, 2009**  
**Centier Advantage International Trips**  
Guest speakers: Dave Sheptak from Merrillville Travel and Kim Hoffman from Mayflower Tours

## Centier Advantage Day & Extended Trips

**Chunk of Chocolate Trip**  
Chicago, IL  
Wednesday, February 25, 2009  
Client \$80 • Non-client \$90

**Mary Poppins**  
Cadillac Palace Theater  
Wednesday, April 22, 2009 • 2:00 p.m.  
\$169 per person

**Rat-A-Tat Gangster Tour**  
Tour famous Chicago gangster sites.  
Wednesday, June 17, 2009  
Client \$75 • Non-client \$85

**Alaskan Cruise**  
June 8-15, 2009  
Visit the best of Alaska, College Fjord, and Glacier Bay!  
Oceanview w/balcony: \$2,541  
Oceanview Cabin: \$2,341  
Economy Cabin: \$1,791  
*All prices based on double occupancy. Government taxes & fees and fuel surcharges are an additional \$238 per person.*

**\*To reserve your seat, or to obtain additional information, please contact Sharon St. Myers, Centier Advantage Program Manager, at 219-755-6140, ext. 1839, or 1-888-CENTIER.**