

# CHASE GROWTH FUND – QUARTERLY COMMENTARY

As of July 14, 2023

## Second Quarter 2023

Almost every bull market has a phrase attached to it calling out the stocks that are leading that market. In the 1970s it was the "nifty-fifty," in the late 1990s it was the "dot.com era." More recently we had the "FAANG" stocks and this year we have what many have called "The Magnificent Seven." Although it sounds like a movie title, the Magnificent Seven refers to seven very large, mostly technology stocks that led U.S. equity markets in both the quarter and the year this far.

	Q2	YTD	Market Capitalization	% of S&P 500
Apple	17.6%	49.9%	3,050.9	7.7%
Microsoft	18.1%	42.0%	2,532.1	6.8%
Alphabet	15.9%	36.0%	1,551.0	3.6%
Amazon	26.2%	55.2%	1,337.5	3.1%
Nvidia	52.3%	189.5%	1,044.9	2.8%
Tesla	26.1%	112.4%	829.4	1.8%
Meta Platforms	35.4%	138.4%	2,562.7	1.7%
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Data as of June 30, 2023. Source: Telemet

Largely because of the performance of the Magnificent Seven, the S&P 500 Index rose 8.74% in Q2 giving it a 16.89% return so far in 2023. The Magnificent Seven accounted for 12.3% of the S&P 500's 16.89% return and now make up about 28% of the index. Given our "growth at a reasonable price" philosophy, the Chase Growth Fund underperformed benchmarks in the quarter rising 6.15%, lagging both the S&P 500 and the Lipper Multi-Cap Growth benchmark's 10.49% return. The fund had exposure to five of the Magnificent Seven (all but Meta Platforms and Tesla) but in lesser weightings than in the index.

As noted above, technology-related stocks did extremely well in the quarter and year-to-date as well. The group was up 17.20% in the quarter and 42.77% year-to-date. It was followed by Consumer Discretionary, up 14.58% in the quarter and Communications services, up 13.06% in the quarter. The weakest groups were Utilities, off 2.53%, Energy, off 0.89%, and Consumer Staples, up 0.45%.

On June 30, the fund held 42 stocks and 3.5% in cash. We believe the fund's equity holdings will have higher earnings growth than the S&P 500 this year, yet it had a price/earnings ratio of 27.9x on June 30th, versus 27.4x for the S&P 500. (Con't pg 3 2nd Quarter)

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance of the Fund may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. The most recent month-end performance may be obtained by visiting our website at <u>www.chasegrowthfund.com</u>. The Fund imposes a 2.00% redemption fee on shares held 60 days or less. Performance data does not reflect the redemption fee. If reflected, total returns would be reduced.

	2nd Quarter <u>6/30/2023</u>	1 Year <u>6/30/2023</u>	5 Years Annualized <u>6/30/2023</u>	10 Years Annualized <u>6/30/2023</u>	Since Inception Annualized <u>6/30/2023</u>
CHASX	6.15%	14.94%	8.42%	11.19%	8.07% (12/2/97)
Lipper Multi-Cap Growth Funds Index	10.49%	21.50%	10.20%	12.40%	7.68% (12/2/97)
S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index	8.74%	19.59%	12.31%	12.86%	8.12% (12/2/97)
Expense Ratio (gross): 1.32%					

Expense Ratio (net): 1.14%\*

\*Shareholders pay the net expense ratio. Chase Investment Counsel Corporation (the "Adviser") has contractually agreed to waive a portion or all of its management fees and pay Fund expenses in order to limit Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses (excluding AFFE, taxes, interest expense, dividends on securities sold short, extraordinary expenses, Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fees and any other class-specific expenses) to 0.99% of average daily net assets to the Fund (the "Expense Cap"). The Expense Cap will remain in effect through at least January 27, 2024 and may be terminated only by the Trust's Board of Trustees (the "Board"). The Adviser may request recoupment of previously waived fees and paid expenses from the Fund for 36 months from the date they were waived or paid, subject to the Expense Cap at the time such amounts were waived or at the time of recoupment, whichever is lower.

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# **Portfolio Review**

As with the first quarter, major U.S. equity markets rose in the second, but had tremendous differences in results based on whether they were more "growth" or "value" in nature. While the S&P 500 had a total return of 8.74% in the quarter, the Russell 1000® Growth Index had a gain of 12.81%. Meanwhile, the Russell 1000® Value index only rose 4.07% in the quarter while the Dow Jones Industrial Index rose 3.97%. The Chase Growth Fund rose 6.15% in the quarter while the Lipper Multi-Cap Growth universe of similar mutual funds rose 10.49%. On June 30th, the fund held 42 stocks which made up 96.5% of the portfolio while cash made up 3.5%. The fund's largest holding was chipmaker Nvidia Corp. at 6.1% of the fund's assets while First Cash Holdings Inc., an operator of pawn shops, was the fund's smallest holding at 1.3% of assets.

The table below illustrates the differences between the Chase Growth Fund and the S&P 500 Index in sector weightings and 2ndquarter performance.

	Sector Weights (6/30/23)		Sector Returns (3/31/23- 6/30/23)	
	CHASX	S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index	<u>CHASX</u>	S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index
Cash Items	3.5		0.00	
Communication Services	6.0	8.4	8.8	13.1
Consumer Discretionary	13.0	10.7	-2.4	14.6
Consumer Staples	3.6	6.7	1.0	0.5
Energy	0.0	4.1	0.0	-0.9
Financials	13.1	12.4	1.5	5.3
Health Care	7.0	13.4	3.2	3.0
Industrials	19.1	8.5	6.3	6.5
Technology	28.9	28.3	20.6	17.2
Materials	5.8	2.5	2.4	3.3
Real Estate	0.0	2.5	0.0	1.8
Utilities	0.0	2.6	0.0	-2.5
Note: fund fees not included				

#### 2nd QUARTER TOP PERFORMING STOCKS

**Nvidia Corp.**, a leading developer of chips used in computers and other electronic devices, rose 53.0% in the quarter and was the leading contributor to the Chase Growth Fund's performance for the second consecutive quarter. Although best known for its 3D chips used in personal computers and gaming devices, the firm's newer products are rapidly gaining use in data centers and in the development of artificial intelligence. The stock is up 189.5% through June 30th and reached an all-time high recently. It has a market cap of nearly \$1.0 trillion.

**Broadcom Inc.'s** stock rose 24.2% in the second quarter. Like Nvidia, Broadcom is a designer and maker of a wide variety of chips used in many electronic devices. Also like Nvidia, Broadcom stock has surged this year based on news that some of its products will find themselves used for artificial intelligence purposes. Broadcom should have revenues of about \$35.5 billion in 2023 and earnings per share of \$34.00.

**Vertiv Holdings Co.** was the fund's third best performing stock rising 21.0% in the second quarter. The Ohio based company has a market cap of \$8.0 billion. It designs, manufactures and services critical data infrastructure technology such as AC and DC power management products. Its various products and services are critical to various industries such as e-commerce and online banking. The company should have revenues of about \$6.5 billion in 2023 and earnings per share of \$1.10.

#### **2nd QUARTER WORST PERFORMING STOCKS**

Texas based **United Rentals, Inc.**, was the fund's worst performing stock in the second quarter falling 17.0%. The company operates a nationwide equipment rental company. Its equipment is used in a broad variety of building and infrastructure products. The company missed first quarter earnings estimates. The stock is no longer in the Chase Growth Fund's portfolio.

**Ciena Corp.** was also eliminated from the fund's portfolio in the second quarter. It was the fund's second worst performing stock, falling 16.8%. The company provides hardware and software products used to transmit video, voice and data traffic to various communications networks around the world. Although the company met both its first quarter revenue and earnings estimates, it warned that revenue estimates for upcoming quarters might be below analysts' expectations.

**Crocs Inc.** was the fund's third worst performing stock in the second quarter and has also been eliminated from the fund's portfolio as of June 30th. The maker and seller of popular plastic footwear stock fell 16.6% in the quarter. Despite raising revenue guidance for upcoming quarters, the company disappointed investors by saying the next quarter might not be as strong as previously expected.

Chase Growth Fund–	–Top Contributions & Detractors			
Contributors 3/31/23 - 6/30/23	Average Portfolio Weight 6/30/23	Return (%)	Contribution	
Nvidia Corp	6.1%	53.0%	3.2%	
Microsoft Corp	5.4%	18.4%	0.9%	
Broadcom Inc	1.7%	27.2%	0.7%	
Apple Inc	4.0%	17.8%	0.6%	
Grainger WW Inc	4.1%	14.8%	0.6%	
Bottom Contributors 3/31/223–6/30/23	Average Portfolio Weight 6/30/23	Return (%)	Contribution	
Crocs Inc	0.0%	-16.6%	-0.6%	
Visteon Corp	0.0%	-13.9%	-0.4%	
Juniper Networks Inc	0.0%	-16.1%	-0.4%	
BJs Whsl Club Hldgs Inc	0.0%	-15.2%	-0.4%	
Ulta Beauty Inc	0.0%	-12.4%	-0.4%	

(2nd Quarter con't from pg 1)

Although these valuations are above five and 10 year averages, the fund should get both better revenue and earnings growth versus the index this year.

Investors remain focused on whether we may be near the end of the rising interest rate cycle. Since March 2022, we have seen ten rate hikes taking the federal funds rate from 0.25% to 5.25%. Expectations generally call for one or two more rate hikes in 2023. Recent economic statistics are mixed. In the past few weeks, we've seen a very strong ADP jobs report, a fairly weak Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. jobs report, softerthan-expected overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation data but continued "core" inflation data that remains more than twice as high as the FED's 2.0% target. Second quarter earnings that are now just starting to come out may give us a clue to what might happen.

## Disclosure

Fund holdings and sector allocations are subject to change and should not be considered a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

The Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses must be considered carefully before investing. The Statutory and Summary prospectuses contain this and other important information about the investment company and may be obtained by calling (888) 861-7556 or visiting

www.chasegrowthfund.com. Read carefully before investing.

# **Disclosure Continued**

The information on earnings growth is based on certain assumptions and historical data and is not a prediction of future results for the Fund or companies held in the Fund's portfolio. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

The opinions expressed are those of the author and should not be considered a forecast of future events, a guarantee of future events nor investment advice.

Mutual fund investing involves risk, principal loss is possible. The Chase Growth Fund may invest in mid-cap companies, which involve additional risks such as limited liquidity and greater volatility. The Chase Growth Fund may invest in foreign securities traded on U.S. exchanges, which involve greater volatility and political, economic and currency risks and differences in accounting methods. Growth stocks typically are more volatile than value stocks; however, value stocks have a lower expected growth rate in earnings and sales.

Earnings per share (EPS) is calculated as a company's profit divided by the outstanding shares of its common stock. The resulting number serves as an indicator of a company's profitability.

Price earnings ratio (P/E) is the price of a stock divided by its earnings per share.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change overtime in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

Market capitalization, sometimes referred to as market cap, is the total value of a publicly traded company's outstanding common shares owned by stockholders. Market capitalization is equal to the market price per common share multiplied by the number of common shares outstanding.

As of June 30, 2023 the Chase Growth Fund held 4.0% Apple Inc., 5.4% Microsoft Corp., 3.1% Alphabet Inc., 3.1% Amazon Com Inc., 6.1% Nvidia Corp., 0.0% Tesla Inc., 0.0% Meta Platforms Inc., 1.3% First Cash Holdings Inc., 1.7% Broadcom Inc., 1.3% Vertiv Holdings Co., 0.0% United Rentals Inc., 0.0% Ciena Corp., 0.0% Crocs Inc., 4.1% Grainger WW Inc., 0.0% Visteon Corp, 0.0% Juniper Networks Inc, 0.0% BJs Whsl Club Hldgs Inc. & 0.0% Ulta Beauty Inc.

## Indexes

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**S&P 500 Index** is a broad-based unmanaged index of 505 stocks, which is widely recognized as representative of the equity market in general.

**Russell 1000® Growth Index** contains those securities in the Russell 1000® Index with a greater-than-average growth orientation. Companies in this index tend to exhibit higher price-to-book and price-to-earnings ratios, lower dividend yields and higher forecasted growth rates.

**Russell 1000® Value Index** measures the performance of the large cap value segment of the US equity universe. It includes those Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> companies with lower price-to-book ratios (over)

## **Indexes Continued**

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and lower expected growth values. The Russell 1000<sup>®</sup> Value Index is constructed to provide a comprehensive and unbiased barometer for the large-cap value segment.

**Lipper Multi-Cap Growth Funds Index** measures the performance of 30 of the largest funds in the multi-cap growth category as tracked by Lipper, Inc.

**Dow Jones Industrial Index** is a price-weighted measurement stock market index of 30 prominent companies listed on stock exchanges in the US.

An investment cannot be made directly in an index.

Investment performance reflects fee waivers in effect. In the absence of such waivers, total return would be reduced.

Quasar Distributors LLC, Distributor.