CONVERSATION GUIDE: TALKING FINANCES WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

Most Americans would rather talk about religion, politics, race and blank before talking about their financial situation, especially with their family members and loved ones. Not having this conversation can do more harm than good in the long run.

WHERE
Make sure to have the conversation face-to-face with all your loved ones who need to be involved present. If there's no good time for everyone to be together, have the conversation face to face individually with loved ones and email a summary of the discussion to everyone involved.

WHEN
You'll want to have this conversation sooner rather than later, when you're young and healthy enough to have everything you need organized. Everyone is different so timing might be different for you compared with your friends. Some people prefer to give their loved ones information in small chunks.

WHY
While most people avoid the financial conversation with their loved ones, it's important to have well before a crisis occurs. Your loved ones and other caretakers must be equipped with the most information possible in case of an emergency.

HOW
Don't have this conversation over Thanksgiving dinner or at a large celebration. Instead, have it at a time where there are little to no distractions. Use changing your will, buying your grave plot or updating Power of Attorney documents as a way of launching this incredibly important conversation with your loved ones.

WHAT INFORMATION DO MY LOVED ONES NEED?
- Financial accounts - bank, credit card, investment, retirement
- Household bills/insurance - health, home, auto, mortgage, life, long term care
- Legal documents - copies of wills, trust, financial POA, POA
- Team - tax person, financial planner, attorney