#### THE GEMINI COMPANIES



#### YEAR IN REVIEW

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# HAPPY NFW YFAR

you over the past year and look forward to continuing additional distribution channels they may not have our relationship. Some big changes have taken place previously considered or thought possible, including in our world and we could not be more excited about mutual funds, hedge funds and funds on managed seeing what 2015 has in store for us.

But first, let's talk about 2014. You may have noticed a new name on our brochure, The Gemini Companies. As you might remember from last year's Lucky in 2013 brochure, two additional companies were formed under the Gemini name in 2013: Gemini Hedge Fund Services, LLC (Gemini Hedge) and Gemini Alternative Funds, LLC (Gemini Alt) in 2013. We have decided to market all three Gemini entities (including Gemini Fund Services, LLC (Gemini Fund)) under the name of The Gemini Companies, when applicable. Structurally, nothing is changing with any of the three Gemini entities.

investment companies access to multiple solutions for increased distribution of their strategies through at www.thegeminicompanies.com, which will be pooled investment products. All of our companies updated at the end of January.

Welcome to 2015! We have enjoyed working with focus on helping investment companies find account platforms.

> Uniting these companies under The Gemini Companies umbrella allows us to market to greater audiences and truly become a single point of access into new markets, no matter what pooled vehicle is being utilized. Along with this new umbrella, all of our companies have been rebranded with new logos, color schemes and imagery to allow differentiation among the companies, making sure each retains its own image in the market.

All of the companies under The Gemini Companies umbrella have their own knowledgeable staff, robust technology and focused vision for the future. We are looking forward to sharing with you the services The goal of The Gemini Companies is to provide each of these companies offers this year. Look for us at industry conferences, on the road and online

### THE GEMINI COMPANIES

#### **GEMINI FUND**

New for Gemini Fund in 2014 was our entrance ment management application suite. This system into the college savings plan market. Our parent enabled us to increase operational efficiency to company, NorthStar Financial Services Group, LLC better service our clients through automating (NorthStar), was chosen to help manage three of processes, simplifying workflows and reducing the state of Texas' four 529 college savings plans. the risks associated with manual entries. Using Gemini provides fund administration, accounting components of SunGard®'s Front Arena solution, and transfer agent services to the three qualified Hedge360 provides us the ability to remain tuition plans, as well as assistance with shareholder innovative using additional functionality as our record-keeping and customer service.

Gemini Fund's series trusts, the Northern Lights We also hired seven new employees in 2014 and Fund Trust I. II and III and the Two Roads Shared Trust, continue to do well. The Northern Lights Fund Trusts now have over 140 mutual funds registered with many more in the process. They now boast nearly \$14 billion in assets. The Two Roads Shared Trust has nearly a dozen mutual funds registered with over \$600 million in assets. The Northern Lights Variable Trust, our trust for funds sold on insurance platforms, has more than 20 funds registered and over \$3.4 billion in assets.

We are thrilled to have hired 80 new employees in 2014 and are now at almost 300 employees. Sixtytwo of our employees received promotions this year. Gemini Fund has launched more than 50 brand new funds this year and began providing services to many new clients with existing funds.

#### **GEMINI HEDGE**

Gemini Hedge focused on expanding our tech- Industry experts also discussed why strategies nology solutions this year. We added SunGard®'s Hedge360 solution to our technology line up,

**GEMINI ALT** We launched the Galaxy Plus Fund, our managed account platform in November, 2014 with several hedge fund managers onboard. Qualified investors can now invest in a multitude of alternative investment strategies through a single portfolio utilizing the Galaxy Plus Fund. Gemini Alt performs all the due diligence on the managers and offers investors the opportunity for leverage and more diversification options in their portfolio.

We held our first 'Behind the Scenes of Alternatives' forum for registered investment advisors and journalists in New York in October. This event gave attendees the opportunity to learn about the benefits managed account platforms offer to investors seeking access to alternative investment strategies. focused on managed futures are attractive in the present environment.

which is a front-to-back office hedge fund investbusiness grows and evolves.

launched 17 new funds.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Employees of The Gemini Companies believe in giving back to the community and it clearly shows across all our offices. Many corporate events were held in 2014 including food drives, a fleece blanket drive, participation in the Adopt-a-Student program and even volunteering during work hours at the Open Door Mission. More than 25 employees took place in a challenge run in NY and a penny war competition was held in Nebraska for the Food Bank of the Heartland, which raised over \$6,000. NorthStar matched that amount and over \$12,000 was donated in NorthStar's co-founder's name, W. Patrick Clarke. NorthStar also held its second annual run for the TeamMates Mentoring Program.

On an employee level, outside of work hours, we are humbled by our staff's involvement. Here is a list of some of the places our employees graciously donated their time in 2014.

- Aidan's Animals
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Boy Scouts of America
- Cancer Care Lung Cancer Walk
- Career Transition Associates
- Catholic Charities USA
- Children's Respite Care Center
- Edna's Foundation of Hope
- Girl Scouts of America
- Good Samaritan Hospital
- Great Strides Long Island: Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program
- Guardians of Rescue
- Habitat for Humanity of Omaha
- Hauppauge Industrial Association
- Hope for Warriors
- House of Hope

- Huntington Community First Aid Squad
   SCPA
- Island Harvest Food Bank
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Kids Against Hunger
- Kings Park Soccer Club
- Lifegate Church: Financial Peace University
- Local school board
- Marmion Abbey and Academy
- Millard Athletic Association
  - Mooseheart Child City and School
  - National MS Society
  - Omaha Hockey Club
  - Open Door Mission
  - Operation Christmas Child
  - Our Lady of Victory Church
  - Paws of War
  - Ronald McDonald House of Omaha

- - St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
  - St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
  - St. Jude's Children's Hospital
  - St. Patrick's Church
  - St. Peter's Lutheran Church
  - Stephen Center Homeless Shelter
  - Stony Brook Children's Hospital
  - TeamMates Mentoring Program
  - Ted E. Bear Hollow
  - The Hope Children's Fund
  - Tunnel to Towers Charity Run
  - Basketball
  - West Hills Church
  - Wounded Warriors Project
  - YMCA Youth Soccer

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

This year, we were thrilled to take part in so many informational industry conferences. Gemini provided speakers for the following events:

- Third Party Marketers Association (3PM) Annual Conference
- Strategic Insight Fund Trends Conference

### NORTHSTAR SUMMIT FFBRUARY 2014

In 2014, Gemini merged our annual client appreciation artist Erik Wahl. We were able to host a silent auction conference, called Advisor Forum, with our sister of Erik Wahl's paintings from his session during our firms to create the NorthStar Summit. The first grand event on the USS Midway aircraft carrier, with NorthStar Summit was held in February in sunny San the \$5,950 raised being donated to the TeamMates Diego, CA. More than 420 advisors and sponsors Mentoring Program and the USO. This wonderful joined together at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

Highlights included panels featuring many of our sponsors, a golfing excursion and excellent speakers including economist Brian Beaulieu and motivational

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- West Babylon Community Center

- Innovative Alternative Investment Strategies Conference
- Infovest21 Think Tank Symposium
- Infovest21 Distribution Seminar
- Liquid Alternatives Strategies East Conference

Tiburon CEO Summit XXVII

event included a docent led tour of the ship, dinner, commemorative photos, flight simulators and a DJ.

We are looking forward to the second NorthStar Summit in September, being held in Nashville, TN.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

#### NLD

FINRA/SIPC, continually strives to invest in their people, services, and systems in order to provide the their website at www.nldistributors.com. best possible services to their clients and partners. As part of their plan to optimize the distribution and sales support they provide, NLD restructured their Key Accounts team. Alma Piscitello joined NLD as Senior Vice President of Strategic Relationships to lead their Key Accounts team. Ms. Piscitello brings a new depth of knowledge to their organization registered investment advisors. through her previous position as Vice President and Director of Partner Development at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC.

Sales, an initiative NLD launched in the second Hauppauge, NY and Omaha, NE. Follow all NLCS' half of 2014 to support clients' sales, distribution, activities on Twitter @NLCompliance or visit their and marketing efforts. Looking ahead to 2015, NLD website at www.nlcompliance.com.

is excited to launch their new website with their Northern Lights Distributors, LLC (NLD), Member enhanced distribution curriculum and the annual firm element continuing education requirements. Visit

#### NLCS

Northern Lights Compliance Services, LLC (NLCS), is known for the chief compliance officer (CCO) services they provide to many of our mutual fund clients. They also offer compliance services to

2014 was a big year for NLCS – they not only celebrated their 10 year anniversary but NLCS also opened their third office, with the newest location Kristin Klaus is now positioned as Manager of Inside in San Rafael, CA. NLCS also maintains offices in

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

2015 promises to be another busy year for The Gemini be a four member team, with potential for growth. Companies. With the continued growth in both The new Omaha Fund Administration department mutual and hedge funds, our NY office has outgrown will immediately begin with servicing our sister firm's their 35,000 square foot building, occupied in 2012. mutual funds, providing them an on-site presence Luckily, we are able to expand in our current building and an opportunity to develop a deeper relationship and are incorporating another 11,000 square feet with their fund administration team. into our offices.

Employees in the Omaha, NE office are also gaining implementing a new fund accounting and reporting new office space in the near future. Our parent company. NorthStar, plans to break ground on a The new system is better equipped to handle second location in the spring and the new building complex security types, added swap functionality, will be conveniently located next door to NorthStar's exception based rules and reports, new work flow current location built in 2012. We are looking forward tools, and added automation around security master to the continued growth of our offices.

The Gemini Companies and all the Gemini firms under this umbrella are unveiling new websites at the end of January. These websites will bring new Our second NorthStar Summit will take place in experiences for all visitors and will seamlessly blend Nashville, Tennessee September 21-23. As always, our new logo and imagery together. Be sure to visit www.thegeminicompanies.com to see the new site at the end of January. From there, you can visit our new websites for www.geminifund.com, www. geminihedge.com and www.geminialt.com.

talented Gemini Fund accountants, we are starting Ryman Auditorium and President Andrew Jackson's a Fund Administration department in our Omaha Hermitage along with a skeet shooting event. Our office. Dan Schriever, who is currently a Senior main event includes dinner, entertainment and full Manager for Fund Accounting, will be leading the access to the three story Country Music Hall of new team as a Manager. Dan's team will eventually Fame and Museum.

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Gemini Fund is also pleased to announce we will be system in 2015, Asset Arena InvestOne by SunGard®. files. We expect the new system to help increase the number of funds managed per fund accountant and improve the review time of our daily fund packages.

we look forward to spending this time with you, our clients and partners. This year promises to be a unique experience with superior keynote sessions and individual company sessions focused on rejuvenating your business. Activities during the In an effort to offer additional career paths for our conference include tours of the Grand Ole Opry,

### A CEO'S PERSPECTIVE

Coming into the year 2014, the expectations for the stock market and bond market were tepid at best. The year of 2013 had brought tremendous US equity gains and the strategies that utilize strategies that seek to minimize general consensus was that bond yields were going tail risk and provide returns that trail the US market, but to rise. I believed 2014 was a year for caution and many of the experts agreed. However, my predictions were more active management have had a difficult year. With not accurate. As the year 2014 comes to an end with double digit US equity returns and bond yield lower than has been a difficult decision. Investors seem to exit the beginning of the year, it was a great year to be long strategies quickly that perform poorly, even after extended equities and bonds.

Global uncertainty surrounding radical Muslims, Russian aggression, and Ebola caused a short period of volatility. However, a robust US economy and less political dysfunction have led to a harmonious US equity market. The continued race to the bottom At The Gemini Companies, we are students of the globally with interest rates has led to an extended period marketplace, but we are servants and proponents of of low US interest rates. With the European community advisors. Our mission is to provide great service and and China attempting to stimulate their economies with opportunity for advisors in all environments. The year lower interest rates, there is little pressure on US 2014 may have been our greatest, with the addition treasury yields. With lower energy prices deflating of many large clients, the launch of more than 50 new inflation throughout the world, the current low interest mutual funds, and the positive growth of our existing rate environment may last longer than anyone expected.

Managed futures funds emerged from their slumber and provided positive returns in the year 2014. After a 2015 implementation of the Asset Arena InvestOne prolonged struggle, CTAs have expressed enthusiasm accounting and reporting system by SunGard® for for current market trends and I hope 2015 will be a Gemini Fund. We now stand at more than 300 people continuation of their successful 2014. Investments in MLP, at The Gemini Companies and will continue to add great real estate and healthcare have had tremendous years, people throughout the organizations. I want to express with some pressure on MLPs with the reduction in oil my appreciation to our wonderful advisor clients that prices. The negative influence on energy companies and have enabled The Gemini Companies to continue to high yield issuances may become an issue in 2015.

Investments in liquid alternatives that utilize hedging and tactical strategies have generally trailed the US markets in 2014. Investors seem to have patience for hedging still provide positive returns. Other strategies that utilize markets blissfully trending upward, anything but long periods of positive performance. I hope investors will be patient with strategies that provide diversification and minimize downside risk. Liquid alternative strategies may need an extended downward market to remind investors of their value.

clients. We have and are continuing to make substantial investments in our infrastructure, which includes the grow and reinvest in our companies.

Alternative investments, including managed futures and hedge funds, involve substantial risk of loss and are not suitable for all investors. Past results are not necessarily indicative of future results. This material does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any commodities or securities and is intended for informational purposes only.

### **COMPANIES** POOLED INVESTMENT SOLUTIONS

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