During the first month of 2023, the holdings in the Bowden Investment Fund performed well. Unfortunately, in comparison to our benchmark, the S&P 500, we underperformed by 0.86% with a monthly return of 5.42% compared to the S&P 500 total return of 6.28%. This is only the fourth month we have underperformed the S&P 500 since the beginning of 2022.

Following a challenging period for the Information Technology and Communications sectors in late 2022, we are now observing a resurgence in these sectors in 2023. As a result, the portfolio rose in value by over $15,000 to $299,225 during the month, primarily due to significant outperformance from Amazon (AMZN), Apple (AAPL), Alphabet (GOOGL), and Visa (V) with monthly returns of 19.13%, 16.68%, 11.50%, and 11.60%, respectively. We have seen some holdings, AAPL and AMZN for example, make sizeable rebounds after being down for the past few months of 2022. In addition, four other holdings outperformed the market with BlackRock (BLK) up 6.62%, Dimensional US Targeted Value ETF (DFAT) up 8.74%, and the Russell 2000 ETF (IWM) up 9.33%.

Our more defensive holdings underperformed the market with CVS down 5.52%, Dollar General (DG) down 4.30%, Coca-Cola (KO) down 3.91%, AGCO up only 1.09%, and Shell (SHEL) up 4.52%. We believe that this is because of the dynamic economic environment causing changes in market sentiment due to differing opinions on recession likelihood and interest rate expectations. Martin Marietta (MLM) and Microsoft (MSFT) were our other equities that underperformed our benchmark with returns of 2.85% and 3.58%, respectively.

Our performance by sector is shown in the chart above. The two best performing sectors of Communication Services and Information Technology had returns of 9.65% and 9.23%, respectively. This is contrasted with our worst performing sectors, Consumer Staples and Healthcare, with returns of 1.25% and 0.53%.

January 2023: BIF = 5.42%    S&P 500 = 6.28%