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The President's Letter

2ND QUARTER 2020



The pitfalls of DIY investing

By Jerry C. Wagner
President, Flexible Plan Investments

Businesses around the world have seen their sales dry up as people have restricted their movement in the wake of the pandemic. There has been much talk about how Amazon and other online retailers have bucked the trend. Another segment of the retail marketplace has also been thriving despite the virus fears.

Do-it-yourself (DIY) purchases in the areas of home improvement, crafts, and even puzzles have been soaring. According to a [CNBC article](#) from April, “Gamemaker Ravensburger has seen U.S. puzzle sales soar 370% year over year in the past two weeks, according to the company’s North America CEO Filip Francke.” Home improvement giants Lowe’s and Home

Depot actually showed year-over-year improvements in sales in a recent report.

DIY projects are trending for many reasons: (1) We have more free time as we stay at home to decrease the chance of infection. (2) Stimulus checks offered more available funds. (3) DIY projects provide a sense of purpose and completion that a job well done can deliver. (4) [DIY projects can help reduce stress and anxiety](#), especially during periods of isolation.

A rise in DIY investing

DIY investing has also surged throughout the pandemic. [A survey of online brokerage operations](#) showed new account openings up 50%–300% in the first quarter. Robinhood, the darling of the younger generation, [saw new users grow](#) by 3 million, bringing total users to over 13 million, during the first four months of the year.

Despite having the time and resources to invest during the pandemic, most of these new DIY investors would be wise to remember that there are costs to trying to do it yourself.

Since 1984, analysts at independent investment research firm [DALBAR Inc.](#) have been publishing their annual “Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior” report (QAIB). Since that time, the report has shown that investors managing their own accounts consistently underperform the mutual funds in which

they invest. This year’s report was no different. While the S&P 500 earned a 6.02% average annual return, the average equity mutual fund investor returned just 4.25% over the 20-year period ending December 31, 2019.

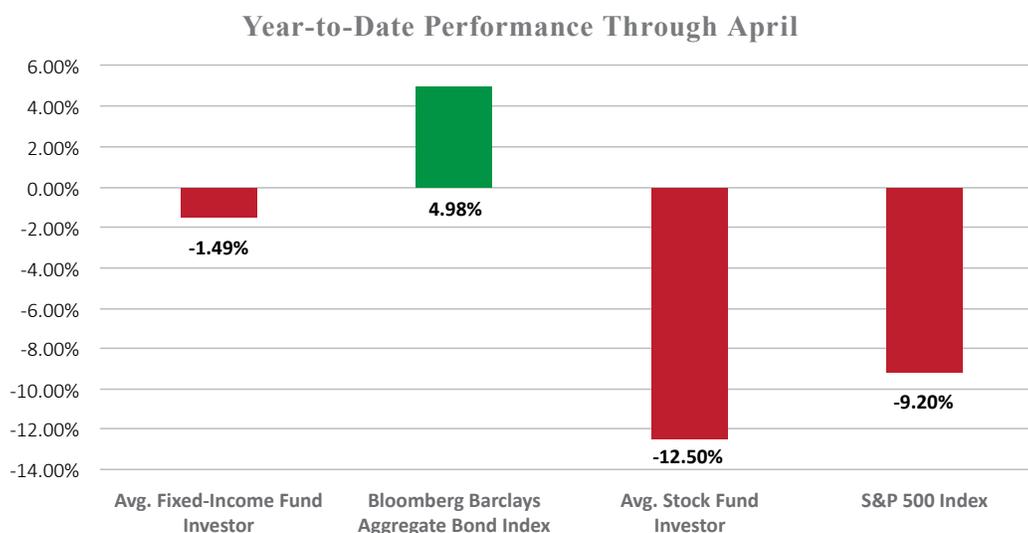
In a separate report documenting investing results during the COVID-19 shutdown, DALBAR found that “The Average Fixed Income Fund Investor lost -1.49% in the first four months of 2020 ... while the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index gained 4.98% during the same period.” And DALBAR says the average stock fund investor lost 12.5% through the end of April, while the S&P 500 Index was down just 9.2% (see the following chart).

While we were one of the first to create a turnkey asset management platform that allows the adviser to be the portfolio manager (DIY investing for your financial adviser), we’ve also learned that there are some common pitfalls to attempting to do it yourself:

1. Insufficient knowledge of what you are investing in.

Whether you are investing in assets or strategies, you have to spend the time to learn about the investment. This sounds pretty basic, but [losses of inexperienced investors in options, bitcoins, volatility vehicles, and leveraged and inverse funds are testimony to the fact that many do not research before they invest.](#)

Hopefully, these investors have learned how important this knowledge is to be able to correctly use the investment. But it is



Data source: DALBAR

also important because the more you know the characteristics of an asset class or strategy, the more you are able to trust it to do what it is intended to do within an investment portfolio. This trust is essential to allow investors to stick with their plans and invest for the long run.

2. No time or opportunity. Most investors cannot devote all of their time to their investments, yet the 24-hour investment and news cycle demands such attention. And, of course, the demands of everyday life further dilute the necessary time investment. They can't do everything all of the time.

3. Emotion gets in the way. A puzzle fan wrote that his reason for doing puzzles during the pandemic was that, "[Bringing order to a pile of chaos](#) can have an incredibly calming and relaxing effect."

Be assured, DIY investing will not have such an effect. Frustration and anxiety are the most likely result of the chaos so many investors believe is endemic in the financial markets.

Fintech entrepreneur George Mitra, in his recent insightful article "[DIY Investing May Lead to an Unhealthy Portfolio During the Current Pandemic](#)," points out that,



"The two emotions that always compete in investment decisions are Greed and Fear. In reality, it is only one – Fear. It's either FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) or the fear of losing something. One leads to making a decision when times are good and gives investors more confidence in their ability, their risk tolerance, and knowledge about their needs. Whereas, the other freezes us, or makes us take decisions in haste looking at short term rather than longer horizons."

The interplay of these and other investment biases has spawned a whole new field of study: behavioral finance. We now know that the internal mechanisms of the human brain work against successful investing. Successful professional investors establish procedures and do the quantitative research necessary to overcome these emotional roadblocks to profits.

4. Lack of discipline. This can undermine the best-laid plans and overcome years of research. When I was doing weekly seminars for investors, I used to tell my attendees that I had

researched thousands of investment systems. Many of these systems have long-term records of success. Based on my experience with investors, I know that I can explain a profitable system's rules and history, but I know that, in most cases, investors will not go home and follow it.

It's like when investors subscribe to an investment newsletter. The writer tells them when to buy and sell. Here's what investors typically do with that information: (1) They wait to see if a recommended trade is successful in real time. (2) When they see enough successful trades, they finally start investing. (3) Once they have a losing trade or two, they stop following the signals and let the newsletter subscription expire. DIY investors tend to be easily discouraged.

Of course, investors eventually learn that, unfortunately, the best buy and sell signals seem to occur when it is hardest to pull the trigger. You probably know how the story goes: The market falls and falls, and then you get the buy signal. At this point, you may have been losing money for weeks, losses have mounted from 20% to 30% to 40%, and now you are being told to invest. It's very hard to do. Similarly, if you get a sell signal when gains are multiplying and it seems like the best of times, will you sell?

If not DIY investing, then what?

As a TAMP (a turnkey asset management program), the answer for Flexible Plan is easy: turnkey investment management. With turnkey separate accounts, we pick the investments, allocate and reallocate them for you, and provide the dynamic risk management that we are known for.

Since I founded Flexible Plan in 1981, we have always provided turnkey separately managed accounts and nothing else. In the past, these have mostly consisted of a single strategy, often involving a single asset class.

As we developed and made available hundreds of these strategies over the years, advisers and investors asked us if, instead of just picking when to invest in an asset class, we could also pick the strategies and when to invest in them. The results were our turnkey multi-strategy offerings: QFC Multi-Strategy Core, QFC Multi-Strategy Explore, and QFC Fusion 2.0.

Because these are turnkey strategies, you don't have any of the roadblocks that foil DIY investors:

1. Choosing investments just got less complicated. You don't have to learn the ins and outs of Flexible Plan's 100-plus strategies to make an informed judgment of what is right for you in the current environment—nor do you have to stay up late reviewing all of the stats on every one of them so as to have enough confidence to stay with the strategy for the long run.

This is also an incredible advantage for financial advisers. It means that they have a limited number of strategies to become familiar with, and a single, unchanging concept on which to educate clients—the advantages of multi-strategy investing.

No longer will you have to decide which strategies to buy and when to do it. And you won't have to agonize over how much to invest in each strategy you choose.

No more strategy changes when market conditions change. No learning new strategies. No monitoring individual strategy performance. No having to learn how to tell whether a strategy has just stalled or suddenly stopped working. No dropping old strategies when they become ineffective. We do all of that for our turnkey investors and their advisers.

2. Time constraints are no more. Flexible Plan has more than 70 financial service personnel to watch over your accounts when you have pressing personal or business concerns. You can even take a vacation, and we're there to cover for you.

3. Investor emotion is not a problem. Our quantitative strategies are all drawn from years of research, backtesting, and time-tested experience. The rules for buying, holding, and selling are all laid out in technical precision and constantly monitored for improvement. They are detailed in advance, so there is no question about what to do when the time for action presents itself.

4. Trading discipline is not a problem. Our quantitative systems leave no room for indecision. The signals are generated by our computers and go to a trading staff that is not connected with the strategy development. There are no egos involved with the people charged with executing the signals. They are only concerned with getting the trading done accurately and as soon

as the computers generate a signal to buy or sell. The trading staff is judged not by the profitability of the trade but by precision and timing in each trade's execution.

DIY investing remains susceptible to all of these pitfalls. Turnkey multi-strategy investing avoids them all.

Fintech entrepreneur George Mitra concluded that,



“DIY investors tend to perceive risk management as avoiding losses. In reality, risk management is about taking chances while mitigating potential negative fallout with safer bets: it's about maintaining an acceptable level of risk to enable higher returns. Part of this process is also reviewing investments. To not be swayed by personal bias, hindsight bias, or being too attached to them. This helps in identifying losers and pruning them, to make way for the new potential winners”

Robert R. Johnson, president and CEO of the American College of Financial Services, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, sums it up like this: “Basically, when people get sick, they go to a doctor. When people get in a legal tangle, they seek the advice of a lawyer. Yet, somehow, people believe they should be able to navigate the complex financial waters on their own.”

Generally, people can't. But today, people don't have to!

Turnkey multi-strategy investing is here, and you don't have to do it yourself any longer.

All the best,



Jerry C. Wagner

Jerry C. Wagner
President

SECOND-QUARTER RECAP

Equities rallied in the second quarter after a pandemic-related sell-off in the first quarter. About 84.6% of OnTarget Monitors for the quarter were “in the yellow” or better, with 70.4% “OnTarget” (“in the green”) or better (“in the blue”).

The technology-heavy NASDAQ led the pack, gaining more than 30% for the quarter. The Technology sector has continued to be the strongest performer for the year. Small caps gained over 25% for the quarter, and the S&P 500 was up over 20%. International developed stocks were the worst performers, but they still managed to gain 17%. This spread among the equity segments indicates a healthy global appetite for risk, which is a rapid turnaround from the fear seen in the markets in the first quarter.

Offensive sectors outperformed defensive sectors for the most part. Energy and Technology gained the most, both rising over 30%. Industrials lagged, up about 5.5% for the quarter. On the defensive side, Consumer Staples and Utilities gained 8.5% and 2.7%, respectively. Despite recent market focus and positivity, Health Care was up only 13.4% for the quarter. Though some segments of the Health Care sector have been up significantly on hopes of a COVID-19 vaccine or treatment, the pandemic’s effect on the sector has been negative overall, as the sector has underperformed the broad market.

The markets remain sensitive to negative economic and pandemic news, as evidenced by a minor sell-off at the beginning of June. But, overall, market sentiment and direction suggest that the market is more confident about the ability of the economy to survive the current situation either through easy money policy, health-care breakthroughs, or current pandemic statistics.

Safe-haven assets were mixed for the quarter. Gold rose about 13%, but long-term government bonds fell slightly. While often considered a safe-haven asset, gold can also be a protection against rising inflation, which may explain the difference in quarterly performance between the two most common safe-haven assets. Dramatic fiscal and monetary actions to prevent the pandemic from leading to a depression have caused concern that inflation could rise in the long term.

The yield curve changed significantly during the quarter. It started the quarter heavily inverted with three-month rates exceed-

ing all other terms by a significant amount, over 1.4%. Since then, the curve has normalized somewhat, with some shorter-term yields exceeding longer-term yields. However, the curve does not appear to be as affected by fear or pessimism as it was during the beginning of the quarter.

The recent strong performance of equities led to quarterly gains in about 95% of our strategies. Our top performers were mostly aggressive equity strategies and aggressive strategies with access to the equity markets and leverage.

The top performers within our Strategic Solutions offerings included several of our Quantified Fee Credit (QFC) offerings. Our QFC Self-adjusting Trend Following strategy led the pack, gaining more than 27% for the quarter. The WP Aggressive and WP Growth strategies were close behind with gains of 24.99% and 24.89%, respectively. Our QFC Multi-Strategy Explore: Equity Trends strategy was up 22.71% for the quarter. The Market Leaders strategies also had a strong showing for the quarter.

Top 10 performers for the quarter

QSTF	QFC Self-adjusting Trend Following	27.6%
WAGG	WP Aggressive	25.0%
WGRO	WP Growth	24.9%
MLSGU	Market Leaders Sector Growth Ultra	22.8%
MSET	QFC Multi-Strategy Explore: Equity Trends	22.7%
MLSG	Market Leaders Sector Growth	22.0%
WMOD	WP Moderate	18.4%
QMLA	QFC Market Leaders Aggressive	16.8%
QMLG	QFC Market Leaders Growth	15.9%
SSMT	Systematic Advantage	15.1%

Strategy returns are shown after the maximum 2.25% annual advisory fee and less any fee credits where applicable.

It was a challenging market for alternative and fixed-income strategies. While significantly outperforming its benchmark, Fixed Income Tactical was down for the quarter. Our Volatility Adjusted NASDAQ strategy also struggled; high volatility did not equate to poor returns for the markets because the Fed artificially propped up markets.

QFC Fusion 2.0 posted solid performance, generally outperforming the traditional 60/40 balanced portfolio for the quarter and year to date after maximum fees. The non-QFC versions of the Fusion

portfolios were mostly unchanged for the quarter, remaining in a defensive position after the first quarter's downturn. These Fusion portfolios remain prepared should further market volatility materialize from the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Multi-Strategy Core offerings, however, were up significantly for the quarter, with the strongest returns earned in the most aggressive strategies.

QFC Multi-Strategy Core and Explore returns at Strategic Solutions

	Q2	YTD
Multi-Strategy Core Aggressive	10.0%	-1.6%
Multi-Strategy Core Growth	8.3%	-2.8%
Multi-Strategy Core Balanced	6.7%	-4.2%
Multi-Strategy Core Moderate	5.0%	-5.6%
Multi-Strategy Core Conservative	3.4%	-7.1%
Multi-Strategy Explore: Low Correlation	4.0%	-4.0%
Multi-Strategy Explore: Low Volatility	1.2%	-1.6%
Multi-Strategy Explore: Special Equity	7.6%	-4.0%
Multi-Strategy Explore: Equity Trends	22.7%	8.1%
S&P 500	20.0%	-3.5%
60/40 Equities/Bonds	5.9%	-6.4%

Strategy returns are shown after the maximum 2.25% annual advisory fee and less any fee credits where applicable.

QFC Fusion returns at Strategic Solutions

	Q2	YTD
QFC Fusion 2.0 Aggressive	11.6%	-0.9%
QFC Fusion 2.0 Growth	10.2%	1.2%
QFC Fusion 2.0 Balanced	7.9%	-0.6%
QFC Fusion 2.0 Moderate	7.6%	2.5%
QFC Fusion 2.0 Conservative	3.1%	-5.7%
S&P 500	20.0%	-3.5%
60/40 Equities/Bonds	5.9%	-6.4%

Strategy returns are shown after the maximum 2.25% annual advisory fee and less any fee credits where applicable.

Fusion returns at Strategic Solutions

	Q2	YTD	1 YEAR
Fusion Aggressive	0.7%	-13.6%	-8.9%
Fusion Growth	0.7%	-10.8%	-5.3%
Fusion Balanced	0.5%	-6.7%	-3.3%
Fusion Enhanced Income	-0.3%	-5.6%	-3.1%
Fusion Moderate	1.8%	-1.0%	-1.2%
Fusion Conservative	0.9%	-1.3%	-1.4%
S&P 500	20.0%	-3.5%	7.0%
60/40 Equities/Bonds	5.9%	-6.4%	0.3%

Strategy returns are shown after the maximum 2.25% annual advisory fee and less any fee credits where applicable.

Fusion returns at Schwab

	Q2	YTD	1 YEAR
Fusion Aggressive	1.2%	-13.4%	-8.5%
Fusion Growth	1.4%	-10.4%	-5.6%
Fusion Balanced	1.2%	-5.8%	-2.3%
Fusion Moderate	2.0%	-0.7%	-0.9%
Fusion Conservative	1.0%	-0.9%	-1.0%
S&P 500	20.0%	-3.5%	7.0%
60/40 Equities/Bonds	5.9%	-6.4%	-0.3%

Strategy returns are shown after the maximum 2.25% annual advisory fee and less any fee credits where applicable.



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Important Disclosures

Flexible Plan provides free consultations to you to address (i) past results; (ii) any changes in your financial situation indicating a change in investment strategy; (iii) reasonable management restrictions or modifications; and (iv) your current investment objectives. These consultations are available upon request quarterly via telephone or in person at our offices.

Please remember to contact your primary investment professional and Flexible Plan Investments, Ltd., **in writing**, if there are any changes in your personal/financial situation or investment objectives or for the purpose of reviewing the ongoing suitability of your current investment strategy/program, or if you want to impose, add, or modify any reasonable restrictions to our investment advisory services. **Please Note:** Unless you advise, in writing, to the contrary, we will assume that there are no restrictions on our services, other than to manage the account in accordance with your current designated investment strategy/program.

Investment Portfolio Rating: The term "portfolio" refers to all of your accounts managed by FPI, regardless of number of strategies. The rating is based on your latest suitability questionnaire filed with us. If your account is a corporate or trust account or we have not received a suitability questionnaire from you, we utilize the historical fifteen-year standard deviation for your portfolio to determine your Rating. One of four categories is referenced: Conservative, Moderate, Growth or Aggressive. If the category referenced for you seems no longer appropriate, please contact our offices to fill out a new questionnaire.

Volatility Barometer: The S&P500 and NASDAQ Indexes, as well as the Investor Profile reference points, are the annualized monthly standard deviation of the percentage change of the total return of those Indexes and the total return net of your advisory fees based on our hypothetical research on a portfolio of FPI strategies held in the same dollar proportion as those held in your account(s) at the end of the quarter, respectively. The standard deviation is calculated for a rolling three-year period to the end of the quarter, regardless of the time you have been invested in the strategies. The standard deviation for the actual period of your portfolio may differ, as may its relationship to that of the S&P500 and NASDAQ Indexes. Standard Deviation is a statistical measurement of the variability of the return of a portfolio from the mean average. It is one measure of volatility. When a fund has a high Standard Deviation, the predicted range is wide, implying a greater volatility, and, therefore, a greater level of risk. Investors are cautioned, however, that in calculating risk, high positive returns are treated the same as high negative returns. Thus, strategies with above average returns often exhibit high Standard Deviation. See "Risk Considerations" in FPI's Brochure Form ADV, Part 2A.

Risk Target: Utilizing the same return stream described in the Volatility Barometer description, FPI determines on a monthly basis the greatest drawdown or loss, before advisory fees, that would have been achieved from a portfolio or index high point to a low point without an intervening new high. The maximum loss shown is for the period commencing at the latest start date of your portfolio's component strategies (in no event less than five years) to the present, regardless of the time you have been invested in the strategies. The loss for the actual period of your portfolio may differ, as may its relationship to that of the Indexes. Some strategies may actually target a higher risk and exposure to risk than the S&P 500. See strategy descriptions in FPI's Brochure Form ADV, Part 2A.

Market Commentary: Adjustments and allocations discussed as occurring within your portfolio are derived from the most significant percentage holdings and changes from the first pie chart to the last shown on the accompanying statement page. Cash or money market positions referenced are derived from our trade records and do not reflect those resulting from additions to or withdrawals from your account or strategies.

OnTarget Monitor: The black line denoting your portfolio account value is derived from the actual month-to-month percent change of your portfolio, after advisory fees. The quarter end account value reflects past fees paid, if deducted directly from your account(s). The scale of the chart is logarithmic so that all changes are represented proportionately. We base the time period on the investment time horizon provided in your suitability questionnaire response. For comparison purposes the period may have been rounded up to the next five-year period and the maximum period shown is twenty years. Twenty years is also the period used if no time horizon was provided. The green pathway reflects the result of hundreds of Monte Carlo simulations utilizing the monthly returns, net of your advisory fees based on our hypothetical research, for the period from the latest start date of your portfolio's component strategies (in no event less than five years) to the end of the quarter of a portfolio of strategies held in the same dollar proportion as those held in your account(s) at the end of the quarter. Based on these simulations, the upper-most line and targeted amount (represented with a blue field) was reached or exceeded in 20% of the simulation outcomes, the second line and target (the bottom line of the green field) was matched or bettered in 80% of the outcomes, while the lowest line (the top of the red field) was reached or exceeded in 90% of the outcomes. The circled target amount reflects the minimum value attained, after advisory fees, in 60% of the outcomes. A greater or lesser number of simulations may generate different results. The chart and the values utilized and set forth therein are for illustrative purposes only. **Additions, withdrawals, extension or maintenance of the Time Horizon or strategy changes within a quarter will cause the chart to be redrawn and/or new targets and outcomes established.**

The results of Monte Carlo analysis rely on many assumptions, such as expected returns, volatility, and correlation that cannot be forecast with certainty. Because Monte Carlo simulations create randomly generated scenarios, results will vary with each use over time. It is also impossible to foresee all possible situations, including some that may negatively impact a client's portfolio. Projections and other information generated by Monte Carlo simulations regarding the likelihood of investment incomes are hypothetical in nature and do not reflect actual investment results, and are not guarantees of future results. Despite the limitations, Monte Carlo analysis is still a very powerful tool to test the probability, though not the certainty, of investment success.

NO GUARANTEE OF PROJECTED OUTCOME IS EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

Portfolio Returns Utilized: Unless otherwise noted, the strategy returns utilized in creating the charts described above are HYPOTHETICAL returns drawn from our research reports. These results were achieved by means of retroactive application of a computer model and may not represent the results of actual trading. Annual returns are compounded monthly and are inclusive of the last full trading week of the year, but may not necessarily include the last trading day of the year. Research Report results are NOT represented as actual trading or client experience nor do they reflect the impact on decision making of economic or market factors experienced during actual management of funds. Where returns or risk of your portfolio are referenced the returns are your actual account's risk and return, gross of your advisory fees.

"Net of your advisory fees" means the advisory fees and Quantified Funds ("Affiliated Funds") credits reflected in your account in the first period shown on your OnTarget Monitor chart. Currently, your rate could be higher or lower as the value of your account changes. For example, under the FPI fee schedule as the assets under management increases, the fee rate can decrease. Other fees may apply, as well. All expenses are required to be disclosed in each investment's prospectus, available from your financial representative and the product provider. Various minimum-holding periods for each fund may be utilized to comply with trading restrictions. Fund or Advisor may change these periods. Actual investment performance of any trading strategy may frequently be materially different than the results shown. "Model Accounts," where referenced, reflect actual accounts. Accounts used are based on the account longevity and its activity. The returns of the Affiliated Funds, sub-advised by Flexible Plan, reflect the actual price changes. The Affiliated Fund returns, while believed representative of actual results, may not necessarily represent the actual experience of any client.

If single strategy account histories are unavailable, statistics applicable to such accounts are derived from the exchange history files of each strategy used. Actual buy-sell trading signals and pricing are used in conjunction with such files to create the applicable statistics for each model account. These exchange-history derived returns are believed representative of each strategy's actual results, but the results do not represent the actual experience of any client during the period. Therefore, these results may not reflect the impact that material economic and market factors might have had on the results. Nor do they reflect any problems of execution or pricing that may have been encountered in the actual implementation of the buy and sell signals shown in the exchange history files, the effect of which has not been determined, and may be indeterminable.

Enhancements have been made in our methodologies, which are believed to have had a positive effect on returns. The amount is not precisely quantifiable, but as actual price history is used, the effect of these enhancements is reflected. Continued development efforts may result in further changes.

Utilizing performance between selected dates may not be indicative of overall performance. Inquiry for total results is always advised. Return examples given will vary based upon their volatility as they relate to the indices shown. Other accounts, investments and indices may materially outperform or under perform. Various investments used may no longer be available due to the result of periodic review, consolidations and/or exchange conditions imposed.

Investment management fees vary based on underlying fund composition (QFC versus non QFC and mix of QFC strategies), aggregate assets in the Quantified Funds, platform where your account is managed, level of your assets under management at Flexible Plan, and the schedule of fees arranged with your advisor. Fees are prorated and charged not less frequently than quarterly in arrears. Use of the Affiliated Funds will generate an annual minimum credit of 0.55%. As a result, actual fees may vary. Unless otherwise noted, if after fee Fund returns are referenced, they will be no more than 2.25% before reductions or credits for the already mentioned factors. Otherwise the maximum fee is applied. When returns are shown from strategy inception, the maximum Strategic Solutions Establishment Fee of 1.2% has been deducted. All mutual fund fees and expenses are included to the extent they are reflected in net asset value and not offset against management fees. As tax rates vary, taxes have not been considered.

Prior to August, 2013, "Proprietary Funds" meant Evolution Managed Funds ("EMF") as to which Rafferty Asset Management, LLC served as investment adviser and Flexible Plan Investments served as sub-adviser to the EMF. The credit generated from 100% investment in EMF ranged between approximately forty-five (45) and sixty (60) basis points per annum.

After August, 2013, "Proprietary Funds" means the Quantified Funds and The Gold Bullion Strategy Fund (collectively 'sub-advised funds' or 'SAF') as to which Advisors Preferred LLC (see below) serves as investment adviser and Flexible Plan Investments serves as sub-adviser to the SAF.

From August 2013 to the inception of the Quantified STF Fund on November 13, 2015, fee credits were fifty (50) to sixty-five (65) basis points per annum.

Following November 2015, fee credits ranged from fifty (50) to ninety (90) basis points per annum dependent upon platform and fund.

As of September 1, 2019, under a new agreement, the Quantified Fee credits were increased to a range from (55) basis points to (105) basis points per annum dependent upon platform, funds, and aggregate QFC funds' AUM.

From and after January 1, 2020, Flexible Plan will waive its portion of the Advisory Fee, in excess of the Affiliated Funds Fee Credit, if within a single account, and during the period that any portion of the account is: (i) invested solely in QFC Strategies in amount greater than or equal to \$150,000 or (ii) invested solely in QFC Turnkey Strategies in an amount greater than or equal to \$100,000.

Advisors Preferred, LLC serves as the Quantified Funds Investment Adviser and Flexible Plan Investments, Ltd., serves as the sub-adviser. Read the Quantified Funds Prospectus and Flexible Plan Investments' Brochure Form ADV Part 2A and Part 3 (Form CRS) carefully before investing. You should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks and the charges and expenses of the Quantified Funds before investing. The Quantified Funds SAI and Prospectus contain information regarding the above considerations and more. You may obtain a Prospectus by calling Advisors Preferred LLC at (888) 572-8868 or writing Advisors Preferred, LLC 1445 Research Boulevard, Ste. 530, Rockville, MD 20850 or download the PDF from: www.goldbullionstrategyfund.com or www.quantifiedfunds.com.

Returns and portfolio values are provided for information purposes only and should not be used or construed as an indicator of future performance, an offer to sell, a solicitation of an offer to buy, or a recommendation for any security. Flexible Plan Investments, Ltd. cannot guarantee the suitability or potential value of any particular investment.

ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES

Because Flexible Plan strategies make use of publically traded mutual funds and exchange traded funds, investors should consider carefully information contained in the prospectus of these investments, including investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. You can request a prospectus from your financial advisor. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing. Investment value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost.

Important Risks: Flexible Plan's strategies are actively managed and their characteristics will vary among strategies. As a manager utilizing publically traded mutual funds and exchange traded funds, the strategy is subject to the risks associated with the funds in which it invests. Mutual fund and exchange traded fund values fluctuate in price so the value of your investment can go down depending on market conditions. International investing involves risks, including risks related to foreign currency, limited liquidity, less government regulation, and the possibility of substantial volatility due to adverse political, economic or other developments. These risks are often heightened for investments in emerging/developing markets or smaller capital markets. The two main risks related to fixed income investing are interest-rate risk and credit risk. Typically, when interest rates rise, there is a corresponding decline in the market value of bonds. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the bond issuer will not be able to make principal and interest payments. Asset allocation strategies do not assure profit and do not protect against loss. Non-diversification of investments means that more assets are potentially invested in fewer securities than if investments were diversified, so risk is increased because each investment has a greater effect on performance and there may be more correlation of the fewer investments used. Investing in leveraged or inverse funds entail specific risks relating to liquidity, leverage and credit of the derivatives invested in by such funds, which may reduce returns and/or increase volatility.

Active investment management may involve more frequent buying and selling of assets. The majority of FPI's strategies utilize no load mutual funds with no transaction charge. Best efforts are employed to avoid short-term redemption charges, however, active managed strategies can still result in charges, especially when entering or exiting a strategy. Additionally, any commissioned investments will reflect the impact of more frequent buying and/or selling of assets. If investing within a non-tax-deferred investment, Investors should consider the tax consequences of moving positions more frequently. There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification cannot protect against all market risk.

Reference to popular market indexes are included to demonstrate the market environment during the period shown and are not intended as 'benchmarks.' Index returns are after

dividends. Since Index dividends are posted after the end of each month, they are retroactively prorated on a daily basis (which tends to understate returns if the end date range is inclusive of the current partial month). The Dow Jones Corporate Bond Index includes fixed rate debt issues rated investment grade or higher by national rating services. Investments by bond funds utilized in generating the above returns may not be similarly rated. The investment program for the accounts included in the profiles includes trading and investment in securities in addition to those that may be included in the S&P 500. Such indexes may not be comparable to the identified investment strategies due to the differences between the indexes' and the strategies' objectives, diversification, represented industries, number and type of component investments, their volatility and the weight ascribed to them. No index is a directly tradable investment.

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