



# DIRECTIONS



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Not FDIC Insured  
No Bank Guarantee  
May Lose Value

### TAX REBATES

Many taxpayers will be receiving rebates from the federal government in the May/June timeframe. If you will be receiving a tax rebate check, consider investing a portion in your Bright Directions account. It's fast, easy, and best of all, you will be accumulating funds to help offset future college costs.

The enclosed deposit coupons make it easy!

### MARKETS

The stock markets have not been kind to investors over the past 6 months. Some major indices are down 15-20% since their October highs. The best suggestion we hear from the experts is to hold the course and look at your long-term goals. Do not focus on the short-term volatility, but rather balance your time horizon, risk tolerance, and goals to structure your investments. It's not market timing, rather time in the market that can be key.

### \$10,000 / \$20,000 ILLINOIS STATE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION

Plan early so you can take full advantage of the generous Illinois State income tax deduction for contributions you make into the Plan in 2008. Contributions can be made online, using the enclosed deposit coupons, or by setting up an automatic investment plan. Take advantage of the tax savings opportunities today!

### GIFT TAX RETURN DEADLINE

If you made larger gifts in 2007 (generally over \$12,000) to a Bright Directions account, make sure you have notified your tax professional. If you have made the special 5-year gift election it is also essential that you notify your tax professional. When a Gift Tax Return (Form 709) is required, the due date is April 15. For gifts made in 2007 the due date is April 15, 2008.

### ONLINE SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey. You'll find the Survey when you log in to our site at [www.brightdirections.com](http://www.brightdirections.com). It's under the "What's New" tab on the navigation bar on the left side of the homepage. Complete the Survey and become eligible for our drawing for 1 of 2 - \$100 deposits to your 529 account. Thanks for taking time to let us know how we're doing.

### LIFE EXPECTANCY AND EDUCATION

MSN.com had an excellent article regarding a recent study in the March/April issue of *Health Affairs*. The study found that people with more than 12 years of education had a life expectancy of 82, while those with 12 or fewer years of education could expect to live to 75.

Education is the great equalizer in our society, and this statistic is just another example of why your loved ones deserve the opportunity to further their education. The investments you are making to help them will certainly pay off.

### NEW FEMALE- AND MINORITY-OWNED PORTFOLIOS

Several new portfolios are now available for investors looking for excellent new options that have the added benefit of being women or minority based firms. Additional information was mailed in early March to existing account owners on the new options. For additional information please feel free to contact your advisor or visit our web site.

*Thank You for  
Investing with Us!*