# A Financial Fresh Start for 2024

#### **Budget Planning**

Evaluate your current budget and compare it to the previous year; analyze spending habits and adjust categories based on changing priorities or expenses.

## **Emergency Fund**

Ensure your emergency fund is sufficient to cover at least 3-6 months' worth of living expenses and is in a safe, liquid account.

#### Check Credit Report

Obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit bureaus and review it for any discrepancies or unauthorized activities.

#### Tax Planning

Ask your financial advisor about tax-efficient strategies for your investments and consult with a tax professional to optimize your tax planning

#### Mortgage Rates

Whether you are contemplating a sale, exploring a new purchase, or considering refinancing, check current mortgage rates to take advantage of favorable opportunities.

### **Retirement Savings**

Take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement plans or individual retirement accounts (IRAs), consider increasing contributions, and review beneficiary designations.

#### **Investment Portfolio**

Review your investment portfolio and asset allocation to ensure it still aligns with your financial goals and risk tolerance; talk to your financial advisor about rebalancing, if appropriate.

#### Insurance Coverage

Review your insurance policies (life, health, auto, home, etc.); shop around for better rates; ensure coverage is adequate and beneficiary designations are current.

#### Debt Management

Develop a plan to reduce, consolidate, and manage any outstanding debt (prioritizing higher-cost debts) and consider refinancing options when appropriate.

#### Estate Planning

Review and update your will, trusts, and other estate planning documents; confirm beneficiaries and consider changes based on life events or changing goals.

## Philanthropic Giving

Consider your philanthropic goals for the year and discuss with your BLBB Advisor donor advised fund options.

#### **Education Savings**

If you have children/grandchildren or are planning for your own education expenses, review and adjust contributions to education savings accounts, such as 529 plans.

#### **Review Subscriptions and Expenses**

Assess your monthly subscriptions and discretionary spending and eliminate any unnecessary expenses to free up more money for savings or debt repayment.

## Make an appointment to meet with your BLBB Financial Advisor

Review your portfolio, share any updates/changes to such things as family status, employment, relocation and financial goals.

