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MONEY MATTERS and PRELUDE to FEE INFORMATION

Money is an interesting topic in our society. Some find it merely a simple and objective game. Others recoil from money issues, even when their life depends on it.

There are many interesting learned perceptions that have shaped how we define money that include:

- 'You are never supposed to talk about money.'
- 'Money doesn't grow on trees.'
- 'Money is power.'
- 'Money is the root of all evil.'
- 'Money can't buy you love.'
- 'If I have more money, then someone else must have less, and it is my fault.'
- Etc., etc. etc...

We carry these as truths. We use them as an absolute compass by which we make our decisions, support our judgments, and by which we shape our lives. We allow these conflicting definitions, passed on from generation to generation, to dictate and design the quality of our lives.

And yet the truth is that money is just money, just like weather is just weather. A snowstorm can be a commuter's nightmare or a child's playground. Our experience lies in the interpretation.

It is curious to stop and consider the real truth of the beliefs we have allowed to guide us. Have you ever stopped to think about it? If it were true that money buys us happiness, every person without money would be in despair and every wealthy person would be joyful. Although sometimes true, this is simply not always the case.



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We can't even convincingly say that having money makes life easier. I know some who are burdened by the responsibility, and no matter how much wealth they accumulate, they still worry that it is not enough. Though blessed with the monetary good fortune so many believe to be the answer to their crusade for happiness, some who have monetary assets live an empty life and have no sense of their self-worth or personal power.

At the other end of the spectrum, I have experienced many who live on minimal means and are surrounded constantly by hardships, yet somehow experience contentment, a sense of freedom, and deep joy in their lives regardless of their challenges.

These exceptions to many of our learned beliefs invite us also to reconsider that living without money is no more or less virtuous than having it, although we perhaps have unconsciously judged this to be so. It just means that we have blinded ourselves somehow to the power of our perceptions.

An 'ah-ha' comes when we open to the possibility that it's not really about the money. Our true currency is in realizing that it is the quality and consciousness about our thoughts about money, not whether or not we have it, that influence our lives, our success, and our durable sense of happiness. It is what we do with money, how we interpret it's value, who we are as we direct it's flow, who we choose to engage and share with in it's use, and if we use it with intention and integrity that creates the most authentic definition of worth and wealth.

Money, since it's conception, has been a powerful tool. Like any tool, it can be used as it was intended, or not. Sometimes a butter knife is a welcomed substitute for a flat head screwdriver. My dad could fix just about any car in the dark with a rusty piece of bailing wire when he had to be resourceful, and yet whenever possible he preferred the comfort and precision of using the assets contained in his well stocked toolbox.

Sometimes a job calls for the precision of a specific measuring tape or wrench, tolerating no substitutes. If you have the opportunity to employ an electric drill rather than manage with the butter knife, you do so willingly, and the ease of the job makes the investment worthwhile. With enough creativity and commitment, either way the job gets done, whether manifested through creative persistence or prosperous precision.



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Please note that it has never been my policy to turn anyone away for a genuine inability to pay. When necessary and when possible I am willing to accept an alternative form of exchange or a reduced fee while still demonstrating self-care. It is my form of 'paying it forward' by offering possibilities in lieu of limitations for those who have the sincere courage to ask for, stretch toward, and grow persistently in the direction of their dreams to experience that which they want. It is my active form of gratitude to those who have offered me a similar resting spot amidst all of life's challenges, showing me when I had lost hope that I was worth the consideration. Love is my preferred form of currency, and I am delighted when possible to serve those with the tenacity of willingness and bold intention.

It is my hope that my flexibility and commitment to address the specific needs of each situation not be interpreted an 'easy-out' to avoid paying my full fee for those who have it within their budget. I know that I can best serve others when I honor the scope of my own needs and value. Instead, my fee restructuring policy is my attempt to shift the legacy of lack, expand clear and honest communication, establish genuine 'win-win' agreements, and revive the spirit of integrity in all relationships and agreements. I invite you to pay my full fee if at all possible, and, when called for, to move in the direction of your dreams even if you only have a butter knife available.

With this being said, enclosed for your consideration and review is the current fee structure for my services.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Hull, Ph.D.