

# August 2004 Commentary

## Madison Update

**"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."** Plato

This month we would like to share with you some exciting developments at Madison Financial Advisors. Recently our firm earned national recognition, we expanded our team, enhanced our educational and professional qualifications, and increased our involvement with several charitable organizations. In this Commentary we will provide some of the highlights.

### National Recognition

We are pleased to report that Bloomberg Wealth Manager magazine recently named Madison Financial Advisors to its list of 'America's Top Wealth Managers.' According to Bloomberg, "firms listed in the ranking constitute the nation's elite independent financial advisers, putting Madison Financial Advisors among the very best in (the) field." While reinforcing, be assured we will not rest upon our laurels and will continue to enhance the services we deliver to you.



### New Professional - Joseph Hack

We are also excited to announce the newest addition to Madison's professional team, Joseph Hack. Joe joins us after ten years with TD Waterhouse, most recently as Vice President and Branch Manager of its Cincinnati office. At Madison, Joe will continue to work with clients directly, developing financial plans, administering accounts and adding to our collective knowledge base. Having completed all of the necessary course work, he recently took the final exam for the Certified Financial Planning (CFP®) designation. While awaiting his results, Joe is ready to apply the lessons learned. Please feel free to contact Joe and challenge him with any questions you may have (financial or otherwise!). Joe, a Cincinnati native, lives in Fort Thomas, Kentucky with his wife, Krista, and their one-year-old son, Drew.



### Chartered Financial Analyst Program

Edward Kuresman is also focusing on furthering his professional education. Recently Ed successfully passed the first level of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) program. Around the world, the CFA designation is recognized as the definitive standard for measuring competence and integrity in the fields of portfolio management and investment analysis. Ed is studying for the second of three levels and will sit for the exam in June 2005. We wish him continued success in this challenging endeavor.



**"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."** W. B. Yeats

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**"The service you do for others is the rent you pay for the time you spend on earth."**

Mohammed Ali

And while focusing on improving the firm, we have also been active in the community. For example:

### **FreeStore/FoodBank**

Jim serves on the steering committee for Labor Day weekend's Rubber Duck Regatta, which is the FreeStore/FoodBank's largest annual fundraising event. The regatta nets over \$300,000 a year for the charity which distributes some 12 tons of donated and surplus food to approximately 450 non-profit agencies, which in turn help prevent hunger in southwest Ohio and neighboring communities.

With nearly 70,000 ducks involved, it is the nation's largest rubber duck race. If you are interested in adopting a duck, please let Jim know and he'll be happy to help you. Ducks are \$5 a piece and a flock of six can be had for \$25.

### **UCP (formerly United Cerebral Palsy)**

Cern's personal and board involvement with UCP continues. As one of the nation's largest health charities, UCP's mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with all disabilities. This spring, Cern helped the charity raise \$20,000 in donations by leading UCP's participation in Cincinnati's Flying Pig Marathon.

Next up is the annual silent auction and golf tournament to be held on September 20th in Cincinnati. UCP is actively soliciting silent auction items and welcomes golfers to participate in the event. If you would like to donate or participate, please contact Cern for details.

### **Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute (JYPI)**

Among Rick England's favorite organizations is the Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute on whose board he serves. Based in the Washington DC area, JYPI is dedicated to helping Jewish teens learn responsible, effective philanthropy and enabling them to become community activists and empowered social citizens. In one innovative program, teens each donate \$500 to a common fund, which is matched by JYPI. The teens then consider grant applications, make site-visits to local agencies, and determine which organizations will receive grants. Last year over \$20,000 was donated to eight different programs. To learn more about JYPI please visit their website at [www.jypi.org](http://www.jypi.org) or contact Rick. He'd love to talk to you about the Institute and their great work.

### **Impact 100**

For her part, Rebecca McDermott has been actively evaluating grant requests and making site-visits for Greater Cincinnati's Impact 100. Annually, members of this women's organization each contribute \$1,000 to a common fund. Annual grants are then awarded in minimum increments of \$100,000 and target five key areas: Culture, Environment, Education, Health & Wellness, and Family.

Last year Impact 100 awarded a single grant of \$184,000 to Tender Mercies, which provides single room apartments and support services for Cincinnati's inner city homeless people afflicted with mental illness.

This year Impact 100 has 211 members so two grants of \$105,500 will be made. In addition to donating these funds, members are encouraged to provide additional support to other worthy organizations that they become aware of during the grant making process. For more information on Impact 100, please visit their website at [www.impact100.org](http://www.impact100.org) or contact Rebecca directly.

Should you wish to share some of your wisdom or discuss some of the organizations that you are passionate about, we would love to hear from you.

**"Make service your first priority, not success and success will follow."**

Author Unknown

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**Madison Financial Advisors**

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