



**Happy New Year
from the Partners at
Allied Financial Partners**

THANK YOU!

We'd like to take a moment to let you know how appreciative we are of your continued loyalty and support for our organization. We are grateful to our clients for showing faith in us during challenging times. We are happy to say that we've made considerable improvements and growth over the past year and as we look ahead, we are confident that this year will have less bumps and plot twists – maybe, dare we say it, a little more predictability and stability. As always, we look forward to serving you and your families.

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITIES

In keeping with our core values, we have donated our time and financial support to the following local organizations in each of the communities we serve. We consider ourselves fortunate to be able to pay it forward.

August School Supply Drives



The Family Service Association



Angel Action Division –
Community Action for
Wyoming County



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA
Boys & Girls Club
of the Northtowns



Thanksgiving Appeal
SBC CARES – Small
Business Council
of Rochester

November Food & Toy Drives



Thanksgiving Appeal

SBC CARES – Small
Business Council
of Rochester



Adopted a family gift card for
food & gas, gifts for family -
Family Service Association



North Tonawanda High
School National Honor
Society toy drive



Toys For Tots

Thomas Tette, CPA • Kenneth E. Ingersoll, CPA • Jason Mayausky, CPA • David A. Younis, CFP® • James W. Swiech, CPA

If you are currently not subscribed to our e-newsletter and you'd like to receive timely and valuable information and notices from us, please contact our Director of Client Experience with your current email address: Andrea True at atru@alliedfp.com

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Rochester 150 State Street • Rochester, NY 14614
Oneonta 189 Main Street, Suite 302 • Oneonta, NY 13820

Perry 199 S. Main Street, PO Box 1 • Perry, NY 14530
Cooperstown 55-57 Grove Street • Cooperstown, NY 13326
***Buffalo** 36 Niagara Street • Tonawanda, NY 14150

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ENHANCED CHILD TAX CREDIT

During the COVID-19 pandemic the expanded Child Tax Credit has helped millions of eligible American families afford fundamental needs such as food, housing, and educational expenses. In 2021, there was an increase in financial support from \$2,000 per child annually to as much as \$3,600 per child. Families with children between the ages of six and 17 could have received up to \$3,000 per child. Furthermore, parents with children between the ages of 18 and 24 were eligible to receive financial aid as part of the Child Tax Credit as well, but their taxes had to have been filed before the money was deposited into their account.

Payments were made available to families with children under 18 years old. To qualify for the credit, joint tax filers needed to make up to \$150,000 annually, while unmarried tax filers had to make up to \$112,500 annually. Final monthly payments would have landed in eligible accounts on December 15, 2021.

Looking at 2022, plans to extend the Child Tax Credit program are presently under way. Congress is currently debating the Build Back Better Act, which would include a one-year extension of the monthly payments. Regardless of the outcome, the enhanced Child Tax Credit still provides a benefit that parents can claim on their 2021 taxes before the April 15, 2022, filing deadline. That's because the expanded Child Tax Credit split the aid between monthly checks issued starting in July and ending in December 2021, leaving the remaining half to be claimed on tax returns.

If the Child Tax Credit is not extended, the tax credit will revert to how it was prior to 2021. Under those previous

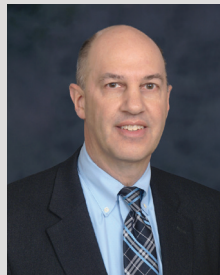


guidelines, the Credit will decrease to \$2,000 per child starting in 2022 and won't include monthly checks. Parents will claim the tax credit on their tax return once per year. Taxes will not be owed on the Child Tax Credit payments because the payments aren't considered income according to the IRS.

Keep in mind that the IRS based a family's eligibility on their most recent tax return, which would likely be a 2020 filing. During 2020, millions of families' annual incomes were significantly reduced by job loss related to the pandemic. Many people, however, were able to attain solid financial footing in 2021. If they regained their income and exceeded the income cutoffs that determined eligibility, they may have received the full Child Tax Credit payments — before they qualified for them. If that was the case, they will have to repay the IRS for the overpayments when filing their 2021 tax returns in 2022.

PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING ANNE DOBINSKY, CPA AND FRAN CELONA, CPA, CFP®, WHO WILL BE RETIRING DECEMBER 31, 2021.

We sincerely appreciate the time and talent you've both invested to help all of us achieve phenomenal results. Without your exemplary work ethic, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our clients, our company truly wouldn't be what it is today. Congratulations for reaching such an incredible milestone. We wish you both a very happy and fulfilling retirement.



Fran Celona, CPA, CFP®



Anne Dobinsky, CPA

INTRODUCING NEW PARTNERS:



Aimee Berkemeier, CPA

Aimee Berkemeier, CPA has established a reputation for excellence among the business and individual clients that she serves across a range of industries and life stages. She believes that good financial health impacts every aspect of a person or business's life, and that partnering with clients in pursuing this is a real privilege.



Heath Hendrickson, CPA

Heath Hendrickson, CPA has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, and has built a reputation for tailoring solutions to fit each client's specific circumstances. Heath believes that well-informed financial decisions create opportunities for success and is proud to partner with his clients in achieving their goals.

**Heath & Aimee joined AFP January 1, 2019 as part of the merger with Robert W. Schmidt, Jr. CPA.*

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our new team members throughout all of our locations.



Stephanie Gerken
Controller
Victor Office



Dakota Glosser
Staff Accountant
Rochester Office



Linda Hopkins
Senior Accountant
Perry Office



Joey Keem
Staff Accountant
Buffalo Office



Alicia Miller
Senior Accountant
Perry Office



Bryce Nowicki
Payroll Specialist
Victor Office



Josilynn Russo
Staff Accountant
Perry Office



Margaret Vincent
Staff Accountant
Buffalo Office



Jessica Woodcock
Bookkeeper
Oneonta Office



Joshua Yost
Staff Accountant
Rochester Office



Calendar of Events:

Allied Financial Partners is committed to offering educational and informational events on topics that impact our individual and business clients—tax, financial, business, insurance and payroll. We are working on our 2022 webinar schedule. Stay tuned to our monthly eblasts for details and announcements. To sign up for our monthly eblasts, email atru@alliedfp.com.

NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY WITH A COMMITMENT TO YOUR PERSONAL VISION

BY DAVID YOUNIS, CFP®

As I begin writing for our winter newsletter, I'm having a hard time coming up with a clever synonym for uncertainty. Even if I had one, I doubt it would adequately describe the nature of the overall environment; there's a puzzling combination of data points telling a conflicting story around a strengthening economy in the face of anecdotal experiences that are not always encouraging. Inflation is hotter and more persistent than what the Fed, or anyone, would prefer while large established companies are more profitable (on average) than they have been in 71 years. For the moment, consumers are continuing to spend, but they aren't thrilled about their near-term expectations as they watch gas and food prices rise at a pace we haven't seen in about 30 years. "Disconnected" seems a good description.

The day after Thanksgiving, with the emergence of a new Covid variant, the Dow fell 900 points and most indexes were down more than 1.5%. The following Monday we got back about 300 points and since that time we've experienced trading days that saw markets rise or fall by anywhere between 1.25% and 3% depending on the index. Amidst these frequent swings, you're hearing tempting tidbits about fad investments like dogecoins, Non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and Meme-stocks like GameStop and AMC. FOMO is an acronym for Fear Of Missing Out, and in today's market it's very easy to be led astray, to be tempted by those deep dark FOMO desires when it seems like everyone has a 'friend' that has made a small fortune with the latest trend, and our own account statements are up and down by the month.

Between the anxiety and the temptations, what should you do to continue making progress with your personal finance goals?

Know thyself! My experience has left me with the firm impression that many people misunderstand their own financial positioning. This can be a tremendous source of anxiety in and of itself; feeling anxious about your overall financial situation can lead to a challenged decision process and a misallocation of risk. Unfortunately, as a result you can be left with uncomfortable surprises on statement balances when there are significant shifts in the risk environment.

While it would be hard to suggest we should anticipate a near term recession in the economy, we wouldn't be surprised to see some pullback as the Fed charts its course. Corporate profits appear to be robust and are expected to remain that way for the better part of next year – we like that. But global events, trade wars, supply chain disruptions and outsized inflation will likely continue creating volatility in the near term. It can be difficult remaining committed to the long term when our emotions tend to drive short-term decisions in the face of more pronounced volatility.

As financial planners, we suggest first understanding there is a difference between financial planning and investing. We suggest starting by creating your plan, which defines your goals and objectives, and using that as the compass to keep you on the right path. Our view is that the investments should serve your plan so you don't scramble to change if your investments take a temporary setback or if a flashy new trend catches your eye. While we can't control or predict the market trajectory in the near term, we can control our personal efforts to improve our financial standing in many ways that are not directly tied to your investments.

Taking a holistic approach to your financial world will leave you with greater confidence, understanding and control. We can help you to set reasonable and achievable goals not only to help create long-term wealth through prudent investment strategies, but also by helping to ensure other important elements of your financial world work together to create a greater sense of overall financial well-being. It is easier to avoid the noise and distractions when you feel that your daily and incremental efforts are moving you closer to your vision of financial success. We believe clarity and understanding leads to better decisions and more successful outcomes so if we can be of assistance in helping you wrangle control of your finances, we stand ready to introduce you to the Allied Financial Planning Process.

