

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). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2025 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 07/31/2025	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B	This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☒ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☒ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☐ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
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 HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. PROFIT SHARING & 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 07/01/1991
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) HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. 28601 CHAGRIN BLVD. STE 210 CLEVELAND, OH 44122
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1663157
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 216-831-1200
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541211

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.	01/27/2026	MARY EILEEN VITALE
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	01/27/2026	MARY EILEEN VITALE
	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

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	5 194
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 a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1) 143 6a(2) 0 6b 0 6c 0 6d 0 6e 0 6f 0 6g(1) 185 6g(2) 0 6h 0
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 Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 3B 2A

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic 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
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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
- (4)** ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5)** ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1)** ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2)** ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3)** ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- (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 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 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 C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider 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
		2025
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 07/31/2025		
A Name of plan HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. PROFIT SHARING & 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1663157

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ALERUS FINANCIAL, N.A.

45-6062081

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	NONE	32395	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ELLSWORTH ADVISORS, LLC

82-5501752

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26 27	NONE	24712	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

SIKICH CPA LLC

54-1172176

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
10	NONE	13000	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	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 2025 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 07/31/2025

A Name of plan HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. PROFIT SHARING & 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ► 001
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1663157

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:	FEDERATED HERMES PRIME CASH CIF
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 38-4116835-345	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	FRANKLIN SMALL CAP VALUE CIT
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 38-4126289-594	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	FEDERATED HERMES TTL RETURN BND CIT
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 85-3992542-594	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	AMERICAN CENTRY MID CAP VALUE R1
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 38-4139852-630	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	ALLIANC BERNSTEIN SMALL CAP GROWTH
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 38-4126288-592	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	GREAT GREY LARGE CAP GROWN IV
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	WILMINGTON TRUST COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT TRUST
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c EIN-PN 38-7289851-001	d Entity code C	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 0
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:	
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b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):	
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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)
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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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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
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, other than DCGs)**

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

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

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2025 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
	For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 07/31/2025	
	A Name of plan HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. PROFIT SHARING & 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST	B Three-digit plan number (PN) 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1663157	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
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	15732	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	717815	0
(2) Participant contributions.....	1b(2)	61506	0
(3) Other	1b(3)	148	0
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	115564	0
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	6279321	0
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	28297713	0
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts).....	1c(14)		
(15) Other.....	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	35487799	0

Liabilities

1g Benefit claims payable	1g	9155	
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j	88850	
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	98005	0

Net Assets

1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	35389794	0
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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.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	21761	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	281422	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		303183
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	3764	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		3764
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	57703	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		57703
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		0
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		0

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		-4271
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		538350
c Other income	2c		840
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		899569

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	36219256	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		36219256
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	20439	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)	13000	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	24712	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	11956	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		70107
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		36289363

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		-35389794
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

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: SIKICH CPA LLC

(2) EIN: 54-1172176

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
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?		☒	
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?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	☒		
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
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.			

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 0.

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 _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information 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). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2025 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 07/31/2025		
A Name of plan HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO. PROFIT SHARING & 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST		B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 34-1663157
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): 45-6062081		
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		
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) 2025 v. 250312		

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:

Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%

High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:

☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

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.....

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☐ "Prior year" ADP test

☒ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q702486A.



**HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**For the Period Ended July 31, 2025 (In Liquidation) and the
Year Ended December 31, 2024 (Ongoing)**

An abstract background featuring a complex pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in shades of gray and white, creating a sense of depth and architectural structure.

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HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of
Howard, Wershbale & Co. Profit Sharing and 401(k) Plan and Trust

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of the Howard, Wershbale & Co. Profit Sharing and 401(k) Plan and Trust (the 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 statements of net assets available for benefits as of July 31, 2025 (in liquidation) and December 31, 2024 (ongoing), and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the period ended July 31, 2025 (in liquidation) and year ended December 31, 2024 (ongoing), and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits 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 audits 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 certifications from a qualified institution as of and for the period ended July 31, 2025 and as of and for the year December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 4 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

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

- The amounts and disclosures in the 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 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).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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.

Emphasis of Matter - Plan Termination and Liquidation Basis of Accounting

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Company's Trustees formally approved the termination of the Plan effective March 15, 2025 and liquidation was deemed imminent. As a result, The Plan has changed its basis of accounting from the ongoing basis used in presenting the 2024 financial statements to the liquidation basis used in presenting the 2025 financial statements. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the 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.

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 Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit 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 GAAS 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 GAAS, 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 the 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.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certifications, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the 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.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024, 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 GAAS. 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).



Brookfield, Wisconsin

January 27, 2026

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST**

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

July 31, 2025 (In Liquidation) and December 31, 2024 (Ongoing)

	2025	2024
	(In Liquidation)	(Ongoing)
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ -	\$ 15,732
Investments at fair value	-	34,577,034
Total	-	34,592,766
Receivables		
Employee contributions	-	61,506
Employer contributions	-	717,815
Notes receivable from participants	-	115,564
Other	-	148
Total receivables	-	895,033
Total assets	-	35,487,799
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses	-	9,155
Due to broker, net	-	88,850
Total liabilities	-	98,005
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ -	\$ 35,389,794

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST**

**STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

For the Period Ended July 31, 2025 (In Liquidation) and
Year Ended December 31, 2024 (Ongoing)

	2025	2024
	(In Liquidation)	(Ongoing)
ADDITIONS IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Investment income		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 488,357	\$ 2,953,553
Interest and dividends	103,425	1,153,037
Other	840	2,009
Total investment income	592,622	4,108,599
Interest on notes receivable from participants	3,764	10,520
Contributions		
Employee	281,422	1,427,232
Rollovers	-	168,152
Employer matching	21,761	146,905
Employer profit sharing	-	708,058
Total contributions	303,183	2,450,347
Total additions	899,569	6,569,466
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO		
Benefits paid to participants	36,219,256	5,549,097
Administrative expenses	70,107	83,716
Total deductions	36,289,363	5,632,813
NET (DECREASE) INCREASE	(35,389,794)	936,653
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	35,389,794	34,453,141
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	\$ -	\$ 35,389,794

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Period Ended July 31, 2025 and Year Ended December 31, 2024

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of Howard, Wershbaile & Co. Profit Sharing and 401(k) Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of HW&Co. and affiliated companies (collectively, the Company). Prior to the Plan's termination on March 15, 2025 employees were immediately eligible and could begin participating on January 1 or July 1 following their date of hire. Participants must have been an active employee as of the last day of the year to be eligible to receive any discretionary non-elective contributions. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Plan Termination

Effective March 15, 2025, the Company's Trustees formally approved the termination of the Plan and ceased contributions. Liquidation became imminent as a result of the termination. The Company had the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA and assets will be distributed to participants in accordance with the Plan's provisions. As of July 31, 2025, the net assets of the Plan were fully liquidated, and all account balances were distributed from the Plan.

The following provisions were in effect prior to the Plan's termination.

Contributions

Each year, participants could elect to defer a percentage of their eligible compensation as defined in the Plan. Participants were permitted to designate a portion or all of their deferral contributions as Roth 401(k) contributions. Participants who attained age 50 before the end of the plan year were eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants could also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans.

The Company matched 25% of participant elective deferrals (limited to the first 4% of deferrals). Participants were eligible to receive matching contributions upon the first deferral into the Plan.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Contributions (Continued)

The Company could elect to make discretionary non-elective contributions to the Plan. The amount of any discretionary non-elective contribution were determined annually by the Company. The Company made a discretionary non-elective contribution of \$708,058 (\$725,420 less forfeitures of \$17,362) for the year ended December 31, 2024. The Company did not elect to make a discretionary non-elective contribution for the period ended July 31, 2025.

Contributions are subject to certain limitations mandated by the Internal Revenue Code (IRC).

Investment Options

Participants could direct all their contributions among one or more funds subject to the allocation limitations set forth in the Plan. Changes in the allocation of future contributions and transfers among funds of presently invested contributions were permitted pursuant to the Plan's provisions.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account was credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of (a) the Company's contributions and (b) plan earnings (losses) and charged with the participant's benefit payments and an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations were based on participant earnings (losses), account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant was entitled was the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account balance.

Vesting

Participants were vested immediately in their contributions plus actual earnings (losses) thereon. Vesting in the Company's matching contribution portion and the discretionary non-elective contribution portion of their accounts was based on the following table:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Less than 2	0%
2	25%
3	50%
4	75%
5	100%

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Continued)

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants could borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to the maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance, less any defaulted loans (if any). Participants could have only 3 loans outstanding at any time. The loans were secured by the balance in the participants' account and bear interest at the prime rate plus 1%. The term of the loan could not exceed 5 years or 15 years if the loan proceeds were used to acquire the principal residence of the participant. Principal and interest was paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service, death or disability, a participant could elect to receive the vested value of their account as a lump sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. A participant that terminated employment whose account balance was less than \$7,000 would receive a distribution of their vested aggregate account balance without the consent of the participant. If the distribution was less than \$1,000 the distribution was made in the form of lump sum cash. If the distribution was greater than \$1,000, but less than \$7,000 the Plan paid the distribution in an automatic direct rollover to an individual retirement account (IRA). Participants attaining 62 years of age could take an in-service distribution if fully vested. Under certain conditions participants could receive a hardship or qualified reservist distribution from their salary deferrals.

Forfeited Accounts

As of December 31, 2024, forfeited accounts totaled \$6,132. There was no balance in the forfeited accounts as of July 31, 2025. During the period ended July 31, 2025 and the year ended December 31, 2024, forfeitures of \$7,660 and \$8,741, respectively, were re-allocated to participants. During the period ended July 31, 2025, forfeitures of \$5,475 were used to pay plan expenses.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

Associated with the termination of the Plan as discussed in Note 1, the Plan has changed its basis of accounting from the ongoing basis used in presenting the 2024 financial statements to the liquidation basis used in presenting the 2025 financial statements. Under the liquidation basis of accounting, assets are measured to reflect the amount of expected consideration from liquidation and liabilities are measured in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP) that otherwise applies to such liabilities.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Cash

Cash is defined as currency on hand, in demand deposits.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements is in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP) and 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 stated 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. The Plan's Trustees determine the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisers and custodian. See Note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis and dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) 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 but unpaid interest less amounts defaulted (if any). Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Loan administration and distribution fees are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. The Plan also pays certain investment advisory and plan administration fees from plan assets. Certain investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Recent Accounting and Regulatory Pronouncements

The SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. This legislation includes a vast array of provisional changes to retirement plans, becoming effective in 2023 and beyond. Plan management adopted mandatory provisions effective for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. Plan management continues to evaluate the impact of the optional provisions of SECURE 2.0 and is awaiting additional regulatory guidance from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Department of Labor (DOL). The application of SECURE 2.0 Act did not have a material effect on the Plan's financial statements for the period ended July 31, 2025 and year ended December 31, 2024.

3. 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 three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Topic 820 are 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 at the measurement date.
- Level 2: Inputs to the valuation methodology other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:
 - a. Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets,
 - b. Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets,
 - c. Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability,
 - d. 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.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

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 need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024. The Plan held no assets as of July 31, 2025.

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 US 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.

Collective trusts: Investments are valued using the NAV provided by the administrator of the fund. The NAV is based on the value of the underlying assets owned by the fund, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of units outstanding. The NAV is the basis for current transactions. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the collective trusts, the issuer reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure the securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although 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.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

3. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024. The Plan held no assets as of July 31, 2025.

Description	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual funds	\$ 27,839,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,839,554
TOTAL	\$ 27,839,554	\$ -	\$ -	27,839,554
Investments measured at net asset value (a)				6,737,480
TOTAL INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR VALUE				\$ 34,577,034

(a) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Investments Measured Using the Net Asset Value per Share Practical Expedient

The following table presents the fair value, unfunded commitments, participant redemption frequency, and participant redemption notice period for plan investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2024:

Investment*	Fair Value 2024	Participant Redemption Frequency	Participant Redemption Notice Period
<i>Collective Trusts:</i>			
AllianceBernstein Small Cap Growth	\$ 142,576	Daily	None
AllianceBernstein Mid Cap Growth	798,141	Daily	None
Federated Prime Cash Collective Investment Trust	2,146,192	Daily	None
Great Gray Mid Cap Value II R1	458,158	Daily	None
Great Gray Franklin Small Cap Value GG Trust	202,642	Daily	None
Great Gray Large Cap Growth	796,959	Daily	None
Great Gray Federated Hermes Total Return Bond	2,192,812	Daily	None

* For the years presented the Plan did not have unfunded commitments with any of its investments.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

4. CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial data included in the accompanying financial statements as of and for the period ended July 31, 2025 and as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2024, has been certified as complete and accurate by Alerus Financial, N.A., a qualified institution. The following certified information was obtained by management and agreed to or derived from information certified as complete and accurate, and has not been audited by the independent auditors for the Plan: investments at fair value, cash, notes receivable from participants, due to broker, net, interest and dividends, interest on notes receivable from participants, other income and net appreciation in fair value of investments.

5. PLAN TERMINATION

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 and assets will be distributed to participants in accordance with the Plan's provisions. Effective March 15, 2025, the Company's Trustees formally authorized the termination of the Plan. All assets of the Plan were fully liquidated during 2025. As a result of the Plan's termination, all participants were 100% vested as of the Plan's termination date.

6. TAX STATUS

The Plan adopted a non-standardized pre-approved plan document from Alerus Financial, N.A. The non-standardized pre-approved plan sponsor has obtained an opinion letter dated June 30, 2020, in which the IRS stated that the non-standardized pre-approved plan document was in compliance with applicable requirements of the IRC. The Plan has not received a determination letter specific to the Plan itself and has been amended since adopting the non-standardized pre-approved plan document; however, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed, and is being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

US GAAP requires management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more-likely-than-not would not 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.

7. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Prior to termination, fees paid by the Plan for investment management services were included as a reduction of the return earned on each fund. Certain administrative expenses were paid by the Plan or the Company. The Plan issued loans to participants, which were secured by the vested balance in the participants' accounts. These transactions qualified as party-in-interest. Employees of the Company provided administrative services to the Plan for which no fees were charged.

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

7. PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS (Continued)

In addition, the Plan received revenue sharing amounts from the custodian pursuant to an agreement. These amounts received are included in investment income, other. This revenue received by the Plan was primarily allocated to the participants' account as a fee equalization allocation based on the participants' balances in those respective mutual funds with remaining amounts used to pay certain Plan expenses. Total amounts received from the custodian and used to equalize allocation to participants during the period ended July 31, 2025 and the year ended December 31, 2024 were \$840 and \$2,009, respectively.

8. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

Prior to the Plan's liquidation, the Plan invested in various investment securities. Investment securities were exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it was at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities would occur in the near term.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through January 27, 2026, which was the date that these financial statements were available for issuance and determined that there were no significant nonrecognized subsequent events through that date.

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

HOWARD, WERSHBALE & CO.
PROFIT SHARING AND 401(K) PLAN AND TRUST

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)
FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i

EIN: 34-1663157 PLAN: #001

December 31, 2024

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par, or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
Mutual Funds				
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2010 R6	**	\$ 61,271
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2020 R6	**	121,028
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2025 R6	**	3,634,450
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2030 R6	**	2,613,918
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2035 R6	**	2,625,454
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2040 R6	**	1,475,856
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2045 R6	**	1,571,909
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2050 R6	**	1,149,388
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2055 R6	**	299,676
	American Funds	American Funds Target Retirement 2060 R6	**	676,997
	Blackrock	Blackrock Strategic Income Opportunities Portfolio CL K	**	983,675
	Federated Investors	Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund Bond-Debenture R6	**	403,320
	Fidelity	Fidelity 500 Index Fund	**	6,968,079
	Fidelity	Fidelity International Small Cap	**	425,756
	Fidelity	Fidelity Small Cap Index	**	1,020,635
	Fidelity	Fidelity Mid Cap Index Institutional	**	702,554
	Janus Henderson	Janus Henderson Emerging Markets FD II R1	**	261,196
	John Hancock	John Hancock Disciplined Value International I	**	892,518
	JP Morgan	JP Morgan Equity Income R6	**	977,102
	MFS	MFS International Growth R6	**	929,926
	PIMCO	PIMCO Commodity Real Return Strategy Fund Institutional #45	**	44,846
	Total mutual funds			<u>27,839,554</u>
Collective Trusts				
	Alliance Bernstein	AllianceBernstein Small Cap Growth II R1	**	142,576
	Alliance Bernstein	AllianceBernstein Mid Cap Growth Fee CI R1	**	798,141
	Wilmington Trust	Federated Prime Cash Collective Investment Trust	**	2,146,192
	Great Gray Trust Company	Great Gray Mid Cap Value II R1	**	458,158
	Great Gray Trust Company	Great Gray Franklin Small Cap Value GG Trust R	**	202,642
	Great Gray Trust Company	Great Gray Large Cap Growth IV	**	796,959
	Great Gray Trust Company	Great Gray Federated Hermes Total Return Bond	**	2,192,812
	Total collective trusts			<u>6,737,480</u>
TOTAL INVESTMENTS PER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS				34,577,034
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates from 4.25% to 9.50%	-0-	115,564
TOTAL INVESTMENTS PER 5500				<u>\$ 34,692,598</u>

* Party-in-interest to the Plan.

** Cost information is not required for participant directed investments.