

“In the end, how your investments behave is much less important than how you behave.”



# Stanton & Castleton, Inc.

An independent firm

## Let's Review: Our Monthly Newsletter.....02/01/2012

This Month:

We have been observing the recent run up in the U.S. equity markets and are reminded that volatility is easy to live with so long as its all to the upside! After such a strong move in so short a period it would be reasonable to expect some pause if not a modest pull back, but I like going up better!

Before we get too carried away lets recall some significant events of the past few years:



We start with our Federal Reserve’s first Quantitative Ease plan (QE1), seemingly having a substantial positive effect on the equity markets... followed by a pause in the trend. A second QE2 program seemed to again help market direction... till that ended only to be followed by QE3 (operation twist). And let’s not forget, in case you missed it, on November 30, 2011 the US Federal Reserve along with Bank of England, Bank of Japan, European Central Bank, Swiss National Bank and the Bank of Canada (worlds G6 central banks) agreed to “coordinated actions to enhance

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their capacity to provide liquidly support to the global financial system” (Greece and all of the EURO countries). The US contribution was to offer ***unlimited dollar swap agreements with other central banks*** most of which went to the European Central Bank who in turn re-loaned the funds (489 billion Euros) to European banks under their long Term Refinancing Operation (LTRO). Not to be out done the Bank of England increased their QE program by another 50 billion pounds and the Bank of Japan added another 129 billion dollars to their QE program! So what happens to the world markets flush with cash? We think in some part the recent stock rallies are directly influenced by world central bank actions, which may have run their final course for now. Just something to be aware of.... in our opinion.

***Bob Stanton*** (registered principal):

This month’s newsletter is late mostly because I wavered on if I should mention the passing of our son Jordan one year ago. We have come to see him through so many others and it makes us so proud. Time does have its own benefits; we are way better discussing all the many large and small things that are so cool about Jordan without tearing up so often. In the end I figured you all were so kind and so deserve to know a few things. In January we were notified by the Marines Jordan was awarded a Combat Valor Medal; a detail of Marines came and read the citation and presented us his medal. Recently we were contacted by the Marines and told a group was going to endow a scholarship with the Marine Corps in Jordan’s name.

While his professional life and accomplishments for one so young are something we are very proud of....it is learning the kind of man he had become through others that has touched us the most. Our family has held it together and is closer than ever with the addition of many new friends and many closer relationships than ever. If we have learned anything, it’s that we all get to choose how we respond to adversity, with Jordan’s example we have chosen to move forward with hope.

Thanks once again for you patience and support this past year....we would not be where we are today without it.....Bob, Joyce, Ryan, Ethan & Cole

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*This month “Financial Topic”: Our Son! Stay Golden*



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