# **QUARTERLY COMMENTARY** Q3 2024

## $\mathbb{ROBINSON}$ | opportunistic income fund

### THIRD QUARTER REVIEW

The Robinson Opportunistic Income Fund (the "Fund"), as measured by the Fund's Institutional Class (RBNNX), returned 6.66% in the third quarter of 2024, edging out its benchmark, the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit Index, which returned 6.28% for the quarter. Following is the third quarter, year-to-date, and trailing 1-, 3- and 5-year attribution analysis for the Fund relative to its benchmark index:

	Q3 '24	<u>YTD '24</u>	<u>1-Year</u>	<u>3-Years*</u>	5-Years*
NAV Return	5.71%	10.56%	17.70%	2.46%	3.49%
Less: Credit Hedges	-0.52%	-0.65%	-1.37%	-0.60%	-1.91%
Less: Duration Hedge	-0.46%	0.04%	-0.96%	0.78%	0.00%
Less: Expense Ratio	-0.34%	-1.01%	-1.35%	-1.35%	-1.35%
General Change in Discounts	2.46%	5.73%	7.17%	0.06%	1.32%
Security Selection	<u>-0.19%</u>	<u>0.82%</u>	<u>-2.38%</u>	<u>5.71%</u>	<u>3.75%</u>
RBNNX Return	6.66%	15.49%	18.81%	7.07%	5.31%
Bloomberg Global Agg Credit Index	6.28%	5.14%	14.28%	-1.73%	0.63%
*Annualized					

**Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results.** Total return figures include the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. For the most recent month end performance, please call (800) 207-7108.

The Fund has roughly 85% of its assets invested in taxable credit closed-end funds (CEFs) that invest in a wide array of fixed income sub-sectors, including corporate bonds, loans, convertible bonds, preferred stocks, mortgages, and some equity income strategies. In an effort to dial down the high yield credit risk and volatility, the Fund utilizes credit and interest rate risk hedges (short positions in various equity index and Treasury futures contracts) with the intent of creating a higher yielding portfolio with a risk profile more akin to an investment grade intermediate taxable credit fund. The Fund's hedging strategy also isolates the discount opportunity in taxable credit closed-end funds. The combination proved additive to the Fund's quarterly return. The CEFs in which we invest earned approximately 5.70% based on their net asset values; those funds' prices increased another 2.46% (i.e. discounts narrowed); but, the Fund's hedge positions were down roughly 1.0%. The Fund's net return for the quarter far outpaced the 5.28% of the Bloomberg High Yield Bond Index and the 5.84% return of the Bloomberg Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index.

Security selection has been a huge positive contributor to the Fund's returns over most periods. The Fund can invest in ETFs, open-end funds and pre-merger SPACs when we believe it prudent. While certain sub-sectors of the taxable CEF universe (preferred stocks, infrastructure, equity income) have exceptionally wide discounts by most historic metrics, many of the more traditional fixed income sectors (high yield bonds and leveraged loans) do not offer that same discount opportunity. As such, the Fund had approximately 15% of its assets invested in pre-merger SPACs for much of the quarter. Pre-merger SPACs were a drag on the Fund's return for the quarter as the Fed's rate cut directly reduced their expected return (pre-merger SPACs have the credit and interest rate risk and return profile of T-Bills). Over longer periods of time (3- and 5-years), SPACs have provided absolute returns during periods of duress in fixed income markets.

The Fed started its rate-cutting cycle with a 50 basis point bang in mid-September. Both the market and the Fed's own "dot plots" are anticipating another 200 basis points of cuts before this cycle is done. Every 50 basis point decline in short-term rates results in approximately a 15 basis point increase in a taxable credit CEF's distributable income rate. If the Fed does in fact cut rates another 2%, that should increase taxable credit CEF distribution rates by another 0.60% at a time when most other fixed income yields are declining. Rising distribution rates typically lead to narrowing discounts.

Following are our top 5 reasons for **WHY NOW** for the Robinson Opportunistic Income Fund in these uncertain times:

- 1. Income: the Fund's income distribution rate is 2.13% higher than the yield on the Bloomberg US Aggregate Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index with comparable net hedged credit risk characteristics.
- 2. Potential Recession Mitigation: the Fund's hedges and pre-merger SPACs (which are required by prospectus to invest in T-Bills) exposure provide potential to neutralize the negative impact a recession could have on credit spreads.
- **3.** Potential Inflation Mitigation: the Fund's shorter net hedged duration, coupled with its variable rate exposures, should provide potential stability should there be a reemergence of inflation.
- 4. Upside Potential: the Fund's holdings of taxable credit CEFs have a weighted average discount of -6.9% versus the historic average discount for those same CEFs of -3.6%. The endgame for discounts is they go to zero.
- 5. Momentum: strong and accelerating inflows into fixed income mutual funds and ETFs, coupled with modest supply increases, should lead to higher prices and narrower taxable credit CEF discounts.

	Q3 2024	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	Ann ITD*
RBNNX	6.66%	15.49%	18.81%	7.07%	5.31%	6.55%
RBNAX	6.69%	15.26%	18.61%	6.79%	5.06%	6.30%
RBNAX w/ load	2.15%	10.40%	13.52%	5.25%	4.16%	5.58%
RBNCX	6.41%	14.56%	17.68%	6.00%	4.26%	5.49%
Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit	6.28%	5.14%	14.28%	-1.73%	0.63%	2.39%

#### PERFORMANCE AS OF 9/30/24

**Performance data quoted represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results.** Total return figures include the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than original cost. For the most recent month end performance, please call (800) 207-7108. Returns showing less than one year are cumulative. Per the prospectus dated April 30th, 2024 the gross operating expense ratio for the Class A, C, and Institutional Shares are 4.32%, 5.07%, and 4.07%, respectively. The total net annual fund operating expenses after waiving fees and/or reimbursing expenses are 2.88%, 3.63%, and 2.63% for the A, C, and Institutional Shares. The contractual agreement between the Fund and the Advisor for fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement is in effect until April 30, 2025. Without the contractual agreement, performance would have been lower. Performance results with load reflect the deduction for Class A Shares of the 4.25% maximum front-end sales charge. Class C Shares are subject to a contingent deferred sales charge of 1.00% when redeemed within 12 months of purchase. Performance presented without the load would be lower if this charge was reflected. **Because of ongoing market volatility, Fund performance may be subject to substantial short-term changes.** \*ITD represents inception-to-date; Inception 12/31/2015.

#### STANDARDIZED 30-DAY SEC YIELD - 9/30/24

	RBNNX	RBNAX	RBNCX
SEC Yield	6.79%	6.26%	5.79%
Unsubsidized Yield	4.98%	4.54%	4.00%

Subsidized 30-Day SEC Yield is based on a 30-day period ending on the last day of the previous month and is computed by dividing the net investment income per share earned during the period by the maximum offering price per share on the last day of the period. This subsidized yield is based on the net expenses of the Fund of which the yield would be lower without the waivers in effect. Negative 30-Day SEC Yield results when accrued expenses of the past 30 days exceed the income collected during the past 30 days. Unsubsidized 30 Day SEC Yield is based on total expenses of the Fund.

#### This material must be preceded by or accompanied with a copy of the Fund's current prospectus.

#### **RISK AND OTHER DISCLOSURES:**

An investment in the Fund is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested and including, but not limited to, the following risks, which are more fully described in the prospectus:

Market Risk: the market price of a security may decline, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular issuer, company, or asset class. Fixed income/interest rate risk: A rise in interest rates cise, and increase in value if interest rates fall, with longer-term securities being more sensitive than shorter-term securities. High yield ("junk bond") risk: High yield ("junk") bonds are speculative, involve greater risks of default, downgrade, or price declines and are more volatile and tend to be less liquid than investment-grade securities. Closed-end fund (CEF), exchange-traded fund (EFF) and open-end fund (Mutual Fund) risk: The Fund's investments in CEFs, ETFs and Mutual Funds ("underlying funds") are subject to various risks, including management's ability to manage the underlying fund's portfolio, risks associated with the underlying securities. fluctuation in the market value of the underlying fund's ontfolio, risks associated with the underlying securities, fluctuation in the market value of the underlying funds on the securities. Recent Market Events: Periods of market volatility may occur in response to market events and other economic, political, and global macro factors, such as governmental actions to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic, and the recent rise of onflation, could adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. Management Risk: selection of Fund investments is dependent on views of the Sub-advisor. Derivatives risk: The Fund and the underlying funds may use futures contracts, option, swap agreements, and/or sell securities short. Futures contracts may cause the value of the Fund's sinvestment is novel the fund will be exposed indirectly to sales or liquidate. Leveraging risk: The underlying fund in which the Fund investment is on shorting strategies; waps may be leveraged, are subject to counterparty risk and may be difficult to value or liquidate. Leveraging risk: The underlying Funds in which the Fund invests may

the Fund's performance. **Bank loan risk:** The underlying funds may invest in loan participations of any quality, including "distressed" companies with respect to which there is a substantial risk of losing the entire amount invested. **Convertible securities risk:** The underlying funds may invest in convertible securities, which are subject to market risk, interest rate risk, and credit risk. **Preferred stock risk:** The underlying funds may invest in preferred stock, which is subject to companyspecific and market risks applicable to equity securities, and is also sensitive to changes in the company's creditworthiness and changes in interest rates.

The Fund may not be suitable for all investors. We encourage you to consult with appropriate financial professionals before considering an investment in the Fund.

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Credit Index: a flagship measure of global investment grade debt from a multitude of local currency markets. This multi-currency benchmark includes treasury, government-related, corporate and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers. . Bloomberg US Aggregate Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index: broad base, market capitalization-weighted bond market index representing intermediate term investment grade bonds traded in the United States. Bloomberg High Yield Bond Index: measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market. Bloomberg Investment Grade Corporate Bond Index: is a benchmark of investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bonds.

Indexes are unmanaged and it is not possible to invest directly in an index.

**Credit Spreads** are the difference between the quoted rates of return on two different investments, usually of different credit qualities but similar maturities. A **special purpose acquisition company (SPAC)** is a company that has no commercial operations and is formed strictly to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO) or the purpose of acquiring or merging with an existing company. **Income Distribution Yield** is a measurement of cash flow paid by an exchange-traded fund, real estate investment trust, or another type of income-paying vehicle. **Treasury Bills** are a short-dated government security, yielding no interest but issued at a discount on its redemption price. **Treasury Bonds** are a government bond issued by the US Treasury. **Basis Point:** is one hundredth of 1 percentage point.

The views in this material were those of the Fund's Sub-advisor as of the date written and may not reflect its views on the date this material is first disseminated or any time thereafter. These views are intended to assist shareholders in understanding the Fund's investment methodology and do not constitute investment advice.

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