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The most interesting part of this business is using history to predict the future and at the same time, never knowing how exactly that history will be repeated and how long or short the cycle will be. 2016 is going to go down as one of the most unusual years I have observed in the global economy of the last 22 years of being in this business. By the time you read my next letter, we will have elected a new President. Great Britain will have started the process of exiting the European Union. We will have closed the books on 2016, a year in which the S&P 500 is up almost 8% year to date, but has been down almost 10% earlier this year as well. The next three months should be as exciting or more than the last nine have been.

When stocks began trading in January, it looked like it would be a very poor year for stock returns. The market has found its footing and the U.S. appears to be the strongest of the global markets. Your portfolio has been helped in addition by Berkshire Hathaway. For most of our clients, Berkshire is the largest holding in the account. We believe that Berkshire will outperform the market over the long term and that it is a terrific substitute for an index fund. Last year, the stock was down 12.06%. That is highly unusual and sets things up for a terrific year in 2016. The stock is up almost 9% this year to date and last year's pullback should set the stage for steady growth ahead. As always, ignore the short term and focus on the long term.

It has been eight years since the financial crisis and many of our clients have been updating and running their financial plans again. It is amazing to see the progress and gain a sense of confidence by knowing where you stand relative to where you want to be. We offer this service as part of our management of your assets and encourage you to utilize it any time you would like. We are systematic about trying to review the plan every three to five years, but if we are in between or it has been some time since you looked at it, let us know and we will be happy to review it with you. Enjoy this beautiful time of year and come by and see us for cider and doughnuts if you want some company while consuming them. It will give us an excuse to partake.

Sincerely,

David J. Sculati
President

Nathan Hawrot
Certified Financial Planner™