

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). <p style="text-align: center;">▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.</p>	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">2021</div> This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2021</u> and ending <u>12/31/2021</u>	
A	This return/report is for: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ a multiemployer plan </div> <div> ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) </div> </div>
	☒ a single-employer plan <div style="margin-left: 100px;">☐ a DFE (specify) _____</div>
B	This return/report is: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☐ the first return/report ☐ an amended return/report </div> <div> ☐ the final return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months) </div> </div>
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> ☒ Form 5558 ☐ special extension (enter description) </div> <div> ☐ automatic extension </div> <div> ☐ the DFVC program </div> </div>
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan <u>VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC SALARY SAVINGS PLAN</u>
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
1c	Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1989</u>
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC</u> <u>130 SPRINGSIDE DR.</u> <u>SUITE 110</u> <u>AKRON, OH 44333-2431</u>
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>34-1924302</u>
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>330-576-1234</u>
2d	Business code (see instructions) <u>524210</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2022	ELIZABETH KOZENKO
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

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v. 210624

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor		3b Administrator's EIN	
		3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name		4b EIN 4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5	167
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....		6a(1)	133
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year		6a(2)	122
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....		6b	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits		6c	45
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c		6d	167
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.		6e	0
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e		6f	167
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)		6g	158
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested		6h	7
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....		7	
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D			
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:			
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)			
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ <u>0</u> A (Insurance Information) (4) ☐ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2021 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2021 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

A Name of plan <u>VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC SALARY SAVINGS PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>001</u>
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>34-1924302</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>MELLON STABLE VALUE FD CL M</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>11-3152987-000</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>1310108</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TOPS AGGR GRTH PORTFOLIO CL II</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>OHIO NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>27-5315893-006</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TOPS BALANCED PORTFOLIO CL II</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>OHIO NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>27-5316053-006</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TOPS CONS PORTFOLIO CL II</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>OHIO NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>27-5315420-006</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TOPS GROWTH PORTFOLIO CL II</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>OHIO NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>27-5316212-006</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TOPS MOD GRTH PORTFOLIO CL II</u>			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>OHIO NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO</u>			
c EIN-PN <u>27-5315702-006</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>0</u>	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:			
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):			
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2021 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021		
A Name of plan VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC SALARY SAVINGS PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1924302	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash.....	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	0	0
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	0	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	0	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	83888	47164
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)	307591	310496
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)	0	0
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)	419442	404823
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)	0	0
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)	0	0
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)	0	0
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)	0	0
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)	0	0
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	165569	123169
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	8221470	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	0	0
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	0	0
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)	0	0
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	7367768	18929736
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)	0	0
(15) Other.....	1c(15)	587219	547625

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:		
(1)	Employer securities.....	1d(1) 0	0
(2)	Employer real property.....	1d(2) 0	0
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e 0	0
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f 17152947	20363013
Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g 0	0
h	Operating payables	1h 0	0
i	Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i 0	0
j	Other liabilities.....	1j 0	0
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k 0	0
Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l 17152947	20363013

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	Contributions:		
(1)	Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A) 636488	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B) 1045981	
	(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C) 199163	
(2)	Noncash contributions.....	2a(2) 0	1881632
(3)	Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A), (B), (C), and line 2a(2)	2a(3)	
b	Earnings on investments:		
(1)	Interest:		7806
(A)	Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A) 0	
(B)	U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B) 0	
(C)	Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C) 0	
(D)	Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D) 0	
(E)	Participant loans.....	2b(1)(E) 7806	
(F)	Other	2b(1)(F) 0	
(G)	Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F).....	2b(1)(G)	7806
(2)	Dividends: (A) Preferred stock.....	2b(2)(A) 0	552928
(B)	Common stock	2b(2)(B) 0	
(C)	Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	2b(2)(C) 552928	
(D)	Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A), (B), and (C)	2b(2)(D)	552928
(3)	Rents	2b(3)	0
(4)	Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A) 0	0
(B)	Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	2b(4)(B) 0	
(C)	Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)	
(5)	Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A) 0	0
(B)	Other	2b(5)(B) 0	
(C)	Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)	

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		441336
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		0
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		0
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		0
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		1692677
c Other income.....	2c		0
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		4576379
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	1365982	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)	0	
(3) Other.....	2e(3)	0	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		1365982
f Corrective distributions (see instructions).....	2f		0
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		0
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees.....	2i(1)	0	
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	0	
(3) Investment advisory and management fees.....	2i(3)	0	
(4) Other.....	2i(4)	331	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		331
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		1366313
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		3210066
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		0
(2) From this plan.....	2l(2)		0

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: APPLE GROWTH PARTNERS

(2) EIN: 81-4504770

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)			
4b		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)			
4c		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)			
4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		3000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
4f		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4g		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?			
4h		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
4i	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)			
4j		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?			
4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?			
4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)			
4m		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			
4n			
5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?..... ☐ Yes ☒ No If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.			
5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)			
5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)	
5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.			

<div>SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</div>	<div>Retirement Plan Information</div> <div>This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).</div> <div>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</div>	<div>OMB No. 1210-0110</div> <div>2021</div> <div>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</div>
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For calendar plan year 2021 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2021 and ending 12/31/2021

<div>A Name of plan VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC SALARY SAVINGS PLAN</div>	<div>B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001</div>
<div>C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 VALMARK FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC</div>	<div>D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1924302</div>

Part I	Distributions
--------	---------------

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 82-3967259		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
---------	--

4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
----------	------------

9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
---------	--

10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2021
v. 201209

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....

14a

b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14b

c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....

14c

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year.....

15a

b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year

15b

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year

16a

b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers.....

16b

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:

☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?

☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation _____

Valmark Financial Group, LLC
Salary Savings Plan

Financial Statements and
Independent Auditor's Report

December 31, 2021 and 2020

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan

Financial Statements December 31, 2021 and 2020

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Plan Administrator of the
Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Akron, Ohio

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit for the 2021 Financial Statements

We have performed an audit of the accompanying financial statements of the Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) ("ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit"). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the 2021 financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note C to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section—

- the amounts and disclosures in the 2021 financial statements referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the 2021 financial statements referred to above related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Akron

1540 West Market St.
Akron, OH 44313
P 330.867.7350
F 330.867.8866

Canton

4740 Belpar St. NW, Ste. B
Canton, OH 44718
P 330.867.7350
F 330.867.8866

Charlotte (AGPN, PLLC)

6201 Fairview Rd., Ste. 200
Charlotte, NC 28210
P 866.67.APPLE

Chicago

111 W. Jackson, Ste. 1700
Chicago, IL 60604
P 866.67.APPLE

Cleveland

25550 Chagrin Blvd.
Ste. 401
Beachwood, OH 44122
P 216.674.3800
F 216.674.3801

Basis for Opinion on the 2021 Financial Statements

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the 2021 Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit of the 2021 Financial Statements section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 2021 financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

2021 Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2021 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, is presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Other Matter - Report on the 2020 Financial Statements

We were engaged to audit the statement of net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2020, and related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended. As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, any auditing procedures with respect to the information certified by the qualified institution. Our audit report, dated September 24, 2021, indicated that (a) because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion and accordingly, we did not express an opinion on the 2020 financial statements and supplemental schedule, and (b) the form and content of the information included in the 2020 financial statements and supplemental schedule other than that derived from the certified information, were presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Apple Growth Partners

Akron, Ohio
October 11, 2022



Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31,	
	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value (see Note D)	\$ 20,239,844	\$ 16,987,378
Receivables		
Notes receivable from participants	123,169	165,569
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 20,363,013	\$ 17,152,947

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	For the year ended December 31,	2021
Additions to net assets attributable to:		
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$	2,101,180
Interest and dividends		585,761
		<u>2,686,941</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants		7,806
Contributions		
Participants' pre-tax salary deferrals		735,888
Participants' Roth deferrals		310,093
Participants' rollovers		199,163
Employer matching		636,488
		<u>1,881,632</u>
Total additions		<u>4,576,379</u>
Deductions from net assets attributable to:		
Benefits paid to participants		1,365,982
Administrative expenses		331
Total deductions		<u>1,366,313</u>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits		3,210,066
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year		<u>17,152,947</u>
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	\$	<u><u>20,363,013</u></u>

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020

A. PLAN DESCRIPTION

The following description of the Valmark Financial Group, LLC (the “Company” or “Plan Sponsor”) Salary Savings Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

General - The Plan is a defined contribution plan which covers substantially all full-time employees of the Company as defined in the Plan agreement. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). The Company is the Plan’s administrator.

Effective April 2020, the Plan adopted certain provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act that was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act increased the maximum loan amount to \$100,000 or 100% of a participant’s vested balance, through September 22, 2020. The distribution provision allows the Plan’s participants to take a COVID-19 related distribution up to \$100,000 from the Plan beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and before December 31, 2020.

Effective January 1, 2020, hardship distribution provisions were implemented to bring the Plan in compliance with the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Plan was restated to comply with other legislative and regulatory changes and received updated Internal Revenue Service approval on September 21, 2020.

Contributions - Participants may contribute a minimum of 1% to a maximum of 100%, subject to the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) 402(g) limit, of their compensation on a pre-tax or post-tax (“Roth”) basis. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. The Plan Sponsor, however, may be required to limit contributions of certain employees to comply with the IRC.

The Plan Sponsor may, at its option, match a portion of participants’ voluntary contributions. In 2021 and 2020, the Plan Sponsor elected to match 100% of the first 4% plus 50% of the second 4% of participants’ compensation for each dollar of contributions.

The Plan Sponsor may make an additional discretionary profit sharing contribution. All eligible employees, as defined, may receive this discretionary contribution. Participants must be employed at year end to receive the contribution, except for reasons of disability, retirement or death.

The Plan also permits rollover contributions from other qualified retirement plans.

Participant Accounts - Each participant’s account is credited with the participant’s deferral contribution, employer matching contribution, allocation of the discretionary profit sharing contribution, investment earnings, and charged an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations of administrative expenses are based on participant earnings, account balances or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which the participant is entitled is the participant’s vested account balance.

Participants may direct their contributions to any or all of the various investment funds provided. Participants may change their allocation of contributions or transfer money between investment options any time during the year.

Vesting - Participants are immediately vested in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company’s contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested after six years of credited service.

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020

Notes Receivable from Participants - Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from one to five years unless used for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate determined at the time the loan is taken based on prime plus two percent (3.25% at both December 31, 2021 and 2020). Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits - Upon termination of service, the participant may elect to receive his or her account balance as a lump-sum payment or in periodic installments. The Plan Administrator may automatically make a lump-sum distribution for account balances less than \$5,000. Participants terminated are entitled to receive their benefits as soon as administratively feasible. Distributions of a participant's 401(k) account balance may be authorized at any time by the Plan Administrator under certain hardship conditions.

Forfeited Accounts - Unvested amounts forfeited by terminated participants may be used by the Plan to reduce employer matching contributions, for the payment of Plan expenses, or may be reallocated to participants as an additional employer contribution. There were \$89,334 and \$82,041 of forfeited nonvested accounts at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively. The Company used \$89,334 of the forfeited funds to reduce employer matching contributions during 2021.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition - Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Plan management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisor, custodian, and trustee. See Note D for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes Receivable from Participants - Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses when incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

Payment of Benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses - Administrative expenses, including third party administrative expenses, investment management fees, audit fees, and other expenses of maintaining the Plan, are paid by the Company. Fees attributable to loans, distributions and deferred payouts are paid by the participants. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020

C. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE CUSTODIAN

The Plan Administrator has elected to restrict the scope of the auditor's examination with regard to statements or information prepared and certified by Charles Schwab Trust Bank ("Charles Schwab"), the custodian of the Plan.

Charles Schwab has certified as to the completeness and accuracy of the investments it holds and changes in net assets arising from said investment activity as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Charles Schwab has certified as to the completeness and accuracy of the schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2021.

D. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The levels of the fair value hierarchy under Financial Accounting Standards Board guidance in these financial statements is described as follows:

Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodology used for assets measured at fair value.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-ended mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Notes to the Financial Statements
December 31, 2021 and 2020

Common collective trusts ("CCTs"): The fair value of the CCTs is estimated based on the NAV derived from the fair value of the underlying investments. The use of NAV as fair value is deemed appropriate as the collective trust funds to not have finite lives, unfunded commitments relating to these types of investments, or significant restrictions on redemptions.

The method described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 18,929,736	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,929,736
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	18,929,736	-	-	18,929,736
Investments measured at net asset value ^(a)	-	-	-	1,310,108
Investments at fair value	\$ 18,929,736	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,239,844

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2020:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 7,367,768	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,367,768
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	7,367,768	-	-	7,367,768
Investments measured at net asset value ^(a)	-	-	-	9,619,610
Investments at fair value	\$ 7,367,768	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,987,378

^(a) In accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") Accounting Standards Codification Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in these tables are intended to permit reconciliations of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2021.

Investment	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitment	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common collective trusts	\$ 1,310,108	\$ -	Daily	Up to 12 Months

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The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2020.

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitment</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Common collective trusts	\$ 9,619,610	\$ -	Daily	Up to 12 Months

E. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Charles Schwab provides certain administrative services to the Plan pursuant to a Service Agreement (“SA”) between the Company and Charles Schwab. Charles Schwab receives revenue from mutual fund service providers for services Charles Schwab provides to the funds. The revenue is used to offset certain amounts owed to Charles Schwab for its administrative services to the Plan.

If the revenue received by Charles Schwab from such mutual fund service providers exceeds the amount owed under the SA, Charles Schwab remits the excess to the Plan’s trust on a quarterly basis. Such amounts may be applied to pay Plan administrative expenses or allocated to the accounts of the participants. During 2021, there were no excess amounts. The Plan or Plan Sponsor may make a payment to Charles Schwab for administrative expenses not covered by revenue sharing.

F. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in the Company’s contributions.

G. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The Company has chosen not to obtain a determination letter on its Plan document as it uses Charles Schwab’s prototype plan volume submitter profit sharing plan document which received Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) approval on June 19, 2014. The Plan has been amended since receiving the approval. However, the Plan Administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and has no income subject to unrelated business income tax. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan’s financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

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H. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other current world events have significantly disrupted financial markets, economies and other events subsequent to December 31, 2021. As noted above, investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term would materially affect the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits.

I. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent events have been evaluated through October 11, 2022, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

J. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The Mellon Stable Value Fund is reported on the financial statements as a common collective trust, but the underlying assets are shown separately on the Form 5500. The following is a reconciliation of the underlying assets of the fund from the Form 5500 to the total value noted in the financial statements as of December 31, 2021 and 2020.

	2021	2020
Value as reported in the Form 5500:		
Interest bearing cash	\$ 47,164	\$ 83,888
US Government securities	310,496	307,591
Corporate debt instruments	404,823	419,442
Other assets	547,625	587,219
Value as reported in the financial statements as component of investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 1,310,108</u>	<u>\$ 1,398,140</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
Schedule H - Line 4i
Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
EIN: 81-4504770
Plan Number: 001
December 31, 2021
(Unaudited)

(a)	(b) IDENTITY OF ISSUE, BORROWER, LESSOR OR SIMILAR PARTY	(c) DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT ¹	(e) CURRENT VALUE
*	Mellon Stable Value FD CL M	Common collective trust	\$ 1,310,108
	American Conservative Growth and Income Portfolio	Mutual fund	77,044
	American Growth and Income Portfolio	Mutual fund	204,380
	American Moderate Growth and Income Portfolio	Mutual fund	76,360
	American Funds New Perspective Fund	Mutual fund	680,044
	Fidelity Emerging Markets Index Fund	Mutual fund	228,419
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2020 Investor	Mutual fund	124,801
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2025 Investor	Mutual fund	19,122
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2030 Investor	Mutual fund	359,146
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2035 Investor	Mutual fund	765,205
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2040 Investor	Mutual fund	162,829
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2045 Investor	Mutual fund	947,309
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2050 Investor	Mutual fund	237,184
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2055 Investor	Mutual fund	530,227
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2060 Investor	Mutual fund	253,993
	Fidelity Freedom Index 2065 Investor	Mutual fund	2,594
	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Fund	Mutual fund	623,665
	Fidelity Small Cap Index Fund	Mutual fund	525,549
	Fidelity U.S. Bond Index Fund	Mutual fund	271,054
	iShares MSCI EAFE International Index Fund	Mutual fund	513,596
	iShares S&P 500 Index Fund Class K	Mutual fund	2,790,942
	State Street Active Core Bond Inv	Mutual fund	94,525
	T. Rowe Price Blue Chip Growth Fund	Mutual fund	241,861
	Vanguard LF STR MOD Growth	Mutual fund	1,737,879
	Vanguard Life ST Star Growth	Mutual fund	4,191,503
	Vanguard Life Strategy Income	Mutual fund	98,494
	Vanguard TTL WLDSTK Index ADM	Mutual fund	2,627,217
	American Funds Washington Mutual Investors Fund	Mutual fund	544,794
			<hr/> 20,239,844
		Notes receivable from	
*	Participant Loans	participants (5.25% - 7.50%)	123,169
			<hr/> \$ 20,363,013 <hr/>

* Party-In-Interest

¹ Including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value, where applicable.

Column D, Cost of Investments, has not been included since investments are participant directed.

Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

NAME OF PLAN SPONSOR:	Valmark Financial Group, LLC
NAME OF PLAN:	Valmark Financial Group, LLC Salary Savings Plan
EIN:	34-1924302
PLAN NUMBER:	001

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	PARTICIPANT LOANS	Loans (5.25% - 7.50%)		123,169
	MELLON STABLE VALUE FD CL M	Common Collective Trust Fund		1,310,108
	AMERICAN CONSERVE GRTH INC R6	Registered Investment Company		77,044
	AMERICAN GROWTH INCOME PORT R6	Registered Investment Company		204,380
	AMERICAN MOD GROWTH INCOME R6	Registered Investment Company		76,360
	AMERICAN NEW PERSPECTIVE R6	Registered Investment Company		680,044
	FIDELITY EMERG MARKETS IDX	Registered Investment Company		228,419
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2020 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		124,801
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2025 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		19,122
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2030 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		359,146
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2035 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		765,205
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2040 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		162,829
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2045 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		947,309
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2050 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		237,184
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2055 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		530,227
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2060 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		253,993
	FIDELITY FREEDOM 2065 INSTL	Registered Investment Company		2,594
	FIDELITY MID CAP INDEX	Registered Investment Company		623,665
	FIDELITY SMALL CAP INDEX	Registered Investment Company		525,549
	FIDELITY US BOND INDEX	Registered Investment Company		271,054
	ISHARES MSCI EAFE INTL IDX K	Registered Investment Company		513,596
	ISHARES S&P 500 INDEX K	Registered Investment Company		2,790,941
	STATE STREET ACT CORE BOND INV	Registered Investment Company		94,525
	TROWE PRICE BLUE CHIP GRTH INS	Registered Investment Company		241,861
	VANGUARD LF STR MOD GRTH	Registered Investment Company		1,737,879
	VANGUARD LIFE ST STAR GROWTH	Registered Investment Company		4,191,503
	VANGUARD LIFE STRATEGY INCOME	Registered Investment Company		98,494
	VANGUARD TTL WLDSTK INDEX ADM	Registered Investment Company		2,627,217
	WASHINGTON MUTUAL FUND R6	Registered Investment Company		544,794

* Party-in-interest