# Q4 | DECEMBER 31, 2023

# The North Star Micro Cap Fund



The North Star Micro Cap Fund has a concentrated portfolio of high conviction companies and has one of the lowest median market caps of any U.S. mutual fund.

# **FUND STRATEGY**

Micro Cap Value

# **OBJECTIVE**

The investment objective of the North Star Micro Cap Fund (the "Micro Cap Fund') is capital appreciation, and secondarily, to derive income from short term liquid securities. The Fund seeks to achieve its objective of capital appreciation by investing in micro-cap companies, defined as compaines with market captializations under \$1 billion.

# WHY INVEST?

We look for situations that may be undiscovered by most investors due to their lack of size, liquidity, research coverage or intrigue. We focus our research on companies that have the potential to generate a high level of free cash flow and that we believe have strong or improving balance sheets.

## **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS**

- Eric C. Kuby since 1997
- Peter Gottlieb since 1997

# **ADVISOR**

North Star Investment Management Corporation is a Chicago based investment management firm serving individual investors and pooled accounts since 2003. The firm currently manages approximately \$2 billion in client assets and has equity, fixed income, balanced and specialty strategies.



# **CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURNS**

Unaudited (net of fees) 12.31.2023

	YTD 2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
NSMVX	22.31%	-24.84%	14.18%	37.19%	18.94%	-13.44%
Morningstar Small Value PR	11.35%	-9.06%	29.21%	-1.74%	16.53%	-18.70%
Morningstar Small Value TR	14.58%	-6.60%	31.79%	1.01%	19.96%	-16.61%

# **ANNUALIZED RETURNS OF FUND**

Unaudited (net of fees) 12.31.2023

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Inception
NSMVX	22.31%	1.63%	11.36%	6.22%	9.83%
Morningstar Small Value PR	11.35%	9.37%	8.42%	4.40%	6.18%
Morningstar Small Value TR	14.58%	12.14%	11.31%	7.11%	9.06%

\*The MS Small Value Index measures the performance of the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe.

Past performance or ranking is not indicative of future results. There is no assurance dividends will be paid. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted above. Investment value will fluctuate, and shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. Performance quoted is past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Please review the fund's prospectus for more information regarding the fund's fees and expenses. Current performance may be lower or higher. For performance information current to the most recent month-end, please call toll-free 855-580-0900.

## **FUND DETAILS**

- Minimum Investment: \$5,000 initial
- Expense Ratio: 1.42% Class I
- Category: Small Cap Value

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#### (312) 580-0906

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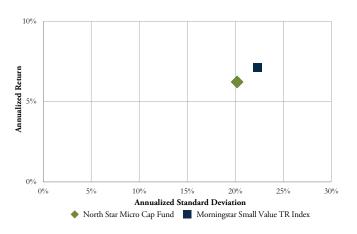
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#### **TOP HOLDINGS**

Company	Fund
United States Lime & Minerals, Inc. (USLM)	4.9%
Acme United Corporation (ACU)	4.3%
Escalade, Inc. (ESCA)	4.3%
Boot Barn Holdings, Inc. (BOOT)	3.7%
Green Brick Partners, Inc. (GRBK)	3.6%
Build-A-Bear Workshop, Inc. (BBW)	3.4%
Alamo Group, Inc. (ALG)	3.1%
Eastern Company (The) (EML)	3.0%
Barrett Business Services, Inc. (BBSI)	3.0%
Rocky Brands, Inc. (RCKY)	2.8%
TOTAL	36.0%

#### **RISK AND RETURN-10YR**

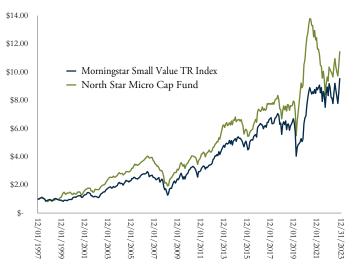


\*The Fund's holdings are subject to change and should not be considered investment advice.

# SECTOR WEIGHTINGS

Economic Sector	Fund
Consumer Discretionary	48.6%
Industrials	20.0%
Cash	7.1%
Materials	5.8%
Energy	4.5%
Information Technology	4.3%
Financials	3.5%
Consumer Staples	2.3%
Healthcare	2.0%
REIT	1.9%
TOTAL	100.0%

# **GROWTH OF A DOLLAR**



Mutual Funds have investment risks including loss of principal. There is no guarantee the fund will meet its objective. In general, the price of a fixed income security falls when interest rates rise. There is a risk that issuers and counterparties will not make payments on securities and other investments held by the Fund, resulting in losses to the Fund. The Fund may invest in high yield securities, also known as "junk bonds." High yield securities provide greater income and opportunity for gain, but entail greater risk of loss of principal. Foreign common stocks and currency strategies will subject the Fund to currency trading risks that include market risk, credit risk and country risk. Municipal securities are subject to credit risk where a municipal security might not make interest and principal payments as they come due. The Advisor follows an investing style that favors value investments. At times when the value investing style is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other funds that use different investing styles. Investments in lesser-known, small and medium capitalization companies may be more vulnerable than larger, more established organizations. As with any investment, there are risk associated with REITs. Investments in lesser-known, small and medium capitalization companies may be more vulnerable than larger, more established organizations. The Advisor does not attempt to keep the portfolio structure or fund performance consistent with any market index. Increased portfolio turnover may result in higher brokerage commissions, and other transaction costs may result in taxable capital gains.

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the North Star Funds. No-Load Mutual funds are sold without sales charge; however, they have ongoing expenses, such as management fees. This and other important information about each of the Funds are contained in the prospectus, which can be obtained at www.nsinvestfunds.com or by calling (855) 580-0900. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing. The North Star Funds are distributed by Northern Lights Distributors, LLC member FINRA/SIPC.5161-NLD-2/12/2024

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