

# Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund Summary

2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2022

## Market Overview

The June quarter was another difficult period for U.S. equities. It was among the worst in terms of total percentage decline for a quarter for the Russell Microcap and Russell 2000 indices. The first half of 2022 was also among the most extreme. It was the worst percentage decline ever for a first half of a year for the Russell 2000 and the Russell 2000 Growth. It was also the worst first half of a year for the S&P 500 since 1970. While the market declines were severe across all market cap ranges and nearly every industry, the smallest market caps and growth declined more than larger caps and value.

Amid growing bearish sentiment and fear of a Fed-induced economic slowdown, equity multiples were under severe pressure. Fighting the Fed when the Fed is fighting inflation is typically not favorable for equities in the short-term. Inflation thus far has proven more persistent and stubborn than hoped. The May Consumer Price Index (CPI) report released on June 10th showed that inflation in the U.S. accelerated, reaching a new cycle high. This further pressured equities through the end of the quarter as market participants concluded the Fed would have to further raise interest rates and tighten financial conditions more aggressively. This monetary stance by the Fed increases the risk of U.S. recession.

While inflation is the number one focus for the Fed, positively, there are multiple signs the underlying drivers of inflation are easing:

- M2 (the widely used measure of the money supply) has slowed from a peak of 27% y/y growth to a more normal 6% increase y/y. It will likely continue to ease.
- Average hourly wages also appear to have peaked as labor participation rates are improving.
- Supply chains are improving (though issues remain) helping logistics, shipping and container costs to come down.
- Inventories in many industries are returning to more normal or in some cases are at elevated levels – thus reducing goods inflation and prompting discounting.
- Most commodity prices have fallen and some sharply. Though crude oil does remain over \$100.
- The core CPI (ex-food and energy) and Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) have eased from recent highs.
- Market-based measures of inflation expectations have eased meaningfully, for instance the 5-year break-even inflation expectations have eased.

While these are very encouraging secondary signs, market participants and the Fed want to see total CPI peak and improve materially to conclude inflation is convincingly on track for a decline to lower levels. The June CPI is expected to be reported very soon in July and will be the next critical update on inflation.

Two key factors in coming months will be the rate at which inflationary pressures ease and to what degree economic growth slows. It will be critical for the market to see evidence of easing inflation. Economic conditions are slowing, but how much it slows going forward is the topic of much debate. Weakness is evident in the durable goods sectors of the economy as strong demand for durable goods during Covid continues to wane. Recent ISM Manufacturing data has been below expectations. Consumer spending continues to shift to services, leisure, travel and hospitality as those parts of the economy are seeing robust spending. The recent ISM Services report was nicely above expectations. How sustainable spending on services will be is also an open question as the economy slows and the price of crude oil remains elevated.

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**Russell Microcap:** measures the performance of the microcap segment of the U.S. equity market. **S&P 500 The Standard and Poor's 500, or simply the S&P 500:** is a stock market index tracking the performance of 500 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States. **Consumer Price Index:** an index of the variation in prices paid by typical consumers for retail goods and other items.

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

Will the U.S. economy deteriorate into a recession? It is getting close, and the market is concluding that a recession is a high probability as equity multiples have fallen sharply, consistent with past recessions. Also, a Fed tightening cycle this aggressive makes a recession seem reasonable and justified. Sentiment readings across consumers, small businesses, and professional investors have dropped to all-time low levels only seen during actual recessions. U.S. GDP may be negative for the first half as the current expectations continue to decline. The Atlanta Fed's GDPNow tracking model was recently revised suggesting a negative GDP reading for the second quarter. While two quarters of negative GDP reading is the common definition of a recession, the official definition (by the NBER – the National Bureau of Economic Research) looks at a variety of factors.

Whether or not a recession happens, it is shaping up to be a non-traditional one as the labor markets are far more robust than what we have seen during past recessions. Other traditional recession indicators are not consistent with a recession yet. These include the yield curve (using the 10 year-3 month and 30 year - the Fed Funds Rate spreads), household incomes, ISM data and high yield credit spreads. Further, corporate earnings remain at all-time highs. At this stage, more relevant is how severe will the current economic slowdown be and how much will earnings be impacted. The strong labor markets and the high level of excess household savings could cushion the current slowdown.

The market's key focus is on inflation. Our base case view is that inflation will come down in the second half as financial conditions have tightened sharply. The pace of the easing is a key question. Will it remain persistently high or will it quickly rollover as many secondary indicators have already? The trajectory of inflation going forward will be key for equity multiples as investors interpret how the Fed will handle inflation going forward.

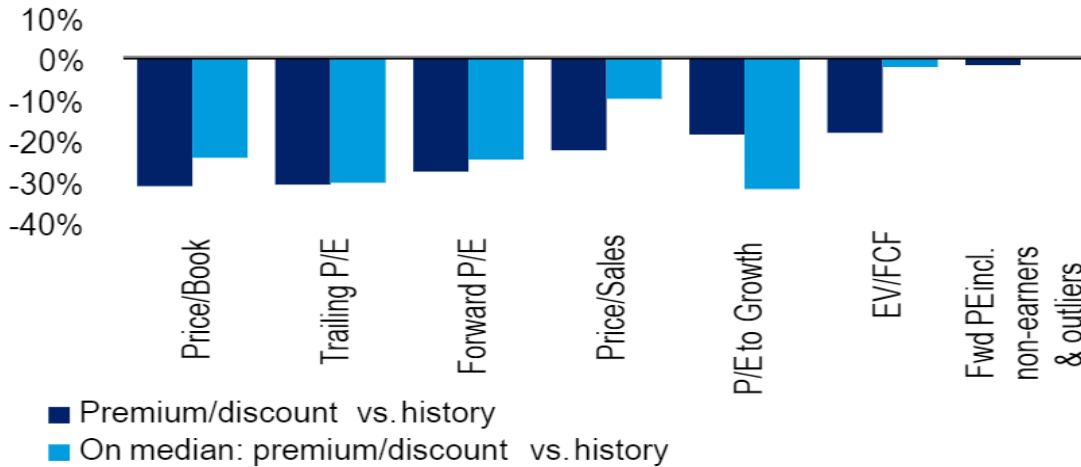
While the near-term market outlook is uncertain and will be volatile, the intermediate term outlook is looking more compelling. Historically when equities have fallen this sharply and equity multiples have declined to these levels, the 12-month outlook for forward returns is positive looking at past precedents. How equities perform in the near-term will largely depend on the next few months of inflation reports and how corporate earnings hold up. Inflation will drive the Fed monetary response. Equity multiples have priced in a great deal of earnings deterioration and how the market responds to the upcoming earnings season will be a key test.

Since the Fed's last official meeting in the first half of June, a lot has changed. Commodity prices and other inflation indicators have eased, and economic conditions have slowed. The monetary policy outlook is very fluid. The Fed Funds future market is actually forecasting rate cuts next year as the economic conditions slow and inflation is expected to slow. As the outlook for inflation improves a recovery in equities could begin in the second half as the market gains clarity on the outlook for the economy. Looking ahead, many intermediate and long-term growth drivers for the U.S. economy and for many industries remain fully intact.

Valuations have declined to historically attractive levels as earnings have stayed at new highs while multiples have compressed meaningfully since last year. While earnings likely will fall over the second half of this year, much of the slowdown may already be priced in. Consider the following:

- Small caps trade at near a 30% discount relative to large caps based on multiple valuation metrics (Russell 2000 vs Russell 1000) going back to the inception of the Russell 2000 index in 1980. (See Exhibit 1 below)
- Small caps typically trade at a premium to large caps and this current relative discount has occurred only once (around the year 2000) since 1980.
- At 10-12x, the forward P/E for small caps is at prior recession lows. (See Exhibit 2)
- Small caps historically fall 36% during recessions, based on data from Bank of America, and the current Russell 2000 decline is already similar.

### Exhibit 1: Small Caps Remain Historically Cheap vs. Large Caps Russell 2000 vs. Russell 1000 Valuations vs. History (1985-6/30/22)



Source: BofA US Equity & Quant Strategy, FactSet

### Exhibit 2: Small Cap Forward P/Es Near the Global Financial Crisis and Covid Recession Bottoms



Source: Yardeni Research

**Russell 2000 Index:** measures the performance of about 2,000 of the smallest publicly traded companies in the U.S. **Russell 1000 Index:** represents the top 1000 companies by market capitalization in the U.S. **Trailing price-to-earnings (P/E):** is a relative valuation multiple that is based on the last 12 months of actual earnings. It is calculated by taking the current stock price and dividing it by the trailing earnings per share (EPS) for the past 12 months. **Forward price-to-earnings (P/E):** divides the current share price of a company by the estimated future earnings per share of that company. **Price-to-Book Ratio (P/B ratio):** to compare a firm’s market capitalization to its book value. It’s calculated by dividing the company’s stockprice per share by its book value per share. **Price to Sales Ratio:** is a financial metric that measures the value investors put on a company for each dollar of revenue generated by the firm by comparing the stock price with total revenue. **Enterprise Value to Free Cash Flow Ratio, or EV / FCF Ratio:** contrasts a company’s Enterprise Value relative to its Free Cash Flow. It is defined as Enterprise Value divided by Free Cash Flow. **Price/Earnings to Growth Ratio (PEG ratio):** is a stock’s price-to-earnings(P/E) ratio divided by the growth rate of its earnings for a specified time period. **S&P 600:** covers roughly the small-cap range of American stocks, using a capitalization-weighted index.

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

### Performance Review

For the June quarter, the Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund slightly underperformed its benchmark. The Fund declined -22.77%, net of fees, while the Russell Microcap Growth Index declined -22.40%. By month, the Fund outperformed in April offset by modest underperformance in May and June.

Overall, the market's price weakness was widespread with very few groups acting well and most declining sharply. Macro concerns drove the multiple compression across the equity market. Stocks with higher growth rates underperformed and stocks and industries that had performed well in 2021 continued to underperform. Stocks that were commodity or inflation beneficiaries performed well until early June then declined sharply as the market questioned the sustainability of demand while factoring in recession concerns.

Performance was also challenged as the market has been highly rotational with stock and industry leadership shifting rapidly as macro factors dominated over idiosyncratic (bottom up, company specific) ones during the quarter. Overall earnings reports for our portfolio holdings remained strong with solid forward outlooks. However, stocks typically fell (in most industries) due to sharp multiple compression as market participants are instead anticipating deceleration ahead and have questioned the sustainability of the current positive trends.

By sector, performance is summarized as follows:

Consumer staples posted positive absolute and relative performance.

### Consumer Staples

Consumer Staples outperformed by 152 basis points as the sector performed well in what was a very defensive market environment. A number of specialty food and specialty beverage holdings posted strong revenue and earnings expansion that exceeded consensus expectations. We increased our relative overweight exposure to consumer staples during the quarter as the holdings performed well and a couple new specialty food positions were initiated.

The following sectors saw positive relative returns but negative absolute returns for the quarter:

### Energy

Energy overall outperformed by 73 basis points on a relative basis as crude oil and natural gas prices rose driven by dramatic underinvestment in supply since the end of the Shale Revolution (the prior energy upcycle) in 2014. Exploration & Production (E&Ps) companies reported robust earnings and cash flow generation that impressively outperformed expectations. Earnings revisions went up sharply. Oil Service companies also reported strong earnings. In early June, however, as recession fears grew, the energy sector sold off sharply. We reduced our overweight position in oil/gas companies to a relative equal weight as demand fears grew during the month of June.

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**The performance data shown represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Principal value and investment returns will fluctuate so that investors' shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Performance data represents the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost), during the given month, on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). Average annual total return reflects annualized change. Since Fund performance is subject to change after the month-end, please call (800) 560-6111 or visit [www.driehaus.com](http://www.driehaus.com) for more current performance information. A basis point equals 0.01.**

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

### Technology

Technology outperformed by 49 basis points due to an underweight position and as our holdings outperformed the tech holdings in the benchmark. We maintained an underweight in semiconductors and our semi holdings outperformed those in the benchmark. We remain underweight as the semi industry remains under pressure as earnings estimates are adjusted lower due to weakness in cell phones and laptops and as the economy slows. Expectations for semi capital equipment are also being adjusted lower. Towards the end of the quarter, we did begin to increase exposure to software and IT Services as some of the worst areas of the market are beginning to perform better and the market is beginning to adjust to potential lower inflation and rate expectations. Fundamentals in software and IT Services remain strong and valuations have come down sharply.

The following sectors saw negative relative returns (in order of magnitude): consumer discretionary, materials, financials, industrials and healthcare.

### Consumer Discretionary

Consumer discretionary underperformed by 161 basis points on a relative basis. Relative underperformance came from the leisure and hospitality sub-industry. As the consumer has shifted spending from durable goods, apparel and household goods to more leisure activities, hotels, gaming, restaurants, and other related services businesses have benefitted fundamentally. However, in the month of June, as recession concerns rose these sub-industries sold off as demand was questioned. Notably, to date, company and industry channel checks remain positive but the market is skeptical that current leisure demand trends will be sustained.

### Materials

Materials underperformed by 94 basis points. In April and May, the sector performed well as commodity prices rose driven by underinvestment in supply in recent years combined with continued strong demand. Areas of strength included uranium, aerospace, and agricultural related products. However, in the month of June, recession driven demand concerns caused these relatively strong stocks to underperform as sustainability was questioned. We did reduce our exposure given these macro driven demand concerns from an overweight to an underweight position.

### Financials

The financial sector also trailed as it detracted 68 basis points on a relative basis. The weakness was driven by banks due to macro concerns. We did lower our modest exposure to an underweight during the quarter.

### Industrials

Industrials underperformed by 20 basis points on a relative basis. A number of services companies, and other consistent growth industrials saw continued strong fundamental performance but sold off as economic growth concerns weighed on the sector. We finished the quarter with an equal weight position.

### Healthcare

Healthcare underperformed by 16 basis points with 46 basis points of outperformance in biotech being offset by underperformance in other industries. The sector remained challenging during the quarter. However, as inflation and rate fears may be subsiding late in the quarter, biotech and other non-earners have begun to perform better. We have increased our exposure to biotech and healthcare overall of late as fundamental outlooks remain strong, macro fears (inflation) appear to be shifting and technical action has materially improved.

## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

### Outlook & Positioning

The market's conditions remain challenging. Macro conditions continue to dominate over bottom-up and industry trends. The market fears inflation will continue to drive the Fed to further tighten financial conditions and to raise interest rates which will put further pressure on the economy and on earnings.

Positively, valuations have declined for our portfolio and micro/small cap stocks in general. Looking at history, the current declines in price and in multiple are similar to past recessions. While the odds of a recession have increased materially, economic conditions remain mixed. Some economic variables are recessionary while several others are not yet. A second key positive is that multiple inflation indicators are easing.

However, it is not clear how quickly the rate of inflation will come down over the rest of the second half. Several scenarios could play out in terms of the trajectory of the decline in inflation. Also, it is not clear how much the economy and earnings will slow.

A bullish scenario that could unfold is inflation steadily eases over the second half of the year, the Fed's rhetoric in time adjusts to the improving inflation outlook and the economy and earnings continue to deteriorate but only modestly so. In this scenario, equity multiples stabilize in the coming months with severe economic and earnings declines already discounted.

A bearish scenario would be inflation remains stubbornly high versus expectations, the Fed is forced to remain very hawkish and economic growth and earnings deteriorate. While we recognize this bearish scenario is possible, our base case is that inflation will ease, earnings deteriorate only modestly, and equity multiples stabilize as they have declined to recessionary levels already.

In terms of portfolio positioning, we have an attractive mix of secular and cyclical growth holdings. By sector healthcare remains our largest absolute weight, followed by technology, industrials, consumer discretionary, consumer staples and energy. Relative to the benchmark, the Fund is overweight consumer staples, consumer discretionary, energy and, industrials. The Fund is underweight health care, technology, and financials. Overall, we still see many dynamic investment opportunities which have reduced valuations versus the start of the year and a year ago. These holdings nicely fit our investment philosophy of companies exhibiting growth inflections, differentiation, market share gains, strong revenues and expanding profitability.

# Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund

## % Month-End Performance (as of 6/30/22)

			Annualized				
	MTH	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund	-8.20	-38.95	-37.02	13.87	17.50	18.65	17.14
Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	-7.53	-33.04	-43.98	0.07	1.58	7.02	7.48

## % Quarter-End Performance (as of 6/30/22)

			Annualized				
	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Inception <sup>1</sup>
Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund	-22.77	-38.95	-37.02	13.87	17.50	18.65	17.14
Russell Microcap <sup>®</sup> Growth Index <sup>2</sup>	-22.40	-33.04	-43.98	0.07	1.58	7.02	7.48

## Top 5 Holdings<sup>3</sup> (as of 5/31/22)

Company	% of Fund
Matador Resources Company	2.6
Civitas Resources, Inc.	1.8
Xenon Pharmaceuticals Inc.	1.8
Cytokinetics, Incorporated	1.7
European Wax Center, Inc. Class A	1.7

## Annual Operating Expenses<sup>4</sup>

Gross Expenses	1.38%
Net Expenses	1.38%

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance Data as of 6/30/22.

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<sup>1</sup>The average annual total returns of the Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund include the performance of one of the Fund's predecessor limited partnerships, which is calculated from January 1, 2003, before the Fund commenced operations and succeeded to the assets of its predecessors on November 18, 2013. The Fund's predecessors are the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P. (1996 inception) and the Driehaus Institutional Micro Cap Fund, L.P. (2011 inception). The performance of the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P., which was selected because it has the longer track record of the two predecessor partnerships, has been restated to reflect estimated expenses of the Fund. The predecessor limited partnerships were not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act") and thus were not subject to certain investment and operational restrictions that are imposed by the 1940 Act. If the predecessors had been registered under the 1940 Act, their performance may have been adversely affected. After-tax performance returns are not included for the Driehaus Micro Cap Fund, L.P. The predecessors were not regulated investment companies and therefore did not distribute current or accumulated earnings. <sup>2</sup>Benchmark: The Russell Microcap<sup>®</sup> Growth Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer of the microcap growth market. Based on ongoing empirical research of investment manager behavior, the methodology used to determine growth probability approximates the aggregate microcap growth manager's opportunity set. The index has an inception date of July 2000. An investor cannot invest directly in an index. <sup>3</sup>Holdings subject to change. <sup>4</sup>Represents the Annual Fund Operating Expenses as disclosed in the current prospectus dated April 30, 2022. It is important to understand that a decline in the Fund's average net assets due to unprecedented market volatility or other factors could cause the Fund's expense ratio for the current fiscal year to be higher than the expense information presented. A shareholder may be required to pay a commission to their financial intermediary.



## Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund / DMCRX

## Sector Performance Attribution 2nd Quarter – 3/31/22 to 6/30/22

GICS Sector	Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund (Port) (%)		Russell Microcap Growth Index <sup>1</sup> (Bench) (%)		Attribution Analysis (%)		
	Port Avg. Weight	Port Contrib To Return	Bench Avg. Weight	Bench Contrib To Return	Allocation Effect <sup>2</sup>	Selection + Interaction <sup>2</sup>	Total Effect <sup>2</sup>
Communication Services	0.78	-0.18	1.80	-0.67	0.13	0.10	0.23
Consumer Discretionary	15.06	-5.08	14.02	-2.82	-0.07	-1.48	-1.55
Consumer Staples	8.03	0.55	2.49	-0.25	0.78	0.74	1.53
Energy	12.24	-2.46	6.51	-1.86	0.19	0.54	0.74
Financials	3.68	-1.25	3.64	-0.54	-0.01	-0.67	-0.68
Health Care	26.59	-6.65	34.57	-8.27	0.16	-0.32	-0.16
Industrials	13.52	-3.15	12.51	-2.74	0.05	-0.24	-0.20
Information Technology	10.48	-1.64	16.57	-3.74	-0.04	0.53	0.49
Materials	5.56	-2.38	4.08	-0.96	0.27	-1.21	-0.93
Real Estate	0.42	-0.25	2.96	-0.59	-0.09	-0.14	-0.24
Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.75	-0.03	-0.12	0.00	-0.12
Cash	3.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	0.00	0.84
Other <sup>2</sup>	0.00	-0.27	0.11	0.00	-0.24	-0.02	-0.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-22.77</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>-22.46</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>-2.17</b>	<b>-0.31</b>

Data as of 6/30/22

Sources: Driehaus Capital Management LLC, Factset Research Systems, Inc., eVestment Alliance

Per FactSet Research Systems Inc., the attribution report provides an in-depth analysis of relative performance. With this report one can research whether or not a portfolio outperformed a benchmark, and how each group contributed to performance. The performance data shown above is estimated and represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. The information presented is intended for informational purposes only.

<sup>1</sup>The definition of this index can be found on page 7. <sup>2</sup>Attribution Analysis categories are defined as: **Allocation Effect** - Measures the impact of the decision to allocate assets differently than those in the benchmark. **Security Selection Effect** - Measures the effect of choosing securities, which may or may not outperform those of the benchmark. **Interaction Effect** - Jointly measures the effect of allocation and selection decisions. **Total Effect** - The Total Effect for each MSCI/GICS Sector is equal to the sum of the individual Attribution Effects for that MSCI/GICS Sector.

<sup>3</sup>Other refers to securities not recognized by Factset.



**Driehaus Micro Cap Growth Fund / DMCRX**

This material is not intended to be relied upon as a forecast or research. The opinions expressed are those of Driehaus Capital Management LLC (“Driehaus”) as of July 13, 2022 and are subject to change at any time due to changes in market or economic conditions. The commentary has not been updated since July 13, 2022 and may not reflect recent market activity. The information and opinions contained in this material are derived from proprietary and non-proprietary sources deemed by Driehaus to be reliable and are not necessarily all inclusive. Driehaus does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of this information. There is no guarantee that any forecasts made will come to pass. Reliance upon information in this material is at the sole discretion of the reader.

At times, a significant portion of a Fund’s return may be attributable to investments in initial public offerings (IPOs) or concentrations in certain strong performing sectors, such as technology. Returns from IPOs or sector concentrations may not be repeated or consistently achieved in the future. In addition, participating in IPOs and other investments during favorable market conditions may enhance the performance of a Fund with a smaller asset base, and this Fund may not experience similar performance results as its assets grow. The securities of micro-cap companies may be more volatile in price, have wider spreads between their bid and ask prices, and have significantly lower trading volumes than the securities of larger capitalization companies. As a result, the purchase and sale of more than a limited number of shares of the securities of a smaller company may affect its market price. Growth stocks may involve special risks and their prices may be more volatile than the overall market. It is anticipated that the Fund will experience high rates of portfolio turnover, which may result in payment by the Fund of above-average transaction costs. These and other risk considerations are discussed in the Fund’s prospectus.

Market Turbulence Resulting from COVID-19. The outbreak of COVID-19 has negatively affected the worldwide economy, individual countries, individual companies and the market in general. The future impact of COVID-19 is currently unknown, and it may exacerbate other risks that apply to the Fund.

**Please consider the investment objectives, risks, fees and expenses of the Fund carefully prior to investing. The prospectus and summary prospectus contain this and other important information about the Fund. To obtain a copy of the prospectus and/or summary prospectus, please call us at (800) 560-6111. Please read the prospectus and summary prospectus carefully before investing.**

Forside Financial Services, LLC, Distributor