# **Dividend Focus Fund**

PM Commentary as of March 31, 2018



#### CAPITAL MARKET OVERVIEW

The long streak of low volatility and positive stock market returns ended in the 1st quarter of 2018. Strong gains in January were erased in February and March, leaving the S&P 500 Index down 0.76% for the quarter. Volatility as measured by the Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) was up about 80% in the 1st quarter after falling for the last three years. Investor worries about increasing interest rates, possible trade wars, and threatened government action against large technology companies offset generally strong economic data and corporate earnings growth.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGER



Paul Dlugosch, CFA Co-Manager since 2013 B.S. – University of Iowa

## PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY

The Buffalo Dividend Focus Fund posted a loss of 2.03% for the quarter, underperforming the S&P 500 Index return of -0.76%. The Fund's relative underperformance was primarily driven by the Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary, and Health Care sectors, which was partially offset by outperformance in the Financials and Real Estate sectors. The top contributors on an individual security standpoint were **Microsoft**, **S&P Global**, and **Intel** while **Kraft Heinz**, **Parker Hannifin**, and **Shire** were the top detractors.

Within the Information Technology sector, the Fund's relative underperformance was driven by stock selection as well as an underweight in the best performing benchmark sector during the quarter. Specific securities that detracted from performance within Information Technology included **Qualcomm** and **Broadcom**. Qualcomm declined due to the U.S.

government's decision to block the merger with Broadcom, as well as litigation with Apple, Inc. Broadcom declined due to the aforementioned failed merger attempt with Qualcomm and 2018 financial guidance which disappointed some investors. Strong performance from certain non-dividend payers that are included in the Index but not in the Fund, such as Adobe and Salesforce.com, also detracted from relative results with the sector.

Underperformance within the Consumer Discretionary sector was primarily due to strong performing non-dividend paying companies, Amazon and Netflix, that are included in the Index but not in the Fund based on our dividend requirement. Other detractors within the consumer area included Fund

# **Average Annualized Performance (%)**

As of 3/31/18	1 YR	3 YR	5 YR	Since Inception
<b>Buffalo Dividend Focus Fund</b>	8.51	8.37	12.97	13.31
S&P 500 Index	13.99	10.78	13.31	14.90

Expense ratio 0.96%. Inception Date 12/3/2012. Data represented reflects past performance and is no guarantee of future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original value. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. Performance current to the most recent month end may be obtained by visiting the Funds' website at buffalofunds.com.

holdings **Comcast** and **Wal-Mart**. U.S cable giant Comcast declined on fears the company will overpay for its potential acquisition of the British pay-TV group Sky PLC, as well as on fears around subscriber losses. The acquisition of Sky could also add new challenges as it operates in new international markets and increases the company's balance sheet leverage. Meanwhile, Wal-Mart declined after reporting weaker-than-expected online sales for the 4th quarter of 2017 as well as challenged margins.

The underperformance within Health Care was primarily due to security selection. The Ireland-based pharmaceutical company **Shire PLC** was the worst performer within our Health Care portfolio, but shares of **McKesson** and **Zimmer** also pulled back during the period. Shire's decline reflected several factors including new competition to several key products (e.g., Roche in Hematology and generic competition for Lialda) as well as some underwhelming product launches. Zimmer declined after investors received news from the new management team that turnaround plans for the company might take longer than previously expected. Finally, McKesson declined on the announcement of a potential competitive joint venture with Amazon/Berkshire Hathaway/JP Morgan that investors viewed unfavorably and on government threats of legal action associated with opioids and generic pricing.

## **OUTLOOK**

Going forward, we continue to have a consistent message in that we will look for companies that we believe:

- 1) exhibit long term sustainable competitive advantages;
- 2) have a history of growing their revenues, earnings, and dividends;
- 3) generate significant amounts of free cash flow;
- 4) have rock solid balance sheets;
- 5) have management teams who exhibit stellar capital allocation skills whose interests are aligned with shareholders;
- 6) and whose shares are trading at an adequate discount to our estimate of fair value.

As the market has moved up and multiples have expanded over the last few years, it has become more difficult to continue to find undervalued companies. We continue to search for companies that meet our criteria for purchase and sell those that no longer exhibit the qualities we desire.

### INTERESTED IN MORE INFO?

For questions or to speak with a relationship manager about adding any of the 10 Buffalo Funds to your portfolio, contact:

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The Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other important information about the investment company, and can be obtained by calling (800) 49-BUFFALO or visiting buffalofunds.com. Read it carefully before investing.

As of 12/31/17 the Buffalo Dividend Focus Fund's top ten holdings were: Apple 4.19%, Microsoft 3.38%, JP Morgan Chase 2.48%, Bank of America 2.35%, Visa 2.32%, American Electric Power 2.08%, BB&T 1.82%, Berkshire Hathaway 1.75%, Wells Fargo 1.66%, Boeing 1.59%. Top 10 holdings for the quarter are not disclosed until 60 days after quarter end. Those listed are for the previous quarter.

The opinions expressed are those of the Portfolio Manager and are subject to change, are not guaranteed, and should not be considered recommendations to buy or sell any security. Fund holdings and sector allocations are subject to change and are not recommendations to buy or sell any security.

Earnings growth is not representative of the fund's future performance.

The S&P 500 Index is a free-float capitalization-weighted index published since 1957 of the prices of 500 large-cap common stocks actively traded in the United States. The Chicago Board of Options Exchange Volatility (CBOE) Index measures the market expectations of near-term volatility conveyed by S&P 500 stock index option prices. One cannot invest directly in an index. Free cash flow is a measure of the cash produced by the firm in a given period on behalf of equity holders. The true measure of the value of a firm's equity is considered to be the present value of all free cash flows.

Mutual Fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible. The Fund invests in U.S. based companies with substantial interests outside of the U.S. which may involve additional risk such as greater volatility and political, economic and/or currency risks. This risk is greater in emerging markets. The Fund may invest in convertible securities which may be influenced by changing interest rates and the credit standing of the company. The Fund invests in smaller companies, which involves additional risks such as limited liquidity and greater volatility than larger companies.

Kornitzer Capital Management is the advisor to the Buffalo Funds, which are distributed by Quasar Distributors, LLC.