

PRESS RELEASE

Unique STAAR AltCat Fund Recognized as "Top Performer"

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For Immediate Release

STAAR AltCat Fund Recognized as a "Top Performer" by Morningstar's Investment Advisor Magazine (March issue).

After rising over 30% in 1999, the STAAR AltCat Fund is up 12.6% year-to-date in 2000. Such performance landed the AltCat Fund among the top performers in the mid-cap value funds category. How does this fund manage to be up in double figures this year while the DOW is down almost 13% and the S&P 500 is down 4.6%, especially considering its investment approach has leaned toward the "value" style?

Manager Andre Weisbrod attributes this excellent performance to the Funds broad global diversification and his positioning of assets to participate in what he believes are the long-term trends likely for the next ten to fifteen years. He also believes that while "growth" is in and investors must participate in growth, investors should not ignore the fundamentals of investing. Eventually companies must make money. In addition, they must make enough to justify their prices. Therefore, as in all of his STAAR equity funds, Weisbrod mixes growth with value. For instance, his Smaller Company Stock Fund, which employs a "blend" style, is up 22.6% year-to-date as of 3/9/00.

The AltCat Fund stands for "Alternative Categories" and it invests in assets as diversified as China, Energy, Biotech, general technology, health care and real estate. For more details about Mr. Weisbrod's approach and information about the Unique AltCat Fund, visit www.staarinvest.com. Or call 1-800-332-7738, P.I.N. 3370 and ask for Mr. Weisbrod. This is one manager who will love to talk to you directly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call Andre Weisbrod: 1-800-332-7738, PIN 3370 Email: staarbase@aol.com or staar@iname.com Web Site: www.staarinvest.com or write to 604 McKnight Park Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237