



## ***What Is Up At WisPACT?***

**Winter 2008**

### **- Latest News**

*By Jack Longert*

Welcome to our Winter 2008 newsletter and thank you again for your willingness to have your trust accounts handled by WisPACT. We continue to grow and change and I want to update you on these changes. Terry Penniston, our longtime beneficiary specialist has moved on and because of the difficult economy, I have handled his accounts for the time being. Early in 2009, we will be hiring a replacement. Sue Long has settled in as our office manager, and Katherine Kemnitz is our full-time beneficiary specialist. We are lucky to also have two new volunteers who help us on various projects to keep the office running smoothly.

In the last newsletter, I spoke of projects we are working on to help make WisPACT better. We have now applied for a grant from the State Bar of Wisconsin to help people with very small accounts use WisPACT without paying for attorney's fees. We are continuing to work on other projects that will make distributions easier, educate everyone on how to best use their trust accounts, and maximize the assets in these accounts. We look forward to speaking with you and perhaps meet some of you at our open house. Have a peaceful and pleasant holiday season.

### **- Important Information for the Holiday Season**

Remember that the law requires the trust to be used only for you – we are sorry, but that means that the trust cannot be used to purchase gifts for family or friends. WisPACT cannot accept any request that is a gift for another.



### **- Last Distributions for 2008**

**THE LAST DISTRIBUTION FOR DECEMBER WILL BE MADE ON 12/17/08 – YOU MUST HAVE ALL REQUESTS IN BY 4:30 P.M. ON 12/16/08 FOR THIS DISTRIBUTION.**

The first distributions for 2009 will be made on January 7, 2009. You must have all requests in by 4:30 P.M. on January 6, 2009 for this distribution.

### **- Summary of WisPACT Investment Performance**

*By Susan Ferrell, Associated Trust Co.*

The last few months have been very difficult ones for investors, especially investors that own stocks. Stocks decline when a recession looms because investors know that it is more difficult to have earnings growth when the economy is slow. People cut back on their spending, and that has been happening. Corporations become more cautious about their expenses and institute layoffs because of slower sales. Consumers become even more cautious either because they are unemployed or are worried about their jobs.

No economy or stock market declines forever. Eventually the economy will stop contracting and start to expand. Corporations and consumers will feel more confident and start spending again. Corporations will become confident enough to start hiring people again. Before the economy starts to improve, the stock market will start climbing because it will anticipate the better economic times to come.

Within the WisPACT accounts we are investing in the Vanguard Wellington Fund, a balanced fund that has about one-third of its assets in bonds and two-thirds in stocks. The funds diversification between the asset classes of stocks and bonds and within the stock portion put it in a good position to weather the rocky markets. WisPACT funds have suffered losses as has every other fund, but the loss is less than one would expect.

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## **- Summary of WisPACT Investment Performance - Continued**

The important thing to remember is that the economy and financial markets always recover from these down periods. Once the stock market starts to anticipate the economic recovery, it will start to improve, and provide the long term growth we expect from stocks. We expect WisPACT investments to recover as the economy does. Thank you for your patience.

## **- We are looking for a volunteer to sit on the Board of Directors**

WisPACT has an opening on our Board of Directors for a Beneficiary or Advisor representative – if you have an interest, please contact Jack Longert at 608-268-6006, extension 201.

## **- Information for Those With WisPACT Agent Agreements**

Based on the Wisconsin Medical Assistance Handbook, the maximum reimbursement amount to a relative (anyone related to the beneficiary by blood, marriage or adoption) within the concept of reasonable compensation, without a formal agreement, over a 12-month period is a cumulative amount of \$10,956. This means that those of you with agent agreements will need to have them more formalized than they already are if you think you will be handling more than this amount of money in 2009.

## **Reminder...the trust can not pay for some items**

If a beneficiary is receiving SSI, payment of the following items will be considered income and cannot be paid by the trust:

- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
- Groceries/Food

## **- Advisor Handbook**

WisPACT has prepared a new Advisor Handbook which may answer a lot of your questions about how to use your trust. It is available online at: <http://www.wispact.org/resources/advisorhandbookwebsite.pdf> If you are interested in receiving a copy, please call 268-6006, ext. 203.



## **- Request for Distribution Form**

We have enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the Request for Distribution form that is to be used. Please use ONLY this version of the form. Older versions may delay processing. You can download additional copies on our website or call our office and we will mail or fax them.

## **- WisPACT Open House**

WisPACT will be hosting an open house at our Madison offices on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to stop by and enjoy some refreshments and good conversation.

## **- WisPACT Annual Consumer Survey**

Enclosed with this newsletter is our annual survey – please take a few minutes to answer the questions so that we know how we are doing, and what we can do to improve. You may fold the questionnaire so that the WisPACT address is showing – add a stamp and return it to us. Thanks for your assistance.

## **- Purchases at Value Village in Milwaukee**

WisPACT now has a Voucher system for payment with Value Village in Milwaukee. If you want to purchase items there, please call the WisPACT office and speak with Katherine (extension 202) – she will submit your name to the Value Village office.



**Happy Holidays from all of us at WisPACT!**

