



Greetings!

Hello from Woodward Financial Advisors! We hope our newsletter finds you well as we wrap up 2023.

To start things off in this quarter's newsletter, we want to share two local non-profit organizations and their missions, which are important to our team. Next, we share information about 2024 key figures and notable changes to be aware of. Links to our latest blog on creating a retirement "paycheck" and a podcast on playing the lottery are considered "can't miss" under the "In Case You Missed It" section.

Finally, get to know your Woodward team a little better. We have included some of our favorite books -- including the secret to happiness and how you could live longer!

Holiday Gifting from WFA

A graphic with the words 'Season's greetings' in a white, elegant cursive script on a dark blue background.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, and in your honor, we have made donations to two local non-profits: **The Compass Center for Women and Families**, and **The Ronald McDonald House of the Carolinas**.

The mission of the **Compass Center for Women and Families** is to help individuals and families prevent and end domestic violence and navigate their journey to self-sufficiency,

safety, and health. The Compass Center provides domestic violence crisis services, career and financial education, assistance with legal resources, and adolescent empowerment programs to about 6,000 people each year.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Carolinas helps keep families with sick children together and near the care and resources they need during a very stressful time. With their recent expansion in 2018, they have added a spacious great room, updated the kitchen areas, and provided additional laundry facilities. They are now able to help 24 total families at a time while meeting the needs of hundreds of more families every year.

2024 Key Figures

As we approach the end of another year, we hope you have opportunities to connect with family and friends throughout the holidays and to contemplate what you're looking forward to in 2024.

Among other things, 2024 introduces rule changes and updated limits, which may impact some of your accounts. We encourage you to review these updates below and reach out with any questions or points you would like to discuss with your team.

Notable Changes

- 2024 is the first year that 529 funds can be used to fund Roth IRAs for the beneficiaries (stipulations apply)
- Employer plan provisions allowing a match for student loan payments, an “emergency savings” addition to employer plans, and automatic enrollment are new for the employer plan side
- The IRS deferred their ruling on Roth-only catch-up contributions for high earners (\$145k+) until 2026 (previously slated to begin in 2024)

Account Contribution Limits

Employer Plans (401k, 403b, 457b, etc.):

- Elective employee contribution limit: \$23,000
- Catch-up contributions (age 50+): \$7,500
- Overall employer plan contribution limits from all sources: \$69,000 (\$76,500 including catch-up)

Traditional IRA & Roth IRA:

- Base contribution limit: \$7,000
- Catch-up contributions (age 50+): \$1,000

SEP IRA: \$69,000

Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts (HCFSA): \$3,200

Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (DCFSA): \$5,000

Health Savings Accounts (HSA):

- Individual plans: \$4,150
- Family plans: \$8,300
- Catch-up contributions (age 55+): \$1,000

Gift and Estate Tax

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) annual max: \$105,000

Annual Gift Tax exclusion (per person): \$18,000

Lifetime Estate Tax Exclusion (per person): \$13.61 million

Social Security

Social Security Taxable Earnings: \$168,600

Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA): 3.2%

In Case You Missed It

Creating a "Paycheck" in Retirement

Blog post by Laura Neal, CFP®

Follow [this link](#) to read more.

Podcast: Your Money in 20

Ep: 27 - Lottery Learnings: 4 Lessons for Investing, with Vic Colella, CFP® and Taylor Cole, CFP®

Follow [this link](#) to listen.

Personal Insights on Your Team

Every newsletter, we like to share something about your team members outside of our work at Woodward. Please check out our recent favorite reads:

Our Favorite Books

See what the team has been enjoying in their down time.



Happy as a Dane by Malene Rydahl

How is it that these 5.6 million Danes are so content when they live in a country that is dark and cold nine months of the year and where income taxes are at almost 60 percent? 10 secrets of the happiest people in the world.

Big Stone Gap by Adriana Trigiani

Millions of readers around the world have fallen in love with the small town of Big Stone Gap, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, and its self-proclaimed spinster. Full of wit and wonder, hilarity and heart, *Big Stone Gap* is a gem of a book, and one that you will share with friends and family for years to come.

Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

Precocious and clear-eyed, Lauren must make her voice heard in order to protect her loved ones from the imminent disasters her small community stubbornly ignores. But what begins as a fight for survival soon leads to something much more: the birth of a new faith ... and a startling vision of human destiny.

Outlive - The Science and Art of Longevity by Peter Attia

Wouldn't you like to live longer? And better? In this operating manual for longevity, Dr. Peter Attia draws on the latest science to deliver innovative nutritional interventions, techniques for optimizing exercise and sleep, and tools for addressing emotional and mental health.

Thank you for reading our winter newsletter! Please reach out if there is anything we can do for you.

Sincerely,
Your Friends at Woodward Financial Advisors



Woodward Financial Advisors
1504 East Franklin Street, Suite 105, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

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