



Good Afternoon and Season's Greetings,

It seems as if just yesterday we were preparing our mid-year update, yet with the blink of an eye we are once again immersed in the holiday season. In this newsletter we would like to provide clients and colleagues with not only firm updates, but also helpful reminders as we approach year-end. Deadlines and holiday planning make this season hectic for most, so let us start by saying we wish everyone a stress-free and healthy holiday season.



2015 was an active and productive year for Centerpoint Advisors. As previously announced, our capacity and services continued to grow with the full-time hire of Courtney Faria and Ashley Souza, who respectively finished their Bachelor's and Master's degrees this summer. In addition to new personnel, we have also integrated several new reporting, research, and database management systems. The extra hands and new technology initiatives have added hours to the day for our team to remain focused on customized, individual wealth management and financial planning solutions that put the priorities of our clients in the forefront. Now more than ever, we can be proactive and responsive to the needs of your family and business.

Our charitable initiative is still going strong, and we will be collecting donations through January 4th for the Winslow Farm Animal Sanctuary. This beautiful 17 acre property located in Norton, Massachusetts is home to over 180 animals, saving them from lives where they were previously abused or neglected. We thank the many clients, friends, and associates who have already donated canned vegetables, cat food and dog food to help keep these animals fed this winter. For more information please visit [www.winslowfarm.com](http://www.winslowfarm.com).





2015 was a productive year, but perhaps the most exciting item looking forward is the celebration of our ten year anniversary in 2016. Our firm which was once just two principals is now thriving with 9 key players, a strong pool of professional resources, and a list of services to rival any family office. In honor of this accomplished milestone, we will be hosting an anniversary celebration in March at the Pine Brook Country Club in Weston. We are happy to invite everyone who have been pivotal to the success of our journey, regardless of whether you joined us 10 years ago or just recently. Every display of support from each client, family member, and peer professional is greatly appreciated, and we are looking forward to hosting a wonderful event as a show of our gratitude.

Aside from our anniversary celebration, we will also be hosting a series of business breakfasts at the office. Unlike a typical networking event or business presentation, these will instead be focused around the business offerings of a hand selected special guest with no pitch, and no pressure. Our goal of these events is simply to introduce like minds in a casual setting where trusted professionals can act as a sounding board for business development or inspiration. Keep an eye out for e-mails for more information about our complementary upcoming events.

Before offering some reflective observations, we will extend a few year-end reminders that may be useful to keep in mind as 2015 comes to a close\*:

*\*The list below is not meant to be all-inclusive, nor to serve as a substitute for professional tax or legal advice. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.*

### **IRA Required Minimum Distributions**

Those individuals who are over the age of 70 1/2 or who are the beneficiary and account holder of an inherited IRA must make their annual required minimum distribution (RMD) by December 31st to avoid a tax penalty. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding RMD calculations or requirements by contacting Lori Patterson, our Supervisor of Client Operations.

### **2015 Gifting Limits**

The gifting of stock or other appreciated securities to qualifying charities must be accomplished by December 31st in order to qualify for the full tax deduction of the market value of the investment, as well as to avoid paying long-term capital gains taxes on the stock's appreciated value on your 2015 tax return. If you are looking to develop a strategic plan for your 2016 charitable giving, we can guide you through the many options offered through Centerpoint Advisors. To work strategic giving into your financial plan, contact our Director of Financial Planning, Olga Okaty.

The 2015 annual gift exclusion remains unchanged from last year and holds at \$14,000, which allows a person to give \$14,000 in cash or other assets each year to a single beneficiary without affecting their lifetime exemption (raised to \$5.43 million per person in 2015) for gift and estate tax. For those who are married, couples filing jointly may combine such gifts and give up to \$28,000 annually to a single beneficiary.

### **Review Capital Gains and Losses**

Check with your CPA or tax professional to see if you have any unused capital losses from prior years that can be carried forward to be used against gains this year. Generally, any capital losses that are not used in a given year can be carried over indefinitely to offset future capital gains.

## Identity Theft

We cannot overemphasize the importance of constant monitoring to prevent identity theft. We do mention this often, however fraudulent activities tend to spike during this time of year in correlation with transfers, wires, and other money movements. Please be aware of any suspicious credit card charges and ensure that your online accounts maintain strong passwords (which should also be changed regularly). If you feel that you may have fallen victim to identity theft, visit [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov). Also be sure to contact us via telephone to notify us of any suspicious activity. This continues to be a focus for Centerpoint in order to protect the privacy of our clients.



In closing, there were many significant moments in 2015 worth reflecting upon. The violent attacks on French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and more recently across the city of Paris were a reminder of the brutality of terrorism. Domestically, shootings in several schools, movie theatres, and riots across our own nation left the world praying for peace yet again, as communities and families rallied together to heal both physical and emotional wounds. Although at times the media can seem to be flooded with negativity, and the severity of the above mentioned events is not to be dismissed, we do believe that we cannot let the violent acts of others diminish our appreciation of the safety and love of those closest to us. May the special events in your own lives keep the pages of your calendar turning with an optimistic outlook, and we hope you can find happiness and peace in the time spent with family and friends.

We look forward to working with you in the new year, and extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
The Centerpoint Team

