

Pittsburgh, PA, 7/24/01

We are pleased to report that of 604 funds in Morningstar's Intermediate Bond Fund Category, the IBF received the #1 Bear Market ranking as of 6/30/01. In other words, it was the best performing Intermediate bond Fund during months where the Lehman Bros. Aggregate bond Index lost more than 1%.

Performance during difficult markets is an important criteria in choosing funds. In general the STAAR Funds have performed well during bear markets. Go to <http://www.staarfunds.com> for specific performance information for Year-to-Date and for periods ending 6/30/01.

For additional Information: 1-800-332-7738 PIN#3370 Ask for Fund Manager, Andre Weisbrod.

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*Past performance is no assurance or guarantee of future results. Investment returns and principal values fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost.*