

Hanging On

Investors are similar in many ways. Most are conscientious of their present finances and the need to plan for the future; they have learned to save on a consistent basis. Each of these disciplines is essential. Another characteristic similar to most folks is the accumulation of stuff. There are times when hoarding just happens.

This past weekend, I decided to clean up my portfolio; out with the old and in with the new. I'm talking about my clothes. My wardrobe was out of date and needed a makeover. There were shirts in my closet that I hadn't worn in a decade. I found hats, shoes, pants, ties and miscellaneous odds and ends that I didn't know existed. I tried on more clothes than ever before. After sorting through what to keep and what not, I made the trip to *Faith Farm (a nonprofit organization that assists those in need)* and donated the uncertain items. Having things neat, tidy and orderly improves the quality of my life.

Investors often find themselves hoarding stocks in their portfolios that are losers. They invariably decide to hold on to these fallen angels, either because they do not want to take a loss or believe that the company's fortunes are about to change – wishful thinking. In Wall Street parlance there is an old saying, “buy low, sell high,” which literally means purchase stocks when prices are low and sell them when they're high. I see flaws in this old principle, but that's getting off the point. We all need to do some spring cleaning every now and then. Whether it is our clothes, possessions, taxes, personal finances, investments or insurance (life, disability, etc.), a makeover every now and then is essential. As a professional money manager, I am nit-picky when it comes to my investments. I constantly monitor and tweak my portfolio. My goal for 2015 is to be the most organized in my life. If you need a coach to organize your portfolio, I can help.

