



2010 Annual Report

Independent Auditors' Report Financial Statements

Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

2010 Annual Report

Independent Auditors' Report

The Commonwealth Fund

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of The Commonwealth Fund (the "Fund") as of June 30, 2010 and 2009 and the related statements of activities and of cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund at June 30, 2010 and 2009 and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



Owen J. Flanagan & Co.
October 28, 2010

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 JUNE 30, 2010 AND 2009

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
CASH	\$ 1,300,500	\$ 57,383
INVESTMENTS - At fair value (Notes 1 and 2)	597,134,926	550,723,964
INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS RECEIVABLE	74,177	115,532
PROCEEDS RECEIVABLE FROM SECURITY SALES - NET	492,525	318,256
TAXES REFUNDABLE	609,945	1,813,852
PREPAID INSURANCE AND OTHER ASSETS	324,088	—
LANDMARK PROPERTY AT 1 EAST 75TH STREET - At appraised value during 1953, the date of donation	275,000	275,000
FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS - At cost, net of accumulated depreciation of \$1,848,540 at June 30, 2010 and \$1,562,304 at June 30, 2009 (Note 1)	4,313,804	4,452,579
TOTAL ASSETS	\$604,524,965	\$557,756,566
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 1,362,171	\$ 1,098,700
Program authorizations payable (Note 3)	24,418,124	19,321,512
Accrued postretirement benefits (Note 4)	4,539,962	2,194,182
Deferred tax liability (Note 5)	1,339,221	454,039
Total liabilities	31,659,478	23,068,433
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted	572,865,487	534,688,133
Total net assets	572,865,487	534,688,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$604,524,965	\$557,756,566

See notes to financial statements.

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2010 AND 2009

	2010	2009
REVENUES AND SUPPORT:		
Interest and dividends	\$ 7,876,340	\$ 8,559,797
Contribution and other revenue	43,645	100,623
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenues and support	7,919,985	8,660,420
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENSES:		
Program authorizations and operating program	31,612,976	36,300,670
General administration	1,869,540	1,923,564
Investment management	3,670,564	4,064,044
Taxes (Note 5)	1,199,562	(2,453,030)
Retirement and other postretirement (Note 4)	2,809,234	225,365
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	41,161,876	40,060,613
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EXCESS OF EXPENSES OVER REVENUES BEFORE NET INVESTMENT GAINS (LOSSES)	(33,241,891)	(31,400,193)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INVESTMENT GAINS (LOSSES):		
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	27,160,110	(39,475,243)
Change in unrealized appreciation of investments	44,259,135	(124,996,796)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net investment gains (losses)	71,419,245	(164,472,039)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	38,177,354	(195,872,232)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets, beginning of year	534,688,133	730,560,365
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$572,865,487</u>	<u>\$534,688,133</u>

See notes to financial statements.

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2010 AND 2009

	2010	2009
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets:	\$ 38,177,354	\$(195,872,232)
Net investment (gains) losses	(71,419,245)	164,472,039
Depreciation expense and retirement of assets	286,236	331,384
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Decrease in interest and dividends receivable	41,355	18,287
Decrease (increase) in taxes refundable - net	1,203,907	(804,703)
Decrease (increase) in proceeds receivable from securities sales - net	(174,269)	42,624
Decrease (increase) in prepaid insurance and other assets	(324,088)	23,908
Decrease in recoverable grants	—	59,665
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	263,471	(25,051)
Increase in program authorizations payable	5,096,612	1,295,363
Increase in accrued post retirement benefits	2,345,780	—
Increase (decrease) in deferred tax liability	885,182	(2,499,935)
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(23,617,705)</u>	<u>(32,958,651)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of furniture, equipment, and building improvements - net	(147,461)	(458,164)
Purchase of investments	(125,170,744)	(192,409,526)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	<u>150,179,027</u>	<u>225,555,617</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>24,860,822</u>	<u>32,687,927</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	1,243,117	(270,724)
CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>57,383</u>	<u>328,107</u>
CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$1,300,500</u>	<u>\$57,383</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:		
Taxes paid: excise and unrelated business income	<u>—</u>	<u>\$ 800,000</u>

See notes to financial statements.

THE COMMONWEALTH FUND

Notes to Financial Statements

Years Ended June 30, 2010 and 2009

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Commonwealth Fund (the “Fund”) is a private foundation supporting independent research on health and social issues.

- a. *Investments* - Investments in equity securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are carried at fair value, which approximates market value. Assets with limited marketability, such as alternative asset limited partnerships, are stated at the Fund’s equity interest in the underlying net assets of the partnerships, which are stated at fair value as reported by the partnerships. Realized gains and losses on dispositions of investments are determined on the following bases: FIFO for actively managed equity and fixed income, average cost for commingled mutual funds, and specific identification basis for alternative assets.

The Fund records derivative instruments in the statements of financial position at their fair value, with changes in fair value being recorded in the statement of activities. The Fund does not hold or issue financial instruments, including derivatives, for trading purposes. Both realized and unrealized gains and losses are recognized in the statements of activities.

- b. *Fixed Assets* - Furniture, equipment, and building improvements are capitalized at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives.
- c. *Contributions, Promises to Give, and Net Assets Classifications* - Contributions received and made, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized in the period incurred. The Fund reports contributions as restricted if received with a donor stipulation that limits the use of the donated assets. Unconditional promises to give for future periods are presented as program authorizations payable on the statement of financial position at fair values, which includes a discount for present value.
- d. *Use of Estimates* - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the Fund’s management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Estimates also affect the reported amounts of additions to and deductions from the statement of activities. The calculation of the present value of program authorizations payable, present value of accumulated postretirement benefits, deferred Federal excise taxes and the depreciable lives of fixed assets requires the significant use of estimates. Actual results could differ from those estimates.
- e. *Cash* – Cash consists of all checking accounts and petty cash.

At times the Fund’s cash exceeds federally insured limits. This risk is managed by using only large, established financial institutions.

2. Investments

Investments at June 30, 2010 and 2009 comprised the following:

	2010		2009	
	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value	Cost
U.S. Equities	\$ 80,387,617	\$ 83,534,330	\$ 85,442,087	\$ 99,162,268
Non - U.S. Equities	104,167,492	91,678,376	107,737,667	96,747,215
Fixed income	94,489,324	87,488,048	94,977,480	88,848,667
Short-term	15,087,701	15,087,701	8,709,505	8,856,065
Marketable alternative equity	134,247,901	79,872,435	107,017,384	70,265,832
Nonmarketable alternative equity	61,307,334	67,855,885	53,148,235	63,393,994
Inflation hedge	107,447,557	104,657,084	93,691,606	100,747,993
	<u>\$597,134,926</u>	<u>\$530,173,859</u>	<u>\$550,723,964</u>	<u>\$528,022,034</u>

At June 30, 2010, the Fund had total unexpended investment commitments of approximately \$81.6 million (\$52.4 million in non-marketable alternative equity and \$29.2 million in inflation hedge).

The Fund's investment managers may use futures contracts to manage asset allocation and to adjust the duration of the fixed income portfolio. In addition, investment managers may use foreign exchange forward contracts to minimize the exposure of certain Fund investments to adverse fluctuations in the financial and currency markets. At June 30, 2010 and 2009, the Fund had no outstanding derivative positions.

Fair value of an investment is the amount that would be received to sell the investment in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Accounting guidance establishes a hierarchical disclosure framework which prioritizes and ranks the level of market price observability used in measuring investments at fair value. Market price observability is impacted by a number of factors, including type of investment and the characteristics specific to the investment. Investments with readily available active quoted prices or for which fair value can be measured from actively quoted prices generally will have a higher degree of market price observability and a lesser degree of judgment used in measuring fair value.

Investments measured and reported at fair value are classified and disclosed in one of the following categories.

Level 1 Inputs – Quoted prices in active markets for identical investments. In the case of funds, a reported NAV and full liquidity.

Level 2 Inputs – Other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar investments, interest rates, etc.). Hedge funds with reported NAV are included in this category.

Level 3 Inputs – Prices determined using significant unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs reflect the Fund's own assumptions about the factors market participants would use in pricing an investment and would be based on the best information available. Investments included in this category generally include private equity, venture capital, real estate, natural resources, gas and oil, and hedge fund investments with limited liquidity.

In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, an investment's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Investments are categorized as follows:

	2010			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
U.S. Equities	\$ 80,387,617	\$ 80,387,617		
Non - U.S. Equities	104,167,492	104,167,492		
Fixed income	94,489,324	71,273,790	\$ 23,215,534	
Short-term	15,087,701	15,087,701		
Marketable alternative equity	134,247,901	5,156,944	128,978,131	\$ 112,826
Nonmarketable alternative equity	61,307,334			61,307,334
Inflation hedge	107,447,557	72,369,988		35,077,569
	<u>\$597,134,926</u>	<u>\$348,443,532</u>	<u>\$152,193,665</u>	<u>\$96,497,729</u>
	2009			
	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
U.S. Equities	\$ 85,442,087	\$ 85,442,087		
Non - U.S. Equities	107,737,667	107,737,667		
Fixed income	94,977,480	75,607,046	\$ 19,370,434	
Short-term	8,709,505	8,709,505		
Marketable alternative equity	107,017,384	8,222,153	98,711,013	\$ 84,218
Nonmarketable alternative equity	53,148,235			53,148,235
Inflation hedge	93,691,606	64,605,178		29,086,428
	<u>\$550,723,964</u>	<u>\$350,323,636</u>	<u>\$118,081,447</u>	<u>\$82,318,881</u>

The change in Level 3 assets is as follows:

	Marketable Alt. Equity	Nonmarketable Alt. Equity	Inflation Hedge	Total
Balance, July 1, 2009	\$ 84,218	\$53,148,235	\$29,086,428	\$82,318,881
Investment return	(19,179)	3,284,876	2,127,443	5,393,140
Purchases and redemptions - net	(853,681)	4,874,223	3,863,698	7,884,240
Transfers between levels	901,468			901,468
	<u>\$112,826</u>	<u>\$61,307,334</u>	<u>\$35,077,569</u>	<u>\$96,497,729</u>

3. Program Authorizations Payable

At June 30, 2010, program authorizations scheduled for payment at later dates were as follows:

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011	\$19,642,086
July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012	4,655,488
Thereafter	<u>245,026</u>
Gross program authorizations scheduled for payment at a later date	24,542,600
Less adjustment to present value	<u>124,476</u>
Program authorizations payable	<u><u>\$24,418,124</u></u>

A discount rate of 2.67% was used to determine the present value of the program authorizations payable at June 30, 2010.

4. Retirement And Other Postretirement Benefits

The Fund has a noncontributory defined contribution retirement plan, covering all employees, under arrangements with Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America and College Retirement Equities Fund and Fidelity Investments. This plan provides for purchases of annuities and/or mutual funds for employees. The Fund's contributions approximated 17% and 16% of the participants' compensation for the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009. Pension expense under this plan was approximately \$983,000 and \$1,082,000 for the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively. In addition, the plan allows employees to make voluntary tax-deferred purchases of these same annuities and/or mutual funds within the legal limits provided for under Federal law.

Effective July 9, 2002, the Fund established a Section 457 Plan for certain employees that provides for unfunded benefits with employer contributions made within the legal limits provided for under Federal law.

The Fund provides postretirement medical insurance coverage for retirees who meet the eligibility criteria. The postretirement medical plan, which is measured as of the end of each fiscal year, is an unfunded plan, with 100% of the benefits paid by the Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis. Such payments approximated \$118,000 and \$103,000 for each of the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009.

Expected contributions under the postretirement medical plan for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 are expected to be approximately \$203,000. Additional required disclosure on the Fund's postretirement medical plan for the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009 is as follows:

	2010	2009
Benefit obligation at June 30	\$4,539,962	\$2,194,182
Fair value of plan assets at June 30	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Status - unfunded	4,539,962	2,194,182
Actuarial loss	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accrued benefit cost recognized	<u>\$4,539,962</u>	<u>\$2,194,182</u>
Net periodic expense	\$2,463,956	\$102,759
Employer contribution	\$118,176	\$102,759

Significant assumptions related to postretirement benefits as of June 30 were as follows:

	2010	2009
Discount rate	2.70%	4.51%
Health care cost trend rates – Initial	7.3%	7.3%
Health care cost trend rates – Ultimate	7.1%	7.1%

At June 30, 2010, benefits expected to be paid in future years are approximately as follows:

Year ended June 30, 2011	\$203,000
Year ended June 30, 2012	\$208,000
Year ended June 30, 2013	\$237,000
Year ended June 30, 2014	\$177,000
Year ended June 30, 2015	\$263,622
Five years ended June 30, 2020	\$1,306,000

5. Tax Status

The Fund is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, but is subject to a 1% or 2% (depending if certain criteria are met) Federal excise tax on net investment income. For the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, that excise tax rate was 1%. The Fund is also subject to Federal and state taxes on unrelated business income. In addition, The Fund records deferred Federal excise taxes, based upon expected excise tax rates, on the unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments being reported for financial reporting purposes in different periods than for tax purposes.

The Fund is required to make certain minimum distributions in accordance with a formula specified by the Internal Revenue Service. For the year ended June 30, 2010, distributions approximating \$6.9 million are required to be made by June 30, 2011 to satisfy the minimum requirements of approximately \$30.2 million for the year ended June 30, 2010.

In the Statements of Financial Position, the deferred tax liability of \$1,339,221 and \$454,039 at

June 30, 2010 and 2009, respectively, resulted from expected Federal excise taxes on unrealized appreciation of investments.

For the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, the tax provision was as follows:

	2010	2009
Excise taxes - current	\$ 314,380	\$ 46,905
Excise taxes - deferred	885,182	(2,499,935)
Unrelated business income taxes - current	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total Taxes	<u>\$1,199,562</u>	<u>\$(2,453,030)</u>

6. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The estimated fair value amounts have been determined by the Fund, using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies. However, considerable judgment is necessarily required in interpreting market data to develop the estimates of fair value. Accordingly, the estimates presented herein are not necessarily indicative of the amounts that the Fund could realize in a current market exchange. The use of different market assumptions and/or estimation methodologies may have a material effect on the estimated fair value amounts.

All Financial Instruments Other Than Investments - The carrying amounts of these items are a reasonable estimate of their fair value.

Investments - For marketable securities held as investments, fair value equals quoted market price, if available. If a quoted market price is not available, fair value is estimated using quoted market price for similar securities. For alternative asset limited partnerships held as investments, fair value is estimated using private valuations of the securities or properties held in these partnerships. The carrying amount of these items is a reasonable estimate of their fair value. For futures and foreign exchange forward contracts, the fair value equals the quoted market price.

7. Contributions Received

In fiscal years 1987 and 1988, the Fund received a total of \$15,415,804 as a grant from the James Picker Foundation, with an agreement that a designated portion of the Fund's grants be identified as "Picker Program Grants by The Commonwealth Fund." The Fund fulfills this obligation by making Picker Program Grants devoted to specific themes approved by the Fund's Board of Directors. For the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, Picker program grants totaled approximately \$1,960,000 and \$1,802,000, respectively.

In April 1996, the Fund received The Health Services Improvement Fund, Inc.'s ("HSIF") assets and liabilities, \$1,721,016 and \$57,198, respectively, resulting in a \$1,663,818 increase in net assets. In accordance with the terms of an agreement with HSIF, this contribution enables the Fund to make Commonwealth Fund/HSIF grants to improve health care coverage, access, and quality in the New York City greater metropolitan region. During the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, grants in the amount of \$414,000 and \$300,000 were awarded.

During the year ended June 30, 2002, the Fund received a bequest of \$3,001,124 from the estate of Professor Frances Cooke Macgregor as a contribution to the general endowment, with the amount of annual grants generated by this addition to the endowment to be governed by the Fund's overall annual payout policies. An additional amount of \$100,000 was received during the year ended June 30, 2004. This gift was made with the provisions that in at least the five-year period following its receipt, grants made possible by it will be used to address iatrogenic medicine issues, and that grants made possible by the gift be designated "Frances Cooke Macgregor" grants. During the years ended June 30, 2010 and 2009, the Frances Cooke Macgregor grants totaled approximately \$350,000 and \$372,000, respectively.

8. Uncertain Tax Position

The Fund has not entered into any uncertain tax positions that would require financial statement recognition. The Fund is no longer subject to audits by the applicable taxing jurisdiction for periods prior to June 30, 2007.

9. Subsequent Events

In connection with the preparation of the financial statements, the Fund evaluated subsequent events after the statement of financial position date of June 30, 2010 through November 8, 2010, which was the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

