

## MONEY SMART KID 2007

# Christopher Szulc

McClure Junior High School  
Western Springs, IL



In the event of family financial emergency such as the flooding of a refrigerator, drastic changes to my family's finances would have to occur. I would recommend to my family that we would cut down on unnecessary expenses such as fast food and unneeded purchases. I'd recommend that we, for a while, cook most of our meals at home in order to save money usually used on eating out. During this time, while we are trying to save money, I would recommend that we put that refrigerator on a credit card that has the longest grace period. This way, the money saved from avoiding eating out and unnecessary purchases, we can afford to pay off the refrigerator before the grace period ends, as to avoid interest charges.

If my family had a budget, we would be prepared for something like this because most budgets would include an emergency fund that would cover these sporadic emergency situations. By setting aside money for miscellaneous expenses in a special fund, families are able to withstand the outcomes of running into these kinds of emergencies. Since these situations are often not avoidable, I believe every family should have an emergency fund with at least 6 months of income saved up, and more, if possible.

If an emergency like this happened, I know I would be expected to assist my family. I would contribute by helping around the house and not asking for anything of great monetary value from my family. I would pay for purchases that I want with my own money, volunteer to cook meals, and assist my family in finding the best deal on a new refrigerator for us.