

Women, Wealth, and Wisdom

By Xenia Woltmann

As a firm, we have hosted several educational events covering financial topics from identity theft, social security, and business succession planning to retirement strategies, legacy planning. However, the most popular topic has been “Women and Finance.” Although the information we provide is relevant to everyone, there are many factors specific to women.

Women tend to live longer than men, so it is important to plan accordingly. As women age, they tend to have more health issues, and with women usually living longer than men their medical costs tend to be higher. There is also a greater chance of needing some type of long-term care. Due to longevity, the average duration of that care is approximately 1.5 more years than men. With rising healthcare costs, it is important to plan for this possibility when creating a strategy.

Women tend to juggle more. Between working, caring for loved ones, and managing a household, some priorities tend to put aside for “later,” especially retirement planning. Many parents want to provide for their children’s education. Often, paying for college begins at the same time aging parents start needing assistance. Women are more likely to become the primary caregiver. Between the cost of college and elder care, there is little left to save for their own future. When you fall into the “sandwich generation” of being caretaker to your parents and your children without planning for yourself, you are at risk of becoming a burden to your children down the road.

Lack of financial confidence. Some women rely on a partner to understand and make financial decisions; others have not been able to make financial knowledge a priority. Regardless of the reason, women tend to be more conservative in their investment decisions which could derail retirement plans. There are so many questions to ask yourself, and if you cannot answer them, it is important to find the guidance you need. “What if I am unable to manage my finances?” “When can I retire?;” or “If my spouse or I pass away, will the other be financially covered?” It is important to make sure your wishes are known and that all parties involved understand your objectives. Find an advisor you can connect with, that will take time to listen, explain things, look at short-term and long-term goals and work alongside you to achieve your goals.

With these considerations in mind, it is important to understand your concerns and those of your loved ones. As life changes, so will your financial plan. Always take time for yourself and to plan for your future.

