Starting Early Pays Off

This chart illustrates two investment programs with annual investments of $2,000. One individual starts at age 22 and quits investing at age 30, and the other starts at age 31.

AGE	INVESTMENT MADE EARLY	AGE	INVESTMENT MADE LATE
22	$2,000	22	$ 0
23	2,000	23	0
24	2,000	24	0
25	2,000	25	0
26	2,000	26	0
27	2,000	27	0
28	2,000	28	0
29	2,000	29	0
30	2,000	30	0
31	0	31	2,000
32	0	32	2,000
33	0	33	2,000
34	0	34	2,000
35	0	35	2,000
36	0	36	2,000
37	0	37	2,000
38	0	38	2,000
39	0	39	2,000
40	0	40	2,000
41	0	41	2,000
42	0	42	2,000
43	0	43	2,000
44	0	44	2,000
45	0	45	2,000
46	0	46	2,000
47	0	47	2,000
48	0	48	2,000
49	0	49	2,000
50	0	50	2,000
51	0	51	2,000
52	0	52	2,000
53	0	53	2,000
54	0	54	2,000
55	0	55	2,000
56	0	56	2,000
57	0	57	2,000
58	0	58	2,000
59	0		2,000
60	0	60	2,000
61	0	61	2,000
62	0	62	2,000
63	0	63	2,000
64	0	64	2,000
65	0	65	2,000
[illegible]	$1[illegible],000		$70,000
[illegible] Age 65	$[illegible]807		$372,204

$ 388,807 $ 372,204

The numbers prove a poi[illegible] If you start investing early, you accumulate even more and you invest less. These figures ar[illegible] based on a hypothetical rate of return of 8 percent. Of course, [illegible] everyone can invest $2,000 [illegible] year beginning at age 22. However, any amount invested at an early age will make [illegible] dramatic difference later. The longer your dollars are allowed to grow and compound, the mo[illegible] you'll accumulate. The messag[illegible] here is—put time on your si[illegible]