

News Release

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You Are Your Most Valuable Asset

Tampa (March, 2012). According to Julio C. Muniz, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), if you are young and healthy, you might think your chances of becoming disabled are fairly slim. You wouldn't be alone in your belief: 64% of workers believe they have only a 2% or less risk of a disability lasting three months or longer.

Yet statistics tell us that 43% of 40-year-olds will suffer at least one long-term disability (90 days or longer) before age 65. Despite this risk, 38% of working Americans say they would be able to pay their living expenses for only three months or less if their incomes were interrupted; 65% would not be able to cover expenses for one year. These findings become all the more alarming when you consider that the average long-term disability lasts for two and a half years. If you wouldn't think of going without insurance coverage for your home, health, or car, it doesn't make much sense not to protect what may be your most valuable asset: your ability to earn an income.

An individual disability income insurance policy can help replace a percentage of your salary, up to the policy limits, if you should suffer an illness or injury that makes it impossible for you to continue working. The benefits can continue until you recover or for a predetermined number of years, whichever comes first. If you pay the premiums yourself, the benefits usually are not taxable. Some policies will pay if you can't perform your current occupation, whereas others will pay only if you cannot perform any type of job.

The appropriate disability income strategy may help reduce the

financial consequences if you lose your income because of an illness or injury, and help you .

Find additional free online resources, including articles, calculators, newsletters, e-seminars and more in the Muniz and Associates' Learning Center [www.munizandassociates.com].

If you need help in developing a specific plan to address whatever is contributing to your financial worries, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a benefit available to all our contracted organizations' employees and dependents. It is that simple. We will help you cope, find assistance, and guide you down the path to effectively dealing with whatever might be impacting your life. Help is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Call: (727) 576-5164 (Pinellas County),
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