



## Your Financial Journey

Helping You Make Better Financial Decisions

Volume 20

### 2020 - A Year to Forget or One that Inspired?

Most years, I really look forward to sitting down in the early morning on New Year's Day with a hot cup of strong coffee, armed with a favorite pen to record the year's memories, experiences, and accomplishments. It helps me prepare my goals and dreams for the next year. But at first glance, 2020 was not such a year.

Thinking back on 2020, what sadly came to mind most readily were the terrible daily headlines. All of us dealing with loss, isolation, and fear of this pandemic.

And then, just when a protective vaccine was in our near future, just when going out to a restaurant might not be a life-threatening decision, the events of January 6<sup>th</sup> occur. After more than 200 years, our Republic, our United States Capitol, our representatives, our very ideals, came under attack, from within. Will 2021 be another year to forget?

But on second look, it may be that 2020 was a year that truly inspired! Staring me in the face, day in and day out throughout the year, were heroic and selfless acts and even life-sacrificing devotion to service and duty by medical workers throughout our communities and the world. Others, like Dr. Fauci (at 80!), worked the year without rest and with great personal sacrifice on our behalf to invent and deliver vaccines in record time that will save countless lives and allow us to live fully again.

In November, our election workers thanklessly processed more than 150 million ballots and withstood the intense scrutiny of the moment and every recount. Our military and first responders served and protected us tirelessly, 24 hours a day. People skipped family events over the holidays, essential workers reported to work daily to keep our world moving forward, workplaces not only adjusted to Zoom and Teams, but found a way to thrive while working remotely, and on and on. These daily acts, and more, truly inspired.

2020 will be memorable for so many reasons, good and bad, but I will remember it always as inspiring. I hope as you look back on your 2020, you find meaning in the time that has gone by and you find inspiration in the lives you've impacted, protected and touched along the way. 2021 brings us all great promise, hope and inspiration as the year begins anew.

Wishing good health, good fortune, and good life to all in 2021!

*Steve*

### Charitable Giving Incentives Under the CARES Act

Presented by Steven E. Richardson, CFP®, CRPS®, President

With many individuals and families facing catastrophic hardships because of the COVID-19 pandemic, charitable giving to those most adversely affected has become increasingly important. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted in March 2020, included tax provisions designed to incentivize individuals and companies to make charitable contributions in 2020. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted in December 2020,

extends these incentives through December 31, 2021. These charitable giving incentives do not require that donations be made to charities assisting in the pandemic. [Read on.](#)

**World Capital Market  
performance and a timeline of  
events for the last quarter of  
2020:**

**[2020 Q4 Market Review](#)**

Download your copy of

**[Key Financial Data 2021](#)**

An annual compilation of the various tax rates, thresholds, limitations, and exemptions for the new year.

## **February Webinar Topic: Organizing Your Financial Life Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 12:00 PM ET**

Did your New Year's resolutions include finally getting your finances in order? Mark your calendar for our February Zoom Webinar for advice and tips on how to streamline and organize your finances.



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