

# Wealth Watch

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The Musuneggi Financial Group is Proud to Announce...

## Why a Special Needs Trust?

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The statistics are somewhat startling when you realize that every 20 minutes a child is born with autism (Source: Autismspeaks.org 2010). And overall 22 percent of all U.S. households with children have at least one child with special health care needs (Source: Maternal and Child Health Bureau and National Center for Health Statistics, State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey, National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs, 2005-2006.)



These statistics tell us that planning for our children and grandchildren's financial futures takes on a whole different dimension if a child in our family is a member of one of these groups.

Although there are State programs to assist with special needs, declining tax revenues are causing a cut in spending and reductions in services. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs, even when available, only permit the recipient to have \$2,000 in assets. And although State Medicaid and SSI programs may cover many expenses, doesn't help with dental care, home purchases and improvements, life insurance, wheelchairs, school tuition, entertainment, telephone services and much more. SSI benefits can also be lost if someone gives cash to the disabled individual, if the individual inherits, or even if someone pays for their shelter, or clothing or even groceries.

Of major concerns for the family should be how the child will be provided for in the event of the parents' death, or what impact there would be if the child inherits from a grandparent. Of course this should be a concern for all of our children.

The solutions to most financial issues for a disabled child or individual can be a Special Needs Trust. This Trust can be used to pay the bills while helping protect financial eligibility for public assistance programs. The Trust, in most cases, can last for the lifetime of the beneficiary, which may be beyond the lives of other family members.

Often these trusts are administered by a family member. But using a Special Needs Trust Company may make more sense. These companies understand public benefits and keep up with changes in the laws. They conform to all fiduciary requirements and they understand tax laws. They can prevent anyone from manipulating the trust. They act as a liaison with the disabled person and the family members; as well as they work with providers, vendors, care givers and other professionals. Through the trust and trust company, the recipient can have access to other assets, and the trust can receive funds that would normally be inherited by the disabled person. Life insurance on the parents can be paid directly to the trust company to be sure that the trust is well funded in the event of their death.

The Trust Company can use trust assets to pay for all those wants and needs that are not paid by government plans with the goal of assuring a better quality of life for the disabled person.

If you would like more information on the benefits of Special Needs Trust and Trust Companies, we would be glad to work with you, your attorney and our Trust Company to develop or review or update a special needs plan. Please contact me at 412-341-2888 x4.

## **The Musuneggi Financial Group is Proud to Announce That....**

**Mary Grace Musuneggi** has been appointed to the Field Advisory Committee of H. Beck/Capital Financial Group. This will allow her the opportunity to have more input into the products and services available to our clients. The Field Advisory Council is comprised of top financial advisors who are committed to improving the quality of services that their clients need and reviewing the products that are available through H. Beck.

**Christopher Musuneggi** was named to the 2010 Dunham Advisory Board and has completed the 2010 Dunham Institute curriculum. The Dunham Advisory Board is comprised of financial advisors who Dunham considers leaders within the financial advisor community.

The 2010 Dunham Advisory Board and Dunham Institute curriculum helped provide advisors with relevant financial services training, education and resources including wealth management, investment theory, risk management, estate planning, special needs trusts, asset protection trusts, and in depth discussion about the economy and financial markets.

A notable speaker at this event was Dr. Harry Markowitz, Economist and Nobel Laureate in Economics. Dr. Markowitz, who is known as "the father of modern portfolio theory", won the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1990. Also presenting as a platform speaker for the event was our own Mary Grace Musuneggi, who discussed the importance of stepping into our clients lives to provide them with recommendations that reflect their personal lifestyles. This approach means that each client receives customized, personalized and comprehensive financial planning.

"In today's economic environment, it's certainly important for financial advisors to remain current on what's happening in the financial markets. More importantly, they need to understand the complexities of today's market to help their clients manage and protect their wealth" stated Salvatore M. Capizzi, Chief Sales & Marketing Officer for Dunham. "Investors are rightfully cautious about the markets. In my view, the best financial advisors continually educate themselves and expand their skills to help their clients to the best of their ability."



The Musuneggi Financial Group is a financial services group whose focus is planning and service. The integrity of our group is based on the philosophy that all financial advice should be in a client's best interest. We provide clients with an objective and independent approach to their planning needs.

We are able to choose from a broad array of financial resources. In doing so we take a holistic approach to a client's planning needs, bringing together new ideas, professional expertise and knowledge to work for the benefit of the client. We believe that our independent objectivity can mean a world of difference when planning for your future. Go to the ["Our Services"](#) section on our website to see how we can help you.

*Securities & Investment Advisory Services Offered Through H. Beck, Inc. Member FINRA, SIPC. 11140 Rockville Pike, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20852.*

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