# Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund Class A/SMNAX



### ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER REPORT | APRIL 30, 2025

This annual shareholder report contains important information about the Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund ("Fund") for the period of May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. You can find additional information about the Fund at crossmarkglobal.com/stewardfunds/. You can also request this information by contacting us at 888-845-6910.

# What were the Fund costs for the last year?

(Based on a hypothetical \$10,000 investment)

Fund (Class)	Costs of a \$10,000 investment	Costs paid as a percentage of a \$10,000 investment
Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund		
(Class A/SMNAX)	\$240	2.41%

# How did the Fund perform last year? What affected the Fund's performance? FUND AND MARKET PERFORMANCE

For the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025, the Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund (Class A) (the "Fund") returned -0.71%, underperforming the ICE BofA 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index return of 4.91%.

### POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE CONTRIBUTORS TO PERFORMANCE

This underperformance of the Fund was significantly influenced by a negative allocation effect of -8.84%, although partially offset by a positive selection effect of 6.67%. Specific detractors included the short positions overall, which contributed negatively by -4.83%, with the financial sector detracting by -2.72%. Conversely, long positions overall added 2.65%, with the financial sector adding 2.42% to the performance. Largest detractors within the short positions included GameStop Corp. and MicroStrategy while the short positions in 10x Genomics and Acadia Healthcare Core were the largest contributors to performance. Within the long positions, Tetra Tech and ManpowerGroup were the largest detractors while Twilio, Inc. and Gilead Sciences were the largest contributors.

### LOOKING AHEAD

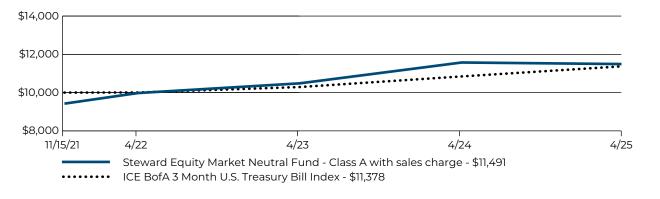
Given our cautious view, we continue to favor companies that have reasonable valuations with strong earnings and cash flow profiles and strong earnings predictability and persistence. Our largest net over weights are financials, technology, real estate and consumer discretionary. Our largest net underweights are materials, industrials, consumer staples and health care. Our largest net factor bets are pro-earnings yield, management quality and earnings quality. Our largest net factor negative bets are volatility, growth and beta.

Our 6099 year-end S&P 500 target is lower than any of the Wall Street strategists, and if accurate, will record a down year, but would require a nice rally from current levels. We expect a test back to 5500 (the area of the recent low (or maybe 5200-5400)). After that we believe the trajectory of the economy and earnings will be key. If the economy is okay, that could be the low for the year. Conversely, if we experience a recession, the S&P 500 could sport a "4" handle. After two back-to-back years of approximately 25% returns, 2025 is shaping up to be a much more difficult year in which to make money.

# **Fund Performance**

The performance graph below shows the performance of a hypothetical \$10,000 initial investment in the Fund's Class A over a ten-year period (or for the life of the Fund or share class, if shorter). The subsequent account value as of the end of the reporting period is listed next to the name of the Fund or index, as applicable. The performance table below shows the average annual total returns of the Fund's Class A for the past one-, five- and ten-year periods, as applicable (or for the life of the Fund or share class, if shorter), as of the end of the reporting period. Both the graph and table compare the performance of the Fund's Class A to an appropriate broad-based index and may compare to additional indices reflecting the market segment(s) in which the Fund invests, over the same periods.

### **GROWTH OF \$10,000**



Average Annual Total Returns	1 Year	Since Inception
Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund (Class A/SMNAX) (with maximum 5.75% sales charge)	(6.42)%	4.11%
Steward Equity Market Neutral Fund (Class A/SMNAX) (without sales charge)	(0.71)%	5.91%
ICE BofA 3 Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index	4.91%	3.81%

### Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results.

Visit <u>crossmarkglobal.com</u> for the most recent performance information. The graph and table do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or redemption of Fund shares.

Performance information for Class A reflects a deduction of the current maximum sales charge of 5.75%.

# **Key Fund Statistics**

Fund net assets	\$114,117,949
Total number of portfolio holdings	216
Total advisory fees paid	\$1,041,307
Portfolio turnover rate as of the end of the reporting period	132%

# What did the Fund invest in?

The table below shows the investment makeup of the Fund, representing the percentage of the total exposure of the Fund.

# ASSET TYPE ALLOCATION Common Stocks 47.7% Common Stocks Sold Short 45.2% Money Market Funds 7.1%

# Availability of Additional Information

You can find additional information about the Fund such as the prospectus, financial information, Fund holdings and proxy voting information at <u>crossmarkglobal.com/stewardfunds/</u>. You can also request this information by contacting us at 888-845-6910.

# Householding

In order to reduce expenses, we will deliver a single copy of prospectuses, proxies, financial reports and other communications to shareholders with the same residential address, provided they have the same last name or we reasonably believe them to be members of the same family. Unless we are notified otherwise, we will continue to send recipients only one copy of these materials for as long as they remain a shareholder of the Fund. If you would like to receive individual mailings, please call 888-845-6910 and we will begin sending you separate copies of these materials within 30 days after receiving your request.



For additional information, please scan the QR code at left to navigate to additional hosted material at crossmarkglobal.com/stewardfunds/.