



NOVEMBER 2017

ON A MISSION

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While researching material and drafting articles for our monthly features, I have found that the word *necessary* emerges with surprising regularity. In financial literature, the word takes many forms:

Diversification can be *necessary* for a portfolio's success.

Cash is a *necessity* in many places.

Monthly expenses *necessitate* income.

Pulling back from the topic of finances, one can easily see how often the word is also worked into everyday usage:

Oxygen is *necessary* for survival.

Sunscreen is a *necessity* at the beach.

Chocolate chip cookies *necessitate* a glass of milk!

One of my favorite lines in recent literature is from Annie Dillard's short essay entitled, *Living with Weasels*:

I think it would be well, and proper, and obedient, and pure, to grasp your one necessity and not let it go.

There's that word again – *necessity*. Yet, in Dillard's work, it is preceded by another important word: *one*. For centuries, philosophers have debated this notion of a single necessity; in other words, what makes us tick?

For corporate, educational, and nonprofit entities, their *one necessity* is often defined in the form of a mission statement. I believe, too, that it is equally important for individuals to think of themselves as being on a mission. In that sense, we can edit Annie Dillard's passage as follows:

Grasp your mission and don't let go!

Thanksgiving is a time to, naturally, give thanks for those people, places, and things in our lives. As such, it is a time for reflection. Perhaps, as the year winds down and we segue into 2018, you can also pause to reflect on your *one necessity*. What makes you tick? An area of knowledge, a special interest, a unique talent?

Go on a mission to share your one necessity with the world, helping to make it just a little better... a little at a time.