

A man in a black t-shirt and blue shorts is running away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk. A small white and brown dog is running ahead of him. The boardwalk has a metal railing on the right side. The background shows a scenic view of a body of water and a forested hillside under a warm, golden light.

# Investing in Your Daily Life



Privately held companies are owned by families, small groups of shareholders, or private equity firms. These companies have always been a big part of consumers' everyday lives.

They are part of what is called the "middle market," and have been a significant driver of economic growth. They represent one-third of private sector GDP and employ approximately 48 million workers in the U.S. alone<sup>1</sup>.

The middle market represents a vast investment universe. Within the U.S. there are nearly 200,000 middle market businesses, over 85% of which are private<sup>1</sup>.

That's compared to approximately 5,900 publicly listed companies<sup>2</sup>. But until now, getting exposure to these companies in an individual investor portfolio has been difficult.

The CION Ares Diversified Credit Fund (CADC)\* invests across the public and private corporate credit markets, including both U.S. and European middle market companies.

CADC seeks to capitalize on market inefficiencies and relative value opportunities by dynamically allocating across credit asset classes, companies, industries, and geographies.

## Why CADC?



### Downside Risk Management

Offers the potential for downside risk management as portfolio consists predominantly of private, senior-secured loans underwritten by professionals across Ares Credit Group.



### Illiquidity Yield Premium Goal

Seeks enhanced yield due to the premium associated with less liquid, private credit securities



### Flexibility/Diversification

Investment team identifies and dynamically allocates to what we believe are the best relative value opportunities in credit

References to "downside protection" or similar language are not guarantees against loss of investment capital or value. Diversification does not assure profit or protect against market loss.

1. The Center for the Middle Market: Year-End 2022 Middle Market Indicator  
2. Statista, March 2023

## The private companies within the CADC portfolio may be part of your daily life.

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### Rawlings Sporting Goods Company



Established in 1887, Rawlings is a leading baseball and softball brand worldwide. This investment supported Rawlings's acquisition of Easton Diamond Sports, a leading developer and manufacturer of baseball and softball equipment with an over 40-year brand history in diamond sports. This transaction solidifies the combined company as a leading global brand and manufacturer of premium baseball and softball equipment, including bats, gloves, balls and protective gear. Ares served as the administrative agent and sole arranger for a senior secured credit facility to support Rawlings' acquisition of Easton Diamond Sports.

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### Dr. Scholl's (Scholl's Wellness Company)



Scholl's Wellness Company is a leading footcare brand focused on insoles, custom-fit orthotics and skin treatment categories. Ares served as the administrative agent, joint lead arranger and joint bookrunner for an incremental senior secured credit facility to support the acquisition of the brand's international business, Scholl.

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### Suave



Suave is a leading personal care company with products across hair care, skin cleansing, deodorant, and skincare. Ares served as the administrative agent, joint lead arranger and joint bookrunner for a senior secured credit facility to support Yellow Wood Partners' acquisition of Suave.

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### Mr Greens Produce



Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Mr Greens is a rapidly growing distributor of produce, dairy, and specialty food items to the restaurant and hospitality industries in Florida and Texas, including many of the marquee restaurant groups in its active markets. Ares served as the administrative agent, lead arranger and bookrunner for a senior secured credit facility to support Sterling Investment Partners' acquisition of Mr Greens.

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### Vobev



Vobev is a vertically integrated aluminum beverage can producer and filler in North America. Ares served as the administrative agent for a senior secured credit facility to support Vobev's continued growth plans.

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### Evolent Health



Evolent Health provides risk-based and non-risk-based services to health plans and providers. Ares served as the administrative agent for a senior secured credit facility to support an acquisition for Evolent Health.

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### McLaren



McLaren Racing is a globally recognized racing team, primarily competing in the Formula One World Championship. McLaren Racing debuted at the Monaco Grand Prix in 1966 and is the only team in history to win motorsport's Triple Crown: the Monaco Grand Prix, Indianapolis 500 and 24 Hours of Le Mans. Ares made a minority investment as part of a consortium led by MSP Sports Capital to help finance the McLaren Racing carve out from its parent company McLaren Group.

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Holdings as of 1/31/2024 are subject to change. The companies highlighted represent current and realized investments in underlying holdings and may be an obligation of one or more entities affiliated with the named company. These companies were selected based on potential public familiarity. CADC's top 10 holdings as of 1/31/24 include (holdings percentage): Kaseya (1.1%), Mimecast (1.0%), Nielson (1.0%), High Street Insurance Partners (1.0%), DigiCert (0.9%), TurnPoint Services (0.9%), eCapital (0.9%), Global Medical Response (0.8%), Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. (0.8%), RSK Group Limited (0.8%). Data shown is for informational purposes only and not a recommendation to buy or sell any security.

All company-specific statistics detailed herein were sourced from the respective company's website.

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We believe that in order to be a successful direct originator in the middle market, it is important to have:

- A scaled platform with a broad geographical footprint
- A multi-channel origination strategy
- Diverse product capabilities
- Flexible sources of capital
- Deep credit experience

In our view, these attributes will lead to the origination of a broader set of investment opportunities, greater asset selectivity, and improved long-term credit decisions. CADC was established to offer credit capabilities to a broader base of investors via a daily-NAV interval fund, which is an unlisted closed-end investment company registered under the 1940 Act.

## The Ares Edge



Founded with a consistent credit-based approach to investing



Experienced management team with integrated and collaborative approach



20+ year track record of generating compelling risk-adjusted returns through market cycles



One of the leaders in leveraged finance and private credit investing and origination

\*CION Ares Diversified Credit Fund (CADC) is a diversified, non-traded closed-end management investment company registered under the 1940 Act as an interval fund.

*This is neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to purchase the securities described herein. An offering is made only by the prospectus which must precede or accompany this brochure. Please read the prospectus prior to making any investment decision and consider the risks, charges, expenses and other important information described therein. A copy of the prospectus may be obtained by contacting CION Securities at 800.435.5697 or by visiting [cioninvestments.com](http://cioninvestments.com).*

**Risks and limitations include, but are not limited to, the following: investment instruments may be susceptible to economic downturns; most of the underlying credit instruments are unrated or rated below investment grade and considered speculative; there is no guarantee all shares can be repurchased; the Fund's business and operations may be impacted by fluctuations in the capital markets; the Fund is a diversified, closed-end investment company with limited operating history; diversification does not eliminate the risk of investment losses. Unlike most closed-end funds, Shares are not listed on any securities Exchange. The Fund intends to provide liquidity through quarterly offers to repurchase a limited amount of the Fund's Shares (at least 5%). An investment in the Fund is considered illiquid.**

As with any asset class, there are certain risks associated with private credit. Credit risk is the risk of nonpayment of scheduled interest or principal payments on a debt investment. Because private credit can be debt investments in non-investment grade borrowers, the risk of default may be greater. Should a borrower fail to make a payment, or default, this may affect the overall return to the lender. Further, private credit investments are generally illiquid which require longer investment time horizons than other investments. For these and other reasons, this asset class is considered speculative and may not be suitable for everyone.

Please be aware that the Fund, the Advisor, the Distributor or the Wholesale Marketing Agent and their respective officers, directors, employees and affiliates do not undertake to provide impartial investment advice or to give advice in a Fiduciary capacity in connection with the Fund's public offering of shares.

CION Securities, LLC (CSL) is the wholesale marketing agent for CION Ares Diversified Credit Fund, advised by CION Ares Management, LLC (CAM) and distributed by ALPS Distributors, Inc (ADI). CSL, member FINRA, and CAM are not affiliated with ADI, member FINRA.

