

# Item 1: Cover Page

## What About Us Financial, LLC

1851 Sugar Run Trl  
Bellbrook, OH 45305

### **Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure**

(937) 620-1167

March 11, 2024

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of What About Us Financial, LLC, “WAUF”. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (937) 620-1167. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

What About Us Financial, LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Ohio. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about WAUF is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov), which can be found using the firm’s identification number, 306116.

## Item 2: Material Changes

Since the previous annual update of this brochure on February 28, 2023, the following material changes have been made to this version of the brochure:

- Fees for The Planner Service and Project-Based Financial Planning have been updated in Item 5.

From time to time, we may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations, and routine annual updates as required. Either this complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to each Client annually and if a material change occurs in the business practices of What about Us Financial, LLC.

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure online at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov> by searching for our firm name or by our CRD number 306116.

You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time, by contacting us at (937) 620-1167.

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# Item 4: Advisory Business

## Description of Advisory Firm

What About Us Financial, LLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Ohio. We were founded in 2019. Carolyn J. Cook, CFP®, CRPC® (“Carrie Cook”) is the principal owner of WAUF. WAUF currently reports \$25,756,889 in discretionary and \$0 in non-discretionary Assets Under Management as of December 31, 2023.

## Types of Advisory Services

### The Investor Service (Investment Management)

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a Client regarding the investment of Client funds based on the individual needs of the Client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a Client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a Client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We will also review and discuss a Client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the Client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth, and income), as well as tax considerations. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

### Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)

We offer the use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs) for portfolio management services. We assist Clients in selecting an appropriate allocation model, completing the Outside Manager's investor profile questionnaire, interacting with the Outside Manager and reviewing the Outside Manager. Our review process and analysis of outside managers is further discussed in Item 8 of this Form ADV Part 2A. Additionally, we will meet with the Client on a periodic basis to discuss changes in their personal or financial situation, suitability, and any new or revised restrictions to be applied to the account. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

WAUF also provides portfolio management services through Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™, an automated, online investment management platform for use by independent investment advisors and sponsored by Schwab Wealth Investment Advisory, Inc. (the “Program” and “SWIA,” respectively). Through the Program, we offer clients a range of investment allocation models we have constructed and manage, each consisting of a portfolio of exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) and a cash allocation. The client may instruct us to exclude up to three ETFs from their portfolio. The client's portfolio is held in a brokerage account opened, with our assistance, by the client at SWIA's affiliate, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“CS&Co”).

What About Us Financial, LLC is independent of and not owned by, affiliated with, or sponsored or supervised by SWIA, CS&Co or their affiliates (together, “Schwab”). The Program is described in the Schwab Wealth

Investment Advisory, Inc. Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™ Disclosure Brochure (the “Program Disclosure Brochure”), which is delivered to clients by Schwab during the online enrollment process.

WAUF and not Schwab, is the client’s investment advisor and primary point of contact with respect to the Program. We are solely responsible, and Schwab is not responsible, for determining the appropriateness of the investment allocation model for the client, choosing a suitable investment strategy and portfolio for the client’s investment needs and goals, and managing that portfolio on an ongoing basis. Schwab’s role is limited to delivering the Program Disclosure Brochure to clients and administering the Program so that it operates as described in the Program Disclosure Brochure.

We have contracted with Schwab to provide us with the technology platform and related trading and account management services for the Program. This platform enables us to make the Program available to clients online and includes a system that automates certain key parts of our investment process (the “System”). The System includes an online questionnaire that helps us determine the client’s investment objectives and risk tolerance and select an appropriate investment strategy and portfolio.

Clients should note that we will recommend a portfolio via the System in response to the client’s answers to the online questionnaire. The client may then indicate an interest in a portfolio that is one level less or more conservative or aggressive than the recommended portfolio, but we then make the final decision and select a portfolio based on all the information we have about the client. The System also includes an automated investment engine through which we manage the client’s portfolio on an ongoing basis through automatic rebalancing and tax-loss harvesting (if the client is eligible and so elects).

We do not receive a portion of a wrap fee for our services to clients through the Program. Clients do not pay fees to Schwab in connection with the Program, but we charge clients a fee for our services as described below in Item 5.

### **The Planner Service (Ongoing Financial Planning)**

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly fee, Clients get to work with a planner who will work with them to develop and implement their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes and ensure the plan is up to date.

Upon desiring a comprehensive plan, a Client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefits, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning, and estate planning. Once the Client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the Client. Clients subscribing to this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow-up meeting is required, we will meet at the Client's convenience. The plan and the Client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the Client to confirm that any agreed upon action steps have been carried out. On an annual basis, there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time.

### **Project Based Financial Planning Services**

We provide project based financial planning services on topics such as retirement planning, risk management, college savings, cash flow, debt management, work benefits, and estate and incapacity planning.

Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address any or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and advisor will work together to select specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for Clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.
- **Cash Flow and Debt Management:** We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.
- **College Savings:** Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).
- **Employee Benefits Optimization:** We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.
- **Estate Planning:** This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.

- **Financial Goals:** We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.
- **Insurance:** Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- **Investment Analysis:** This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- **Retirement Planning:** Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

- **Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance (“self-insuring”).
- **Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their “tax efficiency,” with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

### **Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements**

We may provide seminars on an “as announced” basis for groups seeking general advice on investments and other areas of personal finance. The content of these seminars will vary depending upon the needs of the attendees.

These seminars are purely educational in nature and do not involve the sale of any investment products. Information presented will not be based on any individual's person's need, nor does WAUF provide individualized investment advice to attendees during these seminars.

**Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We offer the same suite of services to all of our Clients. However, specific Client financial plans and their implementation are dependent upon the Client Profile and Risk Tolerance Questionnaire which outlines each Client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and is used to construct a Client specific plan to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

**Wrap Fee Programs**

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

**CCR Section 260.235.2 Disclosure**

For Clients who receive our Financial Planning services, we must state when a conflict exists between the interests of our firm and the interests of our Client. The Client is under no obligation to act upon our recommendation. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations, the Client is under no obligation to effect the transaction through our firm.

# Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received the firm's Disclosure Brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory contract, the investment advisory contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we are performing. Please review the fee and compensation information below.

**The Investor Service (Investment Management)**

Our standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the assets under management and is calculated as follows:

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
All Assets	1.20%

Ongoing Financial Planning Services are included for Investment Management clients with at least \$200,000 in assets under management with WAUF. The annual fees are negotiable, pro-rated and paid in arrears on a quarterly basis. The advisory fee is a flat fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the Client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

We calculate period-end account values after all dividends settle in the account, therefore, the account value used to calculate advisory fees may differ from that of the custodial account statement. Our billing invoice will indicate the total account value used to calculate the advisory fee.



Advisory fees are directly debited from Client accounts, or the Client may choose to pay by check. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 15 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the account.

**Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)**

The standard advisory fee is based on the market value of the account and is calculated as follows:

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
All Assets	1.20%

The annual fees are negotiable and are pro-rated and paid in arrears on a quarterly basis, and are based on the average daily balance over the previous quarter.

As described in Item 4 Advisory Business, clients do not pay fees to WAUF or brokerage commissions or other fees to CS&Co. as part of the Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™ Program. Schwab does receive other revenues in connection with the Program. Brokerage arrangements are further described below in Item 12 Brokerage Practices.

When an Outside Manager is used, WAUF will debit the Client’s account for both the Outside Manager’s fee, and WAUF’s advisory fee, and will remit the Outside Manager’s fee to the Outside Manager. Please note, the above fee schedule does include the Outside Manager’s fee. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the Client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a pro-rated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 15 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no refund will be needed upon termination of the account.

**The Planner Service (Ongoing Financial Planning)**

Fees for Ongoing Financial Planning consist of an upfront charge of \$0 to \$2,500, based on client complexity, and an ongoing fee that is paid monthly, in arrears, at the rate of \$150 per month. Clients who engage WAUF for both Ongoing Financial Planning and Investment Management who have less than \$200,000 in assets under our management will pay a monthly fee of \$150 per month for 12 months and an asset under management fee. Clients may elect to continue \$150 per month payment for ongoing Financial Planning needs. Clients may request updates to their existing Financial Plan with an additional one-hour meeting to review at the rate of \$450 per meeting. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases.

Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit card, or check. This service may be terminated with 30 days’ notice. Upon termination of any agreement, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the Client.

The upfront portion of the Comprehensive Financial Planning fee is for Client onboarding, data gathering, and setting the basis for the financial plan. This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid, and will be completed within the first 30 days of the date the fee is paid. Therefore, the upfront portion of the fee will not be paid more than 6 months in advance. In the event of early termination any prepaid but unearned fees will be

refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged.

### **Project Based Financial Planning Fee**

Financial Planning will generally be offered on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee is based on an hourly rate of \$450 and can range between \$450 and \$10,000. The fee may be negotiable. If a fixed fee program is chosen, half of the fee is due at the beginning of the process and the remainder is due upon completion of work, however, WAUF will not bill an amount above \$500.00 more than 6 months in advance. Fees may also be agreed on to be paid on a monthly basis. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer, credit card, or check. In the event of early termination any prepaid but unearned fees will be refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged.

### **Educational Seminars/ Speaking engagements**

Seminars are offered to organizations and the public on a variety of financial topics. Fees range from free to \$5,000 per seminar or free to \$100 per participant. Half of the fees are due prior to the engagement, and the other half is to be paid the day of, no later than the conclusion of the Seminar. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. In the event of inclement weather or flight cancellation, the Speaker shall make all reasonable attempts to make alternative travel arrangements to arrive in time for the presentation. If travel proves impossible, or the event is otherwise canceled, the Speaker's fee is waived, but the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred.

In the event that the Client decides to cancel or change the date of the event for any reason besides weather or similar unforeseen causes, the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred, and will provide payment for 50 % of the Speaker's fee if the cancellation occurs within 30 days of the event. In the event that the Speaker must cancel due to health or similar unforeseen circumstances, the Speaker will make all attempts to find a reasonable alternative engagement date and will absorb any incremental additional costs for obtaining alternative travel arrangements. If an alternative date cannot be obtained, the Client will not be responsible for any travel costs already incurred by the Speaker or any portion of the Speaker's fee.

### **Speaking Engagements**

Carrie Cook is a public speaker. Generally, fees for her speaking engagements range from free to \$5,000 plus travel expenses, depending on sponsor, date, location, and program requested. For all speeches, 50% of the balance is due before the event and the remaining balance due at the conclusion of the event. Half of the fees are due prior to the engagement, and the other half is to be paid the day of, no later than the conclusion of the Seminar. The fee range is based on the content, amount of research conducted, the number of hours of preparation needed, and the number of attendees. The content is based on topics that are currently relevant in the financial planning environment.

In the event of inclement weather or flight cancellation, the Speaker shall make all reasonable attempts to make alternative travel arrangements to arrive in time for the presentation. If travel proves impossible, or the event is otherwise canceled, the Speaker's fee is waived, but the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any

non-refundable travel expenses already incurred. In the event that the Client decides to cancel or change the date of the event for any reason besides weather or similar unforeseen causes, the Client will still be responsible for reimbursement of any non-refundable travel expenses already incurred, and will provide payment for \_\_\_ % of the Speaker's fee if the cancellation occurs within 30 days of the event. In the event that the Speaker must cancel due to health or similar unforeseen circumstances, the Speaker will make all attempts to find a reasonable alternative engagement date and will absorb any incremental additional costs for obtaining alternative travel arrangements. If an alternative date cannot be obtained, the Client will not be responsible for any travel costs already incurred by the Speaker or any portion of the Speaker's fee.

Educational Seminars and Speaking Engagements may be provided pro-bono at WAUF's discretion.

### **Other Types of Fees and Expenses**

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the Client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for Client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

### **CCR Section 260.238(j) Disclosure**

Please note, lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

## **Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

## **Item 7: Types of Clients**

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services to individuals and high net-worth individuals.

We do not have a minimum account size requirement to engage us for services.

# Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

When Clients have us complete an Investment Analysis (described in Item 4 of this brochure) as part of their financial plan, our primary methods of investment analysis are fundamental, technical, cyclical and charting analysis.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that the information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

## **Modern Portfolio Theory**

The underlying principles of MPT are:

- Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.
- Markets are efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.
- The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.
- Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.
- Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

**Use of Outside Managers:** We may refer Clients to third-party investment advisers ("outside managers"). Our analysis of outside managers involves the examination of the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of the outside managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations, and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with an outside manager who has been successful in the past is that he or she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in an outside manager's portfolio. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our Clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

## Passive Investment Management

When appropriate, we practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are comprised of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are typically index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), and relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal).

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark.

## Material Risks Involved

**All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear.** Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities, and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

**Strategy Risk:** The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Client's portfolio.

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

**Limited markets:** Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

**Concentration Risk:** Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Legal or Legislative Risk:** Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation:** Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

### **Risks Associated with Securities**

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Commercial Paper** is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

**Corporate Bonds** are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on factors such as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Bank Obligations** including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

**Municipal Bonds** are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Options and other derivatives** carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

**Exchange Traded Funds** prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

**Mutual Funds** When a Client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the Client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the Client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

## Item 9: Disciplinary Information

### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

WAUF and its management have not been involved in any reportable criminal or civil actions.

### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

WAUF and its management have not been involved in any reportable administrative enforcement proceedings.

### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

WAUF and its management have not been involved in any reportable self-regulatory organization enforcement proceedings.

## Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

No WAUF employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

No WAUF employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

WAUF does not have any related parties. As a result, we do not have a relationship with any related parties.

WAUF only receives compensation directly from Clients. We do not receive compensation from any outside source. We do not have any conflicts of interest with any outside party.

### **Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers**

As referenced in Item 4 of this brochure, WAUF recommends Clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts. In the event that we recommend an Outside Manager, please note that we do not share in their advisory fee. Our fee is separate and in addition to their compensation (as noted in Item 5) and will be described to you prior to engagement. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any Outside Manager we recommend. Additionally, WAUF will only recommend an Outside Manager who is properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser.

### **Disclosure of Material Conflicts**

All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238(k) are disclosed regarding WAUF, its representatives or any of its employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

## **Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

### **Code of Ethics Description**

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity - Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity - Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence - Associated persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness - Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality - Associated persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism - Associated persons' conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence - Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

### **Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest**



Neither our firm, its associates or any related person is authorized to recommend to a Client or effect a transaction for a Client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, etc.

### **Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest**

Our firm and its “related persons” may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to Clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates’ transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

### **Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client’s Securities**

From time to time, our firm or its “related persons” may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as Clients. We will not trade non-mutual fund securities 5 days prior to the same security for Clients.

## **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

### **Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers**

What About Us Financial, LLC does not have any affiliation with Broker-Dealers. Specific custodian recommendations are made to the Client based on their need for such services. We recommend custodians based on the reputation and services provided by the firm.

#### **1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits**

We currently do not receive soft dollar benefits.

#### **2. Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We receive no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

#### **3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use**

We do recommend a specific custodian for Clients to use, however, Clients may custody their assets at a custodian of their choice. Clients may also direct us to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. By allowing Clients to choose a specific custodian, we may be unable to achieve the most favorable execution of Client transaction and this may cost Clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

### **The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.)**

What About Us Financial, LLC (“we”/“our”) does not maintain custody of your assets on which we advise, although we may be deemed to have custody of your assets if you give us authority to withdraw assets from your account (see Item 15 – Custody, below). Your assets must be maintained in an account at a “qualified custodian,” generally a broker-dealer or bank. We recommend that our clients use Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. (“Schwab”), a registered broker-dealer, member SIPC, as the qualified custodian. We are independently owned and operated and are not affiliated with Schwab. Schwab will hold your assets in a brokerage account and buy and sell securities when we/you instruct them to. While we recommend that you use Schwab as custodian/

broker, you will decide whether to do so and will open your account with Schwab by entering into an account agreement directly with them. We do not open the account for you, although we may assist you in doing so. If you do not wish to place your assets with Schwab, then we cannot manage your account. Even though your account is maintained at Schwab, we can still use other brokers to execute trades for your account as described below (see “Your brokerage and custody costs”)

#### How we select brokers/custodians

We seek to recommend a custodian/broker that will hold your assets and execute transactions on terms that are overall most advantageous when compared with other available providers and their services. We consider a wide range of factors, including:

- Combination of transaction execution services and asset custody services (generally without a separate fee for custody)
- Capability to execute, clear, and settle trades ( buy and sell securities for your account)
- Capability to facilitate transfers and payments to and from accounts (wire transfers, check requests, bill payment, etc.)
- Breadth of available investment products (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), etc.)
- Availability of investment research and tools that assist us in making investment decisions
- Quality of services
- Competitiveness of the price of those services (commission rates, margin interest rates, other fees, etc.) and willingness to negotiate the prices
- Reputation, financial strength, security and stability
- Prior service to us and our clients
- Availability of other products and services that benefit us, as discussed below (see “Products and services available to us from Schwab”)

#### Your brokerage and custody costs

For our clients’ accounts that Schwab maintains, Schwab generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated by charging you commissions or other fees on trades that it executes or that settle into your Schwab account. Certain trades (for example, many mutual funds and ETFs) may not incur Schwab commissions or transaction fees. Schwab is also compensated by earning interest on the uninvested cash in your account in Schwab’s Cash Features Program. We have determined that having Schwab execute trades is consistent with our duty to seek “best execution” of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see “How we select brokers/custodians”).

#### Products and services available to us from Schwab

Schwab Advisor Services™ is Schwab’s business serving independent investment advisory firms like us. They provide our clients and us with access to their institutional brokerage services (trading, custody, reporting and related services), many of which are not typically available to Schwab retail customers. Schwab also makes available various support services. Some of those services help us manage or administer our clients’ accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Schwab’s support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don’t have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Schwab’s support services:

### Services That Benefit You.

Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of client assets. The investment products available through Schwab include some to which we might not otherwise have access or that would require a significantly higher minimum initial investment by our clients. Schwab's services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.

### Services that may not directly benefit you.

Schwab also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our clients' accounts. They include investment research, both Schwab's own and that of third parties. We may use this research to service all or a substantial number of our clients' accounts, including accounts not maintained at Schwab. In addition to investment research, Schwab also makes available software and other technology that:

- provide access to client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements)
- facilitate trade execution and allocate aggregated trade orders for multiple client accounts
- provide pricing and other market data
- facilitate payment of our fees from our clients' accounts
- assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and client reporting

### Services that generally benefit only us.

Schwab also offers other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:

- Educational conferences and events
- Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs
- Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession

We recommend that you maintain your account with Schwab, based on our interest in receiving Schwab's services that benefit our business and Schwab's payment for services for which we would otherwise have to pay rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Schwab as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Schwab's services (see "How we select brokers/ custodians") and not Schwab's services that benefit only us.

WAUF may also utilize for certain lower asset balance clients the Institutional Intelligent Portfolios™ Program platform sponsored by Schwab Wealth Investment Advisory, Inc. (the "Program" and "SWIA," respectively). SWIA is an unaffiliated SEC registered third party service provider which offers an electronic algorithms platform which ensures client portfolios are aligned with the client's investment objective and risk tolerance via model portfolios. Under this automated investment advisory program, trading and rebalancing is determined via an algorithm based on model portfolios created by WAUF, with cash flows and dividends used to keep the portfolio in

balance. Also referred to as “robo-advisory services”, SWIA provides WAUF with the technology platform to automate the management of portfolios of ETFs and mutual fund securities, provides sub-advisory services and acts in a discretionary capacity to the client’s account. Any clients that use the Program will receive the SWIA Program Disclosure Brochure (“Program Disclosure Brochure”) from SWIA which includes a more detailed description and additional information.

## **Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts**

Generally, we combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as “block trading”). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. The distribution of the shares purchased is typically proportionate to the size of the account, but it is not based on account performance or the amount or structure of management fees. Subject to our discretion, regarding particular circumstances and market conditions, when we combine orders, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions and pays a proportionate share of all transaction costs. Accounts owned by our firm or persons associated with our firm may participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

Outside Managers used by WAUF may block Client trades at their discretion. Their specific practices are further discussed in their ADV Part 2A, Item 12.

## **Item 13: Review of Accounts**

Client accounts with the Investment Management Service will be reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Carrie Cook, Founder and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the Client’s investment policies and risk tolerance levels. Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, additions or deletions of Client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per Client's needs.

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the broker(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest.

WAUF will provide written reports to Investment Advisory Clients on an annual basis. We urge Clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian.

## **Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients.

WAUF may engage independent solicitors to provide client referrals. If a client is referred to us by a solicitor, this practice is disclosed to the client in writing by the solicitor and WAUF pays the solicitor out of its own funds—specifically, WAUF generally pays the solicitor a portion of the advisory fees earned for managing the

capital of the client or investor that was referred. The use of solicitors is strictly regulated under applicable federal and state law. WAUF's policy is to fully comply with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3, under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and similar state rules, as applicable. Any solicitor utilized is independent of and unaffiliated with WAUF and there is no employee relationship between them. Solicitors do not supervise WAUF and have no responsibility for WAUF's management of client portfolios or WAUF's other advice or services. WAUF will not charge clients referred through a solicitor any fees or costs higher than its standard fee schedule offered to its clients. Information regarding additional or other fees paid directly or indirectly to a solicitor can be found in the corresponding Disclosure and Acknowledgement Form.

We receive an economic benefit from Schwab in the form of the support products and services it makes available to us and other independent investment advisors that have their clients maintain accounts at Schwab. These products and services, how they benefit us, and the related conflicts of interest are described above (see Item 12--Brokerage Practices). The availability of Schwab's products and services to us is not based on our giving particular investment advice, such as buying particular securities for our clients.

## Item 15: Custody

All accounts are held by an independent Custodian selected by the client. With the exception of WAUF's ability to debit fees, and the ability to disburse or transfer certain funds to third parties pursuant to Standing Letters of Authorization executed by Clients, WAUF does not otherwise have custody of the assets in the account.

For Client accounts in which WAUF directly debits their advisory fee:

- i. WAUF will send a copy of its invoice to the custodian at the same time that it sends the Client a copy.
- ii. The custodian will send at least quarterly statements to the Client showing all disbursements for the account, including the amount of the advisory fee.
- iii. The Client will provide written authorization to WAUF, permitting them to be paid directly for their accounts held by the custodian.

WAUF can establish standing letters of instructions or other similar asset transfer authorization arrangements ("SLOA") with qualified custodians in order for us to disburse funds to accounts as specifically designated by the client. With a SLOA a client can typically authorize first-party and/or third-party transfers. If transfers are third-party, WAUF adheres to the following 7 safeguards:

1. The client provides an instruction to the qualified custodian, in writing, that includes the client's signature, the third party's name, and either the third party's address or the third party's account number at a custodian to which the transfer should be directed.
2. The client authorizes WAUF, in writing, either on the qualified custodian's form or separately, to direct transfers to the third party either on a specified schedule or from time to time.
3. The client's qualified custodian performs appropriate verification of the instruction, such as a signature review or other method to verify the client's authorization, and provides a transfer of funds notice to the client promptly after each transfer.
4. The client has the ability to terminate or change the instruction to the client's qualified custodian.

5. WAUF has no authority or ability to designate or change the identity of the third party, the address, or any other information about the third party contained in the client's instruction.
6. WAUF maintains records showing that the third party is not a related party of WAUF or located at the same address as WAUF.
7. The client's qualified custodian sends the client, in writing, an initial notice confirming the instruction and an annual notice reconfirming the instruction.

WAUF complies with each of the requirements and conditions enumerated above. As such, WAUF is exempt from any third-party examination or auditing requirements of those Client assets.

Under government regulations, we are deemed to have custody of your assets if you authorize us to instruct Schwab to deduct our advisory fees directly from your account. Schwab maintains actual custody of your assets. You will receive account statements directly from Schwab at least quarterly. They will be sent to the email or postal mailing address you provided to Schwab. You should carefully review those statements promptly when you receive them. We also urge you to compare Schwab's account statements with the periodic reports you will receive from us. Our reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those Client accounts where we provide Investment Management Services, we maintain discretion over Client accounts with respect to securities to be bought and sold and the amount of securities to be bought and sold. Investment discretion is explained to Clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the Client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account. Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the advisory contract and signed by the Client.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

WAUF does not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the Client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward you any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## Item 18: Financial Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients, and we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of Client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per Client six months in advance.

## Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

### **Carolyn J. Cook, CFP®, CRPC® (“Carrie Cook”)**

Born: 1970

#### **Educational Background**

- Master of Business Administration (MBA), Wright State University
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Central Michigan University
- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Central Michigan University

#### **Business Experience**

- 01/2020– Present, What About Us Financial, LLC, Founder and CCO
- 01/2012 – 12/2019, Buckingham & Co., Wealth Advisor
- 08/2009 – 01/2012, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Financial Advisor
- 06/2008 – 08/2009, Wells Fargo Advisors, Financial Advisor

#### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

**CFP (Certified Financial Planner)®:** The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the “CFP® marks”) are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. (“CFP Board”).

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with Clients. Currently, more than 71,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board’s studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor’s Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board’s financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP Board’s *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the *Standards of Professional Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board’s enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

**Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor<sup>SM</sup> (CRPC®):** Individuals who hold the CRPC® designation have completed a course of study encompassing pre- and post-retirement needs, asset management, estate planning and the entire retirement planning process using models and techniques from real client situations. Additionally, individuals must pass an end-of-course examination that tests their ability to synthesize complex concepts and apply theoretical concepts to real-life situations. All designees have agreed to adhere to Standards of Professional Conduct and are subject to a disciplinary process. Designees renew their designation every two-years by completing 16 hours of continuing education, reaffirming adherence to the Standards of Professional Conduct and complying with self-disclosure requirements.

## Other Business Activities

Carrie Cook is not involved with outside business activities.

## Performance-Based Fees

WAUF is not compensated by performance-based fees.



## **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at What About Us Financial, LLC has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## **Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities**

What About Us Financial, LLC, nor Carrie Cook, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

## **Additional Compensation**

Carrie Cook does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through WAUF.

## **Supervision**

Carrie Cook, as Founder and Chief Compliance Officer of WAUF, is responsible for supervision. She may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

## **Requirements for State Registered Advisers**

Carrie Cook has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.

## **Business Continuity Plan**

WAUF maintains a written Business Continuity Plan that identifies procedures related to an emergency or significant business disruptions, including the death of the investment adviser or any of its representatives.

## **Disclosure of Material Conflicts**

All material conflicts of interest under CCR Section 260.238(k) are disclosed regarding WAUF, its representatives or any of its employees, which could be reasonably expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice.

## What About Us Financial, LLC

1851 Sugar Run Trl  
Bellbrook, OH 45305  
(937) 620-1167

March 11, 2024

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement for Carolyn J. Cook

**Carolyn J. Cook, CFP<sup>®</sup>, CRPC<sup>®</sup> (“Carrie Cook”)**

**Individual CRD# 5278356**

Founder and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Carrie Cook that supplements the What About Us Financial, LLC (“WAUF”) brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Carrie Cook if the WAUF brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Carrie Cook is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) which can be found using the identification number, 5278356.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

## **Carolyn J. Cook, CFP® , CRPC® (“Carrie Cook”)**

Born: 1970

### **Educational Background**

- Master of Business Administration (MBA), Wright State University
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Central Michigan University
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### **Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams**

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The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with Clients. Currently, more than 71,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board’s studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor’s Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board’s financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination – Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one’s ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one’s knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience – Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and

- Ethics – Agree to be bound by CFP Board’s *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education – Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the *Standards of Professional Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics – Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board’s enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

**Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor<sup>SM</sup> (CRPC®):** Individuals who hold the CRPC® designation have completed a course of study encompassing pre- and post-retirement needs, asset management, estate planning and the entire retirement planning process using models and techniques from real client situations. Additionally, individuals must pass an end-of-course examination that tests their ability to synthesize complex concepts and apply theoretical concepts to real-life situations. All designees have agreed to adhere to Standards of Professional Conduct and are subject to a disciplinary process. Designees renew their designation every two-years by completing 16 hours of continuing education, reaffirming adherence to the Standards of Professional Conduct and complying with self-disclosure requirements.

## Item 3: Disciplinary Information

No management person at What About Us Financial, LLC has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Carrie Cook is not involved with outside business activities.

## Item 5: Additional Compensation

Carrie Cook does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through WAUF.

## Item 6: Supervision

Carrie Cook, as Founder and Chief Compliance Officer of WAUF, is responsible for supervision. She may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

## Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Carrie Cook has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.

## What About Us Financial, LLC

1851 Sugar Run Trl  
Bellbrook, OH 45305  
(937) 620-1167

March 11, 2024

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement for Austin Barnard

### **Austin Barnard - Individual CRD# 7494710**

#### Financial Advisor

This brochure supplement provides information about Austin Barnard that supplements the What About Us Financial, LLC (“WAUF”) brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Carrie Cook if the WAUF brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Austin Barnard is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) which can be found using the identification number, 7494710.

## Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

### **Austin Barnard**

Born: 1995

#### **Educational Background**

- 2017 - B.A. in Psychology & Russian Language, Ohio University

#### **Business Experience**

- 06/2022 – Present, What About Us Financial, LLC, Financial Advisor
- 10/2021– 06/2022, What About Us Financial, LLC, Paraplanner
- 08/2017 - 09/2021, Arrow Electronics, Inside Sales Representative
- 05/2017 - 08/2017, The Blue Bench, Fundraiser
- 08/2013 - 05/2017, Ohio University, Full-Time Student

#### **Exams**

Series 65 Exam - Passed August 16, 2021

## Item 3: Disciplinary Information

No management person at What About Us Financial, LLC has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

Austin Barnard is not involved with outside business activities.

## Item 5: Additional Compensation

Austin Barnard does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through WAUF.

## Item 6: Supervision

Carrie Cook, as Founder and Chief Compliance Officer of WAUF, is responsible for supervision. She may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Austin Barnard has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.