

FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp
Form 497
February 04, 2013
Table of Contents

Filed Pursuant to Rule 497
Registration Statement No. 333-182785

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2013

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated August 30, 2012)

Shares

Common Stock

Fidus Investment Corporation is an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. We are offering _____ shares of our common stock to fund investments in lower middle-market companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and for working capital and general corporate purposes.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol FDUS. On February 1, 2013, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$18.03 per share. We are required to determine the net asset value per share of our common stock on a quarterly basis. As of September 30, 2012, our net asset value per share was \$15.27.

Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC serves as our investment advisor and as our administrator.

We generally invest in securities that would be rated below investment grade if they were rated by rating agencies. Below investment grade securities, which are often referred to as high yield or junk, have speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

Investing in our common stock is speculative and involves numerous risks, and you could lose your entire investment if any of the risks occur. Among these risks is the risk associated with leverage and dilution. For more information regarding these risks, please see Risk Factors beginning on page 11 of the accompanying prospectus.

Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before investing, and keep it for future reference. It concisely sets forth important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our securities. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Investor Relations, by accessing our website at <http://www.fidus.com> or by calling us collect at (847) 859-3940. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into, and you should not consider that information to be part of, this

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains such information.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this preliminary prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Public offering price	\$	\$
Underwriting discount (4.00%)	\$	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to us (1)	\$	\$

(1) We estimate that we will incur approximately \$300,000 in offering expenses in connection with this offering.

The underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional _____ shares of common stock at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this preliminary prospectus supplement solely to cover any over-allotments. If the over-allotment option is exercised in full, the total public offering price will be \$ _____, the total underwriting discount (4.00%) will be \$ _____, and the total proceeds to us, before deducting estimated expenses payable by us of \$300,000, will be \$ _____.

The underwriters expect to deliver the shares on or about February _____, 2013.

Joint Bookrunning Managers

RAYMOND JAMES

BAIRD

Co-Lead Managers

BB&T Capital Markets

Oppenheimer & Co.

The date of this prospectus supplement is February _____, 2013

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Prospectus Supplement	
<u>Summary</u>	S-1
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	S-8
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements</u>	S-10
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-12
<u>Capitalization</u>	S-13
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions</u>	S-14
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	S-16
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	S-18
<u>Additional Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	S-35
<u>Underwriting</u>	S-37
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-40
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	S-40
<u>Available Information</u>	S-40
<u>Index to Financial Information</u>	S-41
Prospectus	
<u>Summary</u>	1
<u>Fees and Expenses</u>	8
<u>Risk Factors</u>	11
<u>Special Note Regarding Forward-looking Statements</u>	38
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	40
<u>Formation Transactions</u>	41
<u>Price Range of Common Stock and Distributions</u>	42
<u>Selected Financial Data</u>	44
<u>Selected Quarterly Financial Data</u>	46
<u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	47
<u>Senior Securities</u>	62
<u>The Company</u>	63
<u>Portfolio Companies</u>	74
<u>Management</u>	77
<u>Management and Other Agreements</u>	88
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	95
<u>Control Persons and Principal Stockholders</u>	97
<u>Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value</u>	98
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	102
<u>Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations</u>	104
<u>Description of Our Capital Stock</u>	114
<u>Description of Our Preferred Stock</u>	120
<u>Description of Our Subscription Rights</u>	121
<u>Description of Our Debt Securities</u>	122
<u>Description of Our Warrants</u>	132
<u>Regulation</u>	134
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	140
<u>Custodian, Transfer and Dividend Paying Agent and Registrar</u>	142
<u>Brokerage Allocation and Other Practices</u>	142
<u>Legal Matters</u>	142
<u>Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	142
<u>Available Information</u>	142
<u>Privacy Notice</u>	143
<u>Index to Financial Statements</u>	F-1

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the common stock we are offering and certain other matters relating to us. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information about the securities which we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to the common stock offered by this preliminary prospectus supplement. For information about our common stock, see *Description of Our Capital Stock* in the accompanying prospectus.

If information varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely only on such information in this prospectus supplement. The information contained in this prospectus supplement supersedes any inconsistent information included in the accompanying prospectus. In various places in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, we refer you to other sections of such documents for additional information by indicating the caption heading of such other sections. The page on which each principal caption included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus can be found is listed in the table of contents above. All such cross references in this prospectus supplement are to captions contained in this prospectus supplement and not in the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise stated.

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS. WE HAVE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS HAVE NOT, AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER PERSON TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. IF ANYONE PROVIDES YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON IT. WE ARE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS ARE NOT, MAKING AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION APPEARING IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE ONLY AS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DATES, REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS OR ANY SALES OF THE SECURITIES. OUR BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PROSPECTS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THOSE DATES.

(ii)

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. Together, these documents describe the specific terms of the shares we are offering. You should read the entire prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus carefully, including Risk Factors, Selected Financial Data, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the financial statements contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Except as otherwise noted, all information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus assumes no exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

Fidus Investment Corporation is a Maryland corporation, formed on February 14, 2011, for the purpose of acquiring 100.0% of the equity interests in Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P., or the Fund, and its general partner, Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, raising capital in its initial public offering, or IPO, which was completed in June 2011, and thereafter, operating as an externally managed business development company, or BDC, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the 1940 Act. The Fund is licensed as a small business investment company, or SBIC, by the United States Small Business Administration, or SBA. Simultaneously with the consummation of our IPO, we acquired all of the equity interests in the Fund and its former general partner as described in the accompanying prospectus under Formation Transactions, whereby the Fund became our wholly owned subsidiary. Unless otherwise noted in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, the terms we, us, our, the Company and Fidus refer to the Fund prior to the IPO and to Fidus Investment Corporation and its subsidiaries, including the Fund, for the periods after the IPO.

As used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the term our investment advisor refers to Fidus Capital, LLC prior to the Formation Transactions and Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC after the Formation Transactions. The investment professionals of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC were also the investment professionals of Fidus Capital, LLC.

Fidus Investment Corporation

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies, which we define as U.S. based companies having revenues between \$10.0 million and \$150.0 million. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. We were formed to continue and to expand the business of the Fund, which was formed in February 2007 and is licensed by the SBA as a SBIC. Our investment strategy includes partnering with business owners, management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives. We seek to maintain a diversified portfolio of investments in order to help mitigate the potential effects of adverse economic events related to particular companies, regions or industries.

We invest in companies that possess some or all of the following attributes: predictable revenues; positive cash flows; defensible and/or leading market positions; diversified customer and supplier bases; and proven management teams with strong operating discipline. We target companies in the lower middle-market with annual earnings, before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, between \$3.0 million and \$20.0 million; however, we may from time

Table of Contents

to time opportunistically make investments in larger or smaller companies. Our investments typically range between \$5.0 million and \$15.0 million per portfolio company.

As of September 30, 2012, we had debt and equity investments in 29 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$251.9 million. The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of September 30, 2012 was 15.4%. Yields are computed using the effective interest rates as of September 30, 2012, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments. There can be no assurance that the weighted average yield will remain at its current level.

MARKET OPPORTUNITY

We believe that the limited amount of capital available to lower middle-market companies, coupled with the desire of these companies for flexible and partnership-oriented sources of capital, creates an attractive investment environment for us. From our perspective, lower middle-market companies have faced difficulty raising debt capital in both the capital markets and private markets. As a result of the difficulties in the credit markets and fewer sources of capital for lower middle-market companies, we see opportunities for improved risk-adjusted returns. Furthermore, we believe with a large pool of uninvested private equity capital seeking debt capital to complete transactions and a substantial supply of refinancing opportunities, there is an opportunity to attain appealing risk-adjusted returns on debt and equity investments. See *The Company* in the accompanying prospectus for more information.

BUSINESS STRATEGY

We intend to accomplish our goal of becoming the premier provider of capital to and value-added partner of lower middle-market companies by:

leveraging the experience of our investment advisor;

capitalizing on our strong transaction sourcing network;

serving as a value-added partner with customized financing solutions;

employing rigorous due diligence and underwriting processes focused on capital preservation;

actively managing our portfolio;

maintaining portfolio diversification; and

benefiting from lower cost of capital through our SBIC subsidiary.

Investment Criteria/Guidelines

We use the following criteria and guidelines in evaluating investment opportunities and constructing our portfolio. However, not all of these criteria and guidelines have been, or will be, met in connection with each of our investments.

Value Orientation/Positive Cash Flow. Our investment advisor places a premium on analysis of business fundamentals from an investor's perspective and has a distinct value orientation. We

Table of Contents

focus on companies with proven business models in which we can invest at relatively low multiples of operating cash flow. We also typically invest in companies with a history of profitability and minimum trailing twelve month EBITDA of \$3.0 million. We do not invest in start-up companies, turn-around situations or companies that we believe have unproven business plans.

Experienced Management Teams with Meaningful Equity Ownership. We target portfolio companies that have management teams with significant experience and/or relevant industry experience coupled with meaningful equity ownership. We believe management teams with these attributes are more likely to manage the companies in a manner that protects our debt investment and enhances the value of our equity investment.

Niche Market Leaders with Defensible Market Positions. We invest in companies that have developed defensible and/or leading positions within their respective markets or market niches and are well positioned to capitalize on growth opportunities. We favor companies that demonstrate significant competitive advantages, which we believe helps to protect their market position and profitability.

Diversified Customer and Supplier Base. We prefer to invest in companies that have a diversified customer and supplier base. Companies with a diversified customer and supplier base are generally better able to endure economic downturns, industry consolidation and shifting customer preferences.

Significant Invested Capital. We believe the existence of significant underlying equity value provides important support to our debt investments. With respect to our debt investments, we look for portfolio companies where we believe aggregate enterprise value significantly exceeds aggregate indebtedness, after consideration of our investment.

Viable Exit Strategy. We invest in companies that we believe will provide a steady stream of cash flow to repay our loans and reinvest in their respective businesses. In addition, we also seek to invest in companies whose business models and expected future cash flows offer attractive exit possibilities for our equity investments. We expect to exit our investments typically through one of three scenarios: (a) the sale of the company resulting in repayment of all outstanding debt and equity; (b) the recapitalization of the company through which our investments are replaced with debt or equity from a third party or parties; or (c) the repayment of the initial or remaining principal amount of our debt investment from cash flow generated by the company. In some investments, there may be scheduled amortization of some portion of our debt investment which would result in a partial exit of our investment prior to the maturity of the debt investment.

ABOUT OUR ADVISOR

Our investment activities are managed by Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, our investment advisor. Pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory and management agreement, which we refer to as the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor is responsible for determining the composition of our portfolio, including sourcing potential investments, conducting research and diligence on potential investments and equity sponsors, analyzing investment opportunities, structuring our investments and monitoring our investments and portfolio companies on an ongoing basis. Our investment advisor's investment professionals seek to capitalize on their significant deal origination and sourcing, credit underwriting, due diligence, investment structuring, execution, portfolio management and monitoring experience. These

Table of Contents

professionals have developed a broad network of contacts within the investment community, have gained extensive experience investing in assets that constitute our primary focus and have expertise in investing across all levels of the capital structure of lower middle-market companies. For information regarding the people who control our investment advisor and their affiliations with the Company, see **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Investment Advisory Agreement** in the accompanying prospectus.

Our relationship with our investment advisor is governed by and dependent on the Investment Advisory Agreement and may be subject to conflicts of interest. We pay our investment advisor a fee for its services under the Investment Advisory Agreement consisting of two components a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.75% of the average value of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts). The incentive fee consists of two parts. The first part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears and equals 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the immediately preceding quarter, subject to a 2.0% preferred return, or hurdle, and a catch up feature. The second part is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each fiscal year in an amount equal to 20.0% of all realized capital gains, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. We accrue, but do not pay, a capital gains incentive fee in connection with any unrealized capital appreciation, as appropriate. For more information about how we compensate our investment advisor and the related conflicts of interest, see **Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement** and **Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Conflicts of Interest** in the accompanying prospectus.

Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how our investment advisor addresses conflicts of interest associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors periodically review our investment advisor's services and fees as well as its portfolio management decisions and portfolio performance. In connection with these reviews, our independent directors consider whether the fees and expenses (including those related to leverage) that we pay to our investment advisor remain appropriate.

Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that is registered as an investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Advisers Act. In addition, Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC serves as our administrator and provides us with office space, equipment and clerical, book-keeping and record-keeping services pursuant to an administration agreement, which we refer to as the Administration Agreement.

Recent Developments

In October 2012, we made a follow-on equity investment of \$1.1 million in ACFP Management, Inc.

On October 15, 2012, we submitted an application to the SBA for a second SBIC license, after receiving a **Green Light** letter from the SBA on July 30, 2012, allowing us to proceed with such an application. We have received no assurances from the SBA that our application for a second license will be approved, or of the timeframe in which we would receive a license in the event that our application is approved by the SBA.

On October 29, 2012, our board of directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.38 per share payable on December 21, 2012 to stockholders of record as of December 7, 2012.

Table of Contents

In November 2012, we invested \$9.8 million of subordinated notes and equity in EBL, LLC, doing business as EbLens, a leading retailer of urban-inspired footwear, apparel, and accessories, with 36 stores located in the Northeast.

By correspondence dated November 12, 2012, Charles G. Phillips resigned as a director of our board of directors, and as a member of our Audit and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees, effective as of November 12, 2012. On November 13, 2012, our board of directors elected John A. Mazzarino as an independent director, effective November 13, 2012, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Phillips' departure. Mr. Mazzarino will serve until our 2013 annual meeting of the stockholders. Mr. Phillips informed the board of directors that his resignation was for personal reasons and was not due to any disagreements with the Company relating to the Company's operations, policies or practices. Mr. Mazzarino was also elected to serve as a member of the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

In December 2012, we made a \$4.4 million follow-on investment in additional subordinated notes and equity of Medsurant Holdings, LLC.

In December 2012, we invested \$12.5 million of subordinated notes and equity in IOS Acquisitions, Inc., a leading independent inspection and value-added service provider for Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) and drill tools service locations and mobile operations serving all of the major oil and natural gas producing regions in the contiguous United States.

In December 2012, we made a \$0.1 million follow-on equity investment in Westminster Cracker Company, Inc.

In December 2012, we exited our portfolio investment in Innovative Product Achievement, LLC in connection with a refinancing transaction. We received total proceeds of approximately \$6.5 million, including repayment of our subordinated loans in full and prepayment premiums.

In January 2013, we made a follow-on preferred equity investment of \$0.03 million in K2 Industrial Services, Inc. In addition, we made a commitment to fund an additional \$2.2 million in subordinated notes and \$0.07 million in preferred equity, subject to certain conditions.

In January 2013, we invested \$15.0 million of subordinated notes in FocusVision Worldwide, Inc., the leading global provider of live video transmission, analysis and archive solutions for the qualitative market research industry.

Since September 30, 2012, we have issued an additional \$3.0 million in SBA debentures.

Table of Contents

The Offering

Common stock offered by us	shares
Common stock outstanding prior to this offering	11,953,847 shares
Common stock to be outstanding after this offering(1)	shares
Over-allotment option	shares
Use of proceeds	<p>The net proceeds from this offering (without exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option and before deducting estimated expenses payable by us of approximately \$300,000) will be \$.</p> <p>We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to make investments in lower middle-market companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and for working capital and general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds" in this prospectus supplement for more information.</p>
Dividends and distributions	<p>Our dividends and other distributions, if any, are determined and declared by our board of directors from time to time. Our ability to declare dividends depends on our earnings, our overall financial condition (including our liquidity position), our ability to maintain our qualification as a regulated investment company, or RIC, compliance with applicable BDC regulations, our compliance with applicable SBIC regulations and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant from time to time. We typically pay quarterly dividends and may pay other distributions to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution.</p>
Taxation	<p>We have elected to be treated as a RIC under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders. To maintain our qualification as a RIC we must satisfy certain requirements, including the requirement that we distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of our net long-term capital losses, if any. See "Distributions" and "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus.</p>

Table of Contents

Effective trading at a discount	Shares of closed-end investment companies, including business development companies, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. The risk that our shares may trade at a discount to our net asset value is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our shares will trade above, at or below net asset value. See Risk Factors and Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value in the accompanying prospectus.
Risk Factors	See Risk Factors beginning on page 11 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.
The Nasdaq Global Select Market Symbol	FDUS
(1) The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering is based on 11,953,847 shares outstanding as of February 1, 2013 and, unless we indicate otherwise, excludes	shares of common stock that the underwriters have an option to purchase pursuant to their over-allotment option.

Table of Contents**FEES AND EXPENSES**

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you, us, the Company or Fidus, or that we will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in us.

Stockholder transaction expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)	4.0%(1)
Offering expenses borne by us (as a percentage of offering price)	%(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	(3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid by us (as a percentage of offering price)	%

Annual expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock)⁽⁴⁾:

Base management fee	2.7%(5)
Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement	2.6%(6)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	4.3%(7)
Other expenses	1.7%(8)
Total annual expenses	11.3%(9)

- (1) The underwriting discount with respect to our shares of common stock sold in this offering, which is a one-time fee, is the only sales load paid in connection with this offering.
- (2) The offering expenses of this offering borne by us are estimated to be approximately \$300,000. If the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full, the offering expenses borne by us (as a percentage of the offering price) will be %.
- (3) The expenses of administering our dividend reinvestment plan are included in other expenses.
- (4) Annual expenses is calculated as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock because such expenses are ultimately paid by our common stockholders. Offering expenses, if any, will be borne directly or indirectly by our common stockholders. Net assets attributable to common stock equals average net assets for the nine months ended September 30, 2012.
- (5) Our base management fee is 1.75% of the average value of our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts) and are estimated by assuming the base management fee remains consistent with the fees incurred for the nine months ended September 30, 2012. We may from time to time decide it is appropriate to change the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement. Under the 1940 Act, any material change to our Investment Advisory Agreement must be submitted to stockholders for approval. The 2.7% reflected in the table is calculated on our net assets (rather than our total assets). See Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement in the accompanying prospectus.
- (6) This item represents our investment advisor's incentive fees based on annualizing actual amounts earned on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and assumes that the capital gains incentive fees payable at the end of the 2012 calendar year will be based on the actual cumulative realized capital gains net of cumulative realized losses and unrealized capital depreciation as of September 30, 2012. The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 2.0% quarterly (8.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a catch-up provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment advisor receives no incentive fee until our pre-incentive fee net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.0% but then receives, as a catch-up, 100.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter, our investment advisor will receive 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

The second part, payable annually in arrears, equals 20.0% of our realized capital gains net of realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the fiscal year (or upon the termination of the Investment Advisory Agreement, as of the termination date), less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. We accrue, but do not pay, a capital gains incentive fee in connection

Table of Contents

with any net unrealized capital appreciation, as appropriate. Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement does not include an accrual for a capital gains incentive fee of \$0.7 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 because no capital gains incentive fee was earned and payable under the Investment Advisory Agreement.

See Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement in the accompanying prospectus.

- (7) Interest payments on borrowed funds represent our annualized interest payments on SBA debentures as of September 30, 2012, adjusted for projected increases in outstanding SBA debentures. As of September 30, 2012, we had outstanding SBA debentures of \$141.5 million, with capacity to borrow up to an aggregate of \$150.0 million. This item is based on the sum of (i) actual interest expense for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and annualized for a full year, plus (ii) an estimated increase in outstanding SBA debentures of \$8.5 million at a fixed rate of 3.5%. If, in the future, we enter into a credit facility or issue any debt securities, interest payments on borrowed funds will include estimated annual interest payments for any amounts outstanding under such credit facility or any debt securities we may issue. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors' assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.
- (8) Other expenses represent our estimated annual operating expenses, including professional fees, directors' fees, insurance costs, expenses of our dividend reinvestment plan and payments under the Administration Agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by our administrator. See Management and Other Agreements Administration Agreement in the accompanying prospectus. Other expenses exclude interest payments on borrowed funds, and if we issue debt securities or preferred stock, interest payments on debt securities and distributions with respect to preferred stock. We currently do not have any class of securities outstanding other than common stock. Other expenses are based on actual other expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and annualized for a full year.
- (9) Total annual expenses as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage our net assets and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the total annual expenses percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets, rather than the total assets including assets that have been purchased with borrowed amounts. If the total annual expenses percentage were calculated instead as a percentage of average consolidated total assets for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, our total annual expenses would be 6.2% of average consolidated total assets.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in us. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents and that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above, and that you would pay a sales load of 4.00% (the underwriting discount to be paid by us with respect to common stock sold by us in this offering).

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5.0% annual return	\$ 156	\$ 365	\$ 548	\$ 909

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5.0% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5.0%. The incentive fee under the Investment Advisory Agreement, which, assuming a 5.0% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the distribution. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about us, our current and prospective portfolio investments, our industry, our beliefs, and our assumptions. Words such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates, would, should, targets, projects and variations of these words and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond our control and difficult to predict and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements, including without limitation:

our inexperience operating a BDC;

our dependence on key personnel of our investment advisor and our executive officers;

our ability to maintain or develop referral relationships;

our ability to manage our business effectively;

our ability to receive a second SBIC license;

our use of leverage;

the availability of additional capital on attractive terms or at all;

uncertain valuations of our portfolio investments;

competition for investment opportunities;

actual and potential conflicts of interest with our investment advisor;

potential divergent interests of our investment advisor and our stockholders arising from our management and incentive fee structure;

constraint on investment due to access to material nonpublic information;

other potential conflicts of interest;

SBA regulations affecting our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary;

changes in interest rates;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business and portfolio investments;

fluctuations in our quarterly operating results;

our ability to maintain our status as a RIC and as a BDC;

the timing, form and amount of any distributions from our portfolio companies;

S-10

Table of Contents

changes in laws or regulations applicable to us;

dilution risks related to issuing shares below our current net asset value;

possible resignation of our investment advisor or administrator;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

risks associated with investing in lower middle-market companies;

the ability of our investment advisor to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria;

our ability to invest in qualifying assets; and

our ability to identify and timely close on investment opportunities.

Although we believe that the assumptions on which these forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, any of those assumptions could prove to be inaccurate, and as a result, the forward-looking statements based on those assumptions also could be inaccurate. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans and objectives will be achieved. These risks and uncertainties include those described or identified in Risk Factors and elsewhere in the accompanying prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements as a prediction of actual results, which apply only as of the date of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. We expressly disclaim any responsibilities to update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by law. The forward-looking statements and projections contained in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from this offering are estimated to be approximately \$ (or approximately \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) after deducting underwriting discounts of \$ (or \$ if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full) and estimated offering expenses of approximately \$300,000 payable by us. We may change the size of this offering based on demand and market conditions.

We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering to invest in lower middle-market companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and for working capital and general corporate purposes. Pending such use, we will invest the net proceeds of this offering primarily in short-term securities consistent with our BDC election and our qualification as a RIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. See Regulation Temporary Investments in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our capitalization:

on an actual basis as of September 30, 2012; and

on an as-adjusted basis giving effect to the sale of _____ shares of our common stock in this offering at the public offering price of \$ _____ per share, less estimated underwriting discounts and offering expenses payable by us.

This table should be read in conjunction with our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements and notes thereto included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of September 30, 2012	
	Actual	As-adjusted for this Offering (1)
	(Unaudited)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 68,129,793	\$ _____
Borrowings (SBA debentures)	141,500,000	141,500,000
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share; 100,000,000 shares authorized, 11,930,084 shares issued and outstanding, actual; _____ shares outstanding, as adjusted	11,930	
Additional paid-in capital (2)	177,109,526	
Undistributed net investment income	275,063	275,063
Accumulated net realized gain on investments	1,492,676	1,492,676
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation on investments	3,230,612	3,230,612
Total stockholders' equity	182,119,807	
Total capitalization	\$ 323,619,807	\$ _____

(1) Excludes up to _____ shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the underwriters' over-allotment option.

(2) Pro forma additional paid-in capital has been reduced by the estimated costs of the offering payable by us and the underwriting discounts.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

Our common stock began trading on June 21, 2011 on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol FDUS. Effective January 3, 2012, our common stock is included in the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Prior to June 21, 2011, there was no established public trading market for our common stock. The following table lists the high and low closing sale price for our common stock, and the closing sale price as a percentage of net asset value, or NAV, since shares of our common stock began being regularly quoted on the Nasdaq Global Select Market.

Period	NAV (1)	Closing Sales Price		Premium/ (Discount) of High Sales Price to NAV (2)	Premium/ (Discount) of Low Sales Price to NAV (2)	Cash Distributions Per Share (3)
		High	Low			
Year ended December 31, 2011						
Second Quarter (4)	\$ 14.82	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.81	1.2%	(0.1)%	\$
Third Quarter	14.77	15.00	11.33	1.6	(23.3)	0.32
Fourth Quarter	14.90	13.52	11.73	(9.3)	(21.3)	0.32
Year ended December 31, 2012						
First Quarter	\$ 14.94	\$ 14.38	\$ 12.85	(3.7)%	(14.0)%	\$ 0.34
Second Quarter	15.02	15.17	13.22	1.0	(12.0)	0.36
Third Quarter	15.27	16.78	14.89	9.9	(2.5)	0.38
Fourth Quarter	*	17.00	14.55	*	*	0.38
Year ended December 31, 2013						
First Quarter (through February 1, 2013)	*	\$ 18.06	\$ 16.52	*	*	*

- (1) Net asset value per share is determined as of the last day in the applicable quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of the each period.
- (2) Calculated as of the respective high or low closing sales price divided by net asset value as of the last day in the applicable quarter.
- (3) Represents the distribution declared in the specified quarter. We have adopted an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a distribution, then stockholders' cash distributions will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash distributions. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan in the accompanying prospectus.
- (4) Reflects the period from June 21, 2011 (commencement of trading) to June 30, 2011.

* Not determinable at the time of filing.

Shares of BDCs may trade at a market price that is less than the value of the net assets (i.e., the net asset value) attributable to those shares. Since the Company's initial public offering in June of 2011, the Company's shares of common stock have traded at times at a discount to the net assets attributable to those shares. As of February 1, 2013, the Company's shares of common stock traded at a premium of approximately 18.1% of the net asset value attributable to those shares as of September 30, 2012. The possibilities that our shares of common stock will trade at a discount from net asset value or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term are separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value will decrease. It is not possible to predict whether the common stock that will be sold in the offering will trade at, above, or below net asset value.

We intend to continue to pay quarterly distributions to our stockholders. Our quarterly distributions, if any, are determined by our board of directors from time to time. We have elected

Table of Contents

to be taxed as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code beginning with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011. As long as we maintain our qualification as a RIC, we will not be taxed on our investment company taxable income or net capital gain, to the extent that such income or gain is distributed, or deemed to be distributed, to stockholders on a timely basis.

To maintain our qualification as a RIC, we must, among other things, distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and our net short-term capital gain in excess of our net long-term capital loss, if any. In order to avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we currently intend to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98.0% of our net ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year and (3) any net ordinary income and capital gain net income for the preceding calendar year that were not distributed during such year and on which we paid no U.S. federal income tax. We may retain for investment some or all of our net capital gain (i.e., net long-term capital gains in excess of net short-term capital losses) and treat such amounts as deemed distributions to our stockholders. If we do this, you will be treated as if you received an actual distribution of the capital gain we retain and then reinvested the net after-tax proceeds in our common stock. You also may be eligible to claim a tax credit (or, in certain circumstances, a tax refund) equal to your allocable share of the tax we paid on the capital gain deemed distributed to you. Please refer to Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus for further information regarding the consequences of our retention of net capital gain. In the future, we may make actual distributions to our stockholders of our net capital gain. We can offer no assurance that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions and, if we issue senior securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions if doing so causes us to fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios stipulated by the 1940 Act or if distributions are limited by the terms of any of our borrowings. See Regulation and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

We may make distributions that are payable in cash or shares of our stock at the election of each stockholder. Under certain applicable provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations, distributions payable in cash or in shares of stock at the election of stockholders are treated as taxable dividends to the extent of the distributing corporation's current and accumulated earnings and profits. The Internal Revenue Service has issued private letter rulings indicating that such treatment will apply under circumstances in which the total amount of cash distributed is limited to as little as 20.0% of the total distribution. If we decide to make any distributions that are payable in part in shares of our stock, U.S. stockholders receiving such distributions will be required to include the full amount of the distribution (whether received in cash, shares of our stock, or a combination thereof) as ordinary income (or as long-term capital gain to the extent such distribution is properly reported as a capital gain dividend) to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. As a result, a U.S. stockholder may be required to pay tax with respect to such distributions in excess of any cash received. If a U.S. stockholder sells the stock it receives in order to pay this tax, the sales proceeds may be less than the amount included in income with respect to the distribution, depending on the market price of our stock at the time of the sale. Furthermore, with respect to non-U.S. stockholders, we may be required to withhold U.S. federal tax with respect to such distributions, including in respect of all or a portion of such distributions that are payable in stock. In addition, if a significant number of our stockholders determine to sell shares of our stock in order to pay taxes owed on such distributions, it may put downward pressure on the trading price of shares of our stock.

We will report certain U.S. federal income tax information with respect to our distributions to our stockholders on IRS Form 1099-DIV after the end of the year. Our ability to pay distributions could be affected by future business performance, liquidity, capital needs, alternative investment opportunities and loan covenants.

Table of Contents**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial data below reflects the consolidated operations of Fidus Investment Corporation and its subsidiaries, including the Fund. The selected financial information as of December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, is derived from the consolidated financial statements that have been audited by McGladrey LLP, independent auditors. Financial information prior to our IPO in June 2011 is that of the Fund. The selected financial data for the period from May 1, 2007 (inception) through December 31, 2007, statement of assets and liabilities data as of December 31, 2008, and the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 is unaudited. However, in our opinion, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation have been made. This financial data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto and

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	Period from May 1 (inception) through December 31, 2007 (unaudited)	Year Ended December 31,				Nine Months Ended September 30,	
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2011 (unaudited)	2012 (unaudited)
<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>							
Statement of operations data:							
Total investment income	\$ 1,312	\$ 7,504	\$ 14,184	\$ 17,985	\$ 23,387	\$ 16,063	\$ 24,206
Interest expense	272	1,994	3,688	4,962	5,488	4,095	4,663
Management fees, net	1,787	3,087	2,969	3,436	3,182	2,310	3,044
Incentive fees					1,609	536	3,568
All other expenses	496	179	431	627	1,551	977	1,944
Net investment income (loss) before income taxes	(1,243)	2,244	7,096	8,960	11,557	8,145	10,987
Income tax expense					24		13
Net investment income (loss)	(1,243)	2,244	7,096	8,960	11,533	8,145	10,974
Net realized gain (loss) on investments			(5,551)	(3,858)	(12,318)	(7,935)	1,975
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments		(750)	(3,137)	(78)	16,170	10,876	1,346
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(1,243)	1,494	(1,592)	5,024	15,385	11,086	14,295
Per Share Data ⁽¹⁾:							
Net asset value (at end of period)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 14.90	\$ 14.77	\$ 15.27
Net investment income	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.22	0.86	1.14
Net gain (loss) on investments	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.40	0.32	0.35
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.63	1.18	1.49
Dividends (post IPO)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.64	0.32	1.08
Other data:							
Weighted average annual yield on debt investments ⁽²⁾	15.7%	15.0%	15.6%	15.0%	15.3%	15.5%	15.4%
Number of portfolio companies at period end	4	9	15	17	23	22	29
Expense ratios (as percentage of average net assets) ⁽¹⁾ :							
Operating expenses	23.7%	12.4%	7.5%	8.6%	4.7%	2.8%	5.7%
Interest expense	2.8%	7.6%	8.0%	10.5%	4.0%	3.0%	3.1%

Table of Contents

- (1) Per share data and average net assets are presented as if the Formation Transaction and IPO had occurred on January 1, 2011.
- (2) Yields are computed using the effective interest rates as of the balance sheet date, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments, but excluding any debt investments on non-accrual status.

	As of December 31,					As of
	2007 (unaudited)	2008	2009	2010	2011	September 30, 2012 (unaudited)
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>					
Statement of assets and liabilities data:						
Total investments at fair value	\$ 33,151	\$ 75,849	\$ 122,900	\$ 141,341	\$ 204,745	\$ 251,917
Total assets	34,905	79,786	129,650	147,377	248,643	328,084
Borrowings	15,250	46,450	79,450	93,500	104,000	141,500
Total net assets	19,591	32,573	48,481	52,005	140,482	182,120

S-17

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with Selected Financial Data, Fidus Investment Corporation's consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The information in this section contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please see Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements in this prospectus supplement and Risk Factors and Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements in the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements.

Organization

Fidus Investment Corporation was formed as a Maryland corporation on February 14, 2011. On June 20, 2011, Fidus Investment Corporation acquired all of the limited partnership interests of Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P. (the Fund) and membership interests of Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, its general partner, through the Formation Transactions (as defined in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement), resulting in the Fund becoming our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary. Immediately following the Formation Transactions, we and the Fund elected to be treated as business development companies (BDC) under the 1940 Act and our investment activities have been managed by Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC (our Investment Advisor) and supervised by our Board, a majority of whom are independent of us.

In June 2011, we closed our initial public offering, issuing a total of 5,370,500 shares of common stock at a price of \$15.00 per share resulting in net proceeds of \$73.6 million, after deducting underwriting fees totaling \$5.3 million and transaction costs associated with the offering totaling \$1.7 million. Our shares are listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol FDUS. In September 2012, the Company issued 2,472,500 shares in a follow-on public offering, including shares purchased by the underwriters pursuant to their exercise of the over-allotment option at an offering price of \$16.10 per share resulting in net proceeds of \$38.0 million after deducting underwriting fees and commissions and offering costs totaling \$1.9 million.

The Fund is licensed by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) as a Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) and we plan to continue to operate the Fund as an SBIC, subject to SBA approval, and to utilize the proceeds of the sale of SBA debentures to enhance returns to our stockholders. We have also made, and continue to make, investments directly through Fidus Investment Corporation. We believe that utilizing both entities as investment vehicles provides us with access to a broader array of investment opportunities. Given our access to lower cost capital through the SBA's SBIC debenture program, we expect that the majority of our investments will continue to be made through the Fund. As of September 30, 2012, we had investments in 29 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$251.9 million and cost of \$238.4 million.

Business Overview

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies, which we define as U.S. based companies having revenues between \$10.0 million and \$150.0 million. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. Our investment strategy includes partnering with business owners,

Table of Contents

management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives. We seek to maintain a diversified portfolio of investments in order to help mitigate the potential effects of adverse economic events related to particular companies, regions or industries.

Revenues: We generate revenue in the form of interest income on debt investments and capital gains and distributions, if any, on equity investments. Our debt investments, whether in the form of mezzanine, senior secured or unitranche loans, typically have a term of three to seven years and bear interest at a fixed rate but may bear interest at a floating rate. In some instances, we receive payments on our debt investments based on scheduled amortization of the outstanding balances. In addition, we receive repayments of some of our debt investments prior to their scheduled maturity date. The frequency or volume of these repayments fluctuates significantly from period to period. Our portfolio activity may reflect the proceeds of sales of securities. In some cases, our investments provide for deferred interest payments or payment-in-kind interest. The principal amount of loans and any accrued but unpaid interest generally become due at the maturity date. In addition, we may generate revenue in the form of commitment, origination, amendment, or structuring fees and fees for providing managerial assistance. Loan origination fees, original issue discount and market discount or premium, if any, are capitalized, and we accrete or amortize such amounts as interest income. We record prepayment premiums on loans as fee income. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis to the extent that the Company expects to collect such amounts. Interest and dividend income is accrued based upon the outstanding principal amount and contractual terms of debt and preferred equity investments. Interest is accrued on a daily basis. Dividend income is recorded as dividends are declared or at the point an obligation exists for the portfolio company to make a distribution. Distributions of earnings from portfolio companies are evaluated to determine if the distribution is income or a return of capital.

We recognize realized gains or losses on investments based on the difference between the net proceeds from the disposition and the amortized cost basis of the investment, without regard to unrealized gains or losses previously recognized. We record current period changes in fair value of investments that are measured at fair value as a component of the net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments in the consolidated statements of operations.

Expenses: All investment professionals of our Investment Advisor, when and to the extent engaged in providing investment advisory and management services to us, and the compensation and routine overhead expenses of personnel allocable to these services to us, are provided and paid for by our Investment Advisor and not by us. We bear all other out-of-pocket costs and expenses of our operations and transactions, including, without limitation, those relating to:

organization;

calculating our net asset value (including the cost and expenses of any independent valuation firm);

fees and expenses incurred by our Investment Advisor under the Investment Advisory Agreement or payable to third parties, including agents, consultants or other advisors, in monitoring financial and legal affairs for us and in monitoring our investments and performing due diligence on our prospective portfolio companies or otherwise relating to, or associated with, evaluating and making investments;

interest payable on debt, if any, incurred to finance our investments;

offerings of our common stock and other securities;

investment advisory fees and management fees;

Table of Contents

administration fees and expenses, if any, payable under the Administration Agreement (including payments under the Administration Agreement between us and our Investment Advisor based upon our allocable portion of our Investment Advisor's overhead in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent and the allocable portion of the cost of our chief compliance officer, our chief financial officer, and their respective staffs);

transfer agent, dividend agent and custodial fees and expenses;

federal and state registration fees;

all costs of registration and listing our shares on any securities exchange;

U.S. federal, state and local taxes;

independent directors' fees and expenses;

costs of preparing and filing reports or other documents required by the SEC or other regulators including printing costs;

costs of any reports, proxy statements or other notices to stockholders, including printing and mailing costs;

our allocable portion of any fidelity bond, directors and officers/errors and omissions liability insurance, and any other insurance premiums;

direct costs and expenses of administration, including printing, mailing, long distance telephone, copying, secretarial and other staff, independent auditors and outside legal costs;

proxy voting expenses; and

all other expenses reasonably incurred by us or our Investment Advisor in connection with administering our business.

Portfolio Composition, Investment Activity and Yield

During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we invested \$57.7 million in seven new and five existing portfolio companies. The new investments consisted of subordinated notes (\$26.1 million, or 45.2%), senior secured loans (\$26.1 million, or 45.2%), warrants (\$3.5 million, or 6.1%) and equity securities (\$2.0 million, or 3.5%). During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 we received proceeds from repayments and sales of investments of \$17.9 million. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we invested \$78.0 million in nine new and five existing portfolio companies. The new investments consisted of subordinated notes (\$64.2 million, or 82.4%), senior secured loans (\$4.8 million, or 6.2%), warrants (\$2.4 million, or 3.0%) and equity securities (\$6.6 million, or 8.4%). During the year ended December 31, 2011 we received proceeds from repayments of principal of \$23.3 million.

As of September 30, 2012, our investment portfolio totaled \$251.9 million and consisted of 29 portfolio companies. As of September 30, 2012, our debt portfolio was comprised entirely of fixed rate investments. Overall, the portfolio had a net unrealized appreciation of \$13.6 million as of September 30, 2012. Our average portfolio company investment at amortized cost was \$8.2 million as of September 30, 2012.

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

As of December 31, 2011, our investment portfolio totaled \$204.7 million and consisted of 23 portfolio companies. As of December 31, 2011, our debt portfolio was comprised entirely of fixed rate investments. Overall, the portfolio had a net unrealized appreciation of \$12.2 million as of December 31, 2011. Our average portfolio company investment at amortized cost was \$8.4 million as of December 31, 2011.

S-20

Table of Contents

The weighted average yield on debt investments at their cost basis at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was 15.4% and 15.3%, respectively. Yields are computed using the effective interest rates as of the balance sheet date, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments, but excluding any debt investments on non-accrual status.

The following table shows the portfolio composition by investment type at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments:

	As of September 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011
<u>Cost</u>		
Senior secured loans	13.7%	7.7%
Subordinated notes	74.5	80.6
Equity	9.2	9.3
Warrants	2.6	2.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Fair Value</u>		
Senior secured loans	13.2%	7.3%
Subordinated notes	70.8	76.7
Equity	8.6	9.3
Warrants	7.4	6.7
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The following table shows the portfolio composition by geographic region at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments. The geographic composition is determined by the location of the corporate headquarters of the portfolio company.

	As of September 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011
<u>Cost</u>		
Midwest	26.3%	34.5%
Southwest	20.4	16.8
Northeast	13.9	14.8
Southeast	20.2	18.8
West	19.2	15.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%
<u>Fair Value</u>		
Midwest	24.6%	33.4%
Southwest	23.6	20.3
Northeast	12.5	13.6
Southeast	19.5	17.7
West	19.8	15.0
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Table of Contents

The following tables show the detailed industry composition of our portfolio at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments:

	As of September 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011
<u>Cost</u>		
Transportation services	8.8%	10.3%
Healthcare services	11.4	9.7
Aerospace & defense manufacturing	11.8	10.4
Restaurants	6.2	3.8
Movie theaters	5.4	6.6
Electronic components supplier	7.3	5.0
Industrial cleaning & coatings	5.6	6.8
Utility equipment manufacturing	4.1	5.0
Specialty distribution	4.0	4.9
Financial services	3.9	
Printing services	3.8	4.5
Furniture rental	3.3	4.0
Commercial cleaning	3.5	4.2
Information technology services	3.4	3.0
Specialty cracker manufacturer	3.6	4.3
Retail cleaning	3.3	4.0
Healthcare products	2.6	3.3
Apparel distribution	2.4	3.0
Oil & gas services	2.0	2.5
Debt collection services	2.3	
Laundry services	1.3	2.4
Restoration & mitigation services		2.3
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Table of Contents

	As of September 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011
<u>Fair Value</u>		
Transportation services	12.0%	14.0%
Healthcare services	11.9	10.1
Aerospace & defense manufacturing	11.8	10.2
Restaurants	6.0	3.6
Movie theaters	5.8	7.1
Electronic components supplier	5.7	4.1
Industrial cleaning & coatings	5.2	6.4
Utility equipment manufacturing	4.1	4.8
Specialty distribution	4.0	4.6
Financial services	3.7	
Printing services	3.6	4.4
Furniture rental	3.3	3.7
Commercial cleaning	3.2	3.8
Information technology services	3.2	2.7
Specialty cracker manufacturer	2.9	3.6
Retail cleaning	2.8	3.9
Healthcare products	2.5	3.1
Apparel distribution	2.2	2.8
Oil & gas services	2.5	2.5
Debt collection services	2.2	
Laundry services	1.4	2.5
Restoration & mitigation services		2.1
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Portfolio Asset Quality

We utilize an internally developed investment rating system for our portfolio of investments. Investment Rating 1 is used for investments that involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio and the portfolio company is performing above expectations. Investment Rating 2 is used for investments that are performing substantially within our expectations and the portfolio company's risk factors are neutral or favorable. Each new portfolio investment enters our portfolio with Investment Rating 2. Investment Rating 3 is used for investments performing below expectations and require closer monitoring, but with respect to which we expect a full return of original capital invested and collection of all interest. Investment Rating 4 is used for investments performing materially below expectations, and have the potential for some loss of investment return. Investment Rating 5 is used for investments performing substantially below our expectations and where we expect a loss of principal.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the distribution of our investments on the 1 to 5 investment rating scale at fair value as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011:

Investment Rating	September 30, 2012		December 31, 2011	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percent of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percent of Total Portfolio
	<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>			
1	\$ 16,135	6.4%	\$ 8,715	4.3%
2	227,340	90.2	180,751	88.2
3	8,442	3.4	15,279	7.5
4				
5				
Totals	\$ 251,917	100.0%	\$ 204,745	100.0%

Based upon our investment rating system, the weighted average rating of our portfolio as of both September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was 2.0. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we had no investments on non-accrual status.

Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations***Comparison of three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011****Investment Income*

For the three months ended September 30, 2012, total investment income was \$9.0 million, an increase of \$3.0 million, or 50.9%, over the \$6.0 million of total investment income for the three months ended September 30, 2011. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$3.0 million increase in interest and fee income from investments. The increase in interest and fee income is primarily due to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments in the three months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the prior year period.

Expenses

For the three months ended September 30, 2012, total expenses were \$5.0 million, an increase of \$1.7 million or 50.8%, over the \$3.3 million of total expenses for the three months ended September 30, 2011. Interest expense increased \$0.3 million as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the three months ended September 30, 2012 than the comparable period in 2011. The base management fee increased \$0.4 million due to a higher invested asset base, the incentive fee increased \$1.1 million due to higher net investment income and gains on investments. These increases were partially offset by a \$0.1 million decrease in professional fees primarily due to lower legal costs compared to the prior year period.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$3.0 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$1.7 million increase in total expenses, net investment income increased \$1.3 million, or 50.8% for the three months ended September 30, 2012 to \$4.0 million compared to net investment income of \$2.7 million during the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting From Operations

For the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the total realized gain on investments was \$2.0 million and \$0, respectively. The realized gain in 2012 resulted primarily from the sale of one non-control/non-affiliate investment.

Table of Contents

During the three months ended September 30, 2012, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$0.6 million comprised of \$0.7 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments and \$0.1 million of reclassifications to realized gain on investments (resulting in unrealized appreciation), partially offset by \$0.2 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments. During the three months ended September 30, 2011, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$0.5 million. This consisted of \$0.3 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments and \$0.2 million of net unrealized appreciation on debt investments.

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the three months ended September 30, 2012, was \$6.6 million, or an increase of \$3.4 million compared to a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$3.1 million during the three months ended September 30, 2011.

Comparison of nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011

Investment Income

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, total investment income was \$24.2 million, an increase of \$8.1 million, or 50.7%, over the \$16.1 million of total investment income for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase was primarily attributable to an \$8.0 million increase in interest and fee income from investments due to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 compared to the prior year period.

Expenses

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, total expenses were \$13.2 million, an increase of \$5.3 million or 66.9%, over the \$7.9 million of total expenses for the nine months ended September 30, 2011. The increase in total expenses was attributable to an increase in all expense categories. The base management fee (including management fee offset) increased \$0.7 million, incentive fees increased \$3.0 million and administrative service expenses increased \$0.5 million primarily due to the new Investment Advisory and Administration Agreements. The Investment Advisor voluntarily waived the incentive fee of \$0.1 million for the period June 21, 2011 through June 30, 2011. Interest expense increased \$0.6 million as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 than the comparable period in 2011. Professional fees increased \$0.1 million primarily due to increased legal and accounting costs associated with being a publicly-traded company. Other general and administrative expenses increased \$0.4 million primarily due to increased director fees, insurance costs and other corporate expenses related to being a publicly-traded company.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$8.1 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$5.3 million increase in total expenses, net investment income increased \$2.8 million, or 34.7% for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 to \$11.0 million compared to net investment income of \$8.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting From Operations

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, the total realized gain on investments was \$2.0 million resulting primarily from the sale of one non-control/non-affiliate investment. For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, the total realized loss on investments was \$7.9 million, resulting from one non-control/non-affiliate investment.

Table of Contents

During the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$1.3 million comprised of \$2.3 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments, partially offset by \$1.0 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments. During the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$10.9 million. This consisted of \$3.9 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments and \$7.9 million of reclassifications to realized loss on investments (resulting in unrealized appreciation), partially offset by \$0.9 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments.

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the nine months ended September 30, 2012, was \$14.3 million, or an increase of \$3.2 million compared to a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$11.1 million during the nine months ended September 30, 2011.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of September 30, 2012, we had \$68.1 million in cash and cash equivalents, and our net assets totaled \$182.1 million. We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents on hand, our available SBA leverage and our anticipated cash flows from operations will be adequate to meet our cash needs for our daily operations for at least the next 12 months. We intend to generate additional cash primarily from future offerings of securities, future borrowings as well as cash flows from operations, including income earned from investments in our portfolio companies. On both a short-term and long-term basis, our primary use of funds will be investments in portfolio companies and cash distributions to our stockholders.

Cash Flows

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, we experienced a net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$29.1 million. During that period, we used \$34.7 million in cash in operating activities, primarily for the funding of \$57.7 million of investments, partially offset by \$17.9 million of principal repayments and sales proceeds received and \$11.0 million of net investment income. During the same period, we generated \$63.7 million from financing activities, consisting primarily of proceeds, net of expenses of \$38.0 million from our follow-on equity offering in September 2012 and \$37.5 million from the issuance of SBA debentures. These increases were partially offset by cash dividends paid to stockholders in the amount of \$10.6 million and payment of deferred financing fees totaling \$1.1 million.

For the nine months ended September 30, 2011, we experienced a net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$50.2 million. During that period, we used \$29.1 million in cash in operating activities, primarily due to new investments in portfolio companies of \$37.6 million, partially offset by \$5.3 million in portfolio company investment repayments. During the same period, we generated \$79.3 million from financing activities, consisting primarily of proceeds from our initial public offering of \$73.6 million, net of expenses, and the issuance of \$3.3 million in SBA debentures. These increases were partially offset by dividends to our stockholders of \$3.0 million. In addition, capital contributions from the Fund's partners prior to the Formation Transactions totaled \$7.0 million, while capital distributions to the Fund's partners prior to the Formation Transactions totaled \$1.5 million.

Capital Resources

We anticipate that we will continue to fund our investment activities on a long-term basis through a combination of debt and additional equity capital. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, the Fund, is a licensed SBIC, and has the ability to issue debentures guaranteed by the SBA at favorable interest rates. Under the SBIC Act and the SBA rules applicable to SBICs, an SBIC can

Table of Contents

have outstanding at any time debentures guaranteed by the SBA in an amount up to twice its regulatory capital. The maximum statutory limit on the dollar amount of outstanding debentures guaranteed by the SBA issued by a single SBIC as of September 30, 2012 was \$150.0 million. Debentures guaranteed by the SBA have fixed interest rates that approximate prevailing 10-year Treasury Note rates plus a spread and have a maturity of ten years with interest payable semi-annually. The principal amount of the SBA debentures is not required to be paid before maturity but may be pre-paid at any time. As of September 30, 2012, the Fund had \$141.5 million of outstanding SBA debentures, which had a weighted average interest rate of 4.6%. Based on its \$75.0 million of regulatory capital as of September 30, 2012, the Fund has the current capacity to issue up to an additional \$8.5 million of SBA debentures. For more information on the SBA debentures the Fund has issued, see Note 6 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement.

We are in the process of filing our application with the SBA for a second SBIC license through which we may issue more SBA debentures to fund additional investments; however, we can make no assurances that the application process will be completed successfully or that the SBA will approve such application. If we are approved by the SBA for a second SBIC license, the maximum amount of outstanding SBA debentures for two or more SBICs under common control cannot exceed \$225.0 million. However, as a BDC, we are generally required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total senior securities, which include borrowings and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200.0%. This requirement limits the amount that we may borrow. We received exemptive relief from the SEC to allow us to exclude any indebtedness guaranteed by the SBA and issued by the Fund from the 200.0% asset coverage requirements, which, in turn, enables us to fund more investments with debt capital. However, we have not received exemptive relief for any debt that may be incurred under a second SBIC license, if granted.

As a BDC, we are generally not permitted to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the then-current net asset value per share of our common stock if our Board, including independent directors, determines that such sale is in the best interests of us and our stockholders approve such sale. At our June 6, 2012 Annual Meeting, our stockholders voted and authorized us to sell up to 25.0% of our outstanding shares of common stock at below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock in one or more offerings for a period of one year.

Distributions

In order to maintain our status as a regulated investment company, or RIC and to avoid corporate level tax on the income we distribute to our stockholders, we will be required under the Code to distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, if any, to our stockholders on an annual basis. Additionally, to avoid a 4.0% nondeductible U.S. federal excise tax, we must distribute at least 98.0% of our net ordinary income and 98.2% of our capital gain net income on an annual basis as well as any net ordinary income and net capital gains for preceding years that were not distributed during such years and on which we previously paid no U.S. federal income tax. We intend to continue distributing regular quarterly dividends to our stockholders, as determined by our Board. Our most recent quarterly dividend payment to stockholders was for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and totaled \$4.5 million or \$0.38 per share.

We may not be able to achieve operating results that will allow us to make distributions at a specific level or to increase the amount of our distributions from time to time. In the future, pursuant to SBA guidelines, the Fund may be limited by provisions of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and SBA regulations governing SBICs, from making certain distributions to us that may be necessary to enable us to make the minimum required distributions to our

Table of Contents

stockholders and qualify as a RIC. In addition, we may be limited in our ability to make distributions due to the asset coverage requirements applicable to us as a BDC under the 1940 Act. If we do not make sufficient distributions to our stockholders on an annual basis, we will suffer adverse tax consequences, including the possible loss of our RIC status. We cannot assure stockholders that they will receive any distributions or that we will be able to maintain our RIC status.

To the extent our distributions for a fiscal year exceed our taxable income for such fiscal year, a portion of those distributions may be deemed a return of capital to our stockholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Thus, the source of a distribution to our stockholders may be the original capital invested by the stockholder rather than our income or gains. Stockholders should read any written disclosure accompanying a dividend payment carefully and should not assume that the source of any distribution is our ordinary income or gains.

We have adopted an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a distribution, then stockholders cash distributions will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock unless a stockholder specifically opts out of our dividend reinvestment plan. If a stockholder opts out, that stockholder will receive cash distributions. Although distributions paid in the form of additional shares of our common stock will generally be subject to U.S. federal, state and local taxes in the same manner as cash distributions, stockholders participating in our dividend reinvestment plan will not receive any corresponding cash distributions with which to pay any such applicable taxes.

Current Market Conditions

Though global credit and other financial market conditions have improved and stability has increased throughout the international financial system since the financial crisis, the uncertainty surrounding the United States rapidly increasing national debt, European economic conditions, the automatic federal spending reductions and expiration of tax cuts at year-end, and continuing global economic malaise have kept markets volatile. These unstable conditions could continue for a prolonged period of time. Although we have been able to secure access to additional liquidity, including our public stock offering in 2011, our follow-on equity offering in September 2012 and leverage available through the SBIC program, there is no assurance that debt or equity capital will be available to us in the future on favorable terms, or at all.

Recent Developments

In October 2012, we made a follow-on equity investment of \$1.1 million in ACFP Management, Inc.

On October 15, 2012, we submitted an application to the SBA for a second SBIC license, after receiving a Green Light letter from the SBA on July 30, 2012 allowing us to proceed with such an application. We have received no assurances from the SBA that our application for a second license will be approved, or of the timeframe in which we would receive a license in the event that our application is approved by the SBA.

On October 29, 2012, the Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.38 per share payable on December 21, 2012 to stockholders of record as of December 7, 2012.

In November 2012, we invested \$9.8 million of subordinated notes and equity in EBL, LLC, doing business as EbLens, a leading retailer of urban-inspired footwear, apparel, and accessories, with 36 stores located in the Northeast.

By correspondence dated November 12, 2012, Charles G. Phillips resigned as a director of our board of directors, and as a member of our Audit and the Nominating and Corporate Governance

Table of Contents

Committees, effective as of November 12, 2012. On November 13, 2012, our board of directors elected John A. Mazzarino as an independent director, effective November 13, 2012, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Phillips' departure. Mr. Mazzarino will serve until our 2013 annual meeting of the stockholders. Mr. Phillips informed the board of directors that his resignation was for personal reasons and was not due to any disagreements with the Company relating to the Company's operations, policies or practices. Mr. Mazzarino was also elected to serve as a member of the Audit Committee and the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee.

In December 2012, we made a \$4.4 million follow-on investment in additional subordinated notes and equity of Medsurant Holdings, LLC.

In December 2012, we invested \$12.5 million of subordinated notes and equity in IOS Acquisitions, Inc., a leading independent inspection and value-added service provider for Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) and drill tools service locations and mobile operations serving all of the major oil and natural gas producing regions in the contiguous United States.

In December 2012, we made a \$0.1 million follow-on equity investment in Westminster Cracker Company, Inc.

In December 2012, we exited our portfolio investment in Innovative Product Achievement, LLC in connection with a refinancing transaction. We received total proceeds of approximately \$6.5 million, including repayment of our subordinated loans in full and prepayment premiums.

In January 2013, we made a follow-on preferred equity investment of \$0.03 million in K2 Industrial Services, Inc. In addition, we made a commitment to fund an additional \$2.2 million in subordinated notes and \$0.07 million in preferred equity, subject to certain conditions.

In January 2013, we invested \$15.0 million of subordinated notes in FocusVision Worldwide, Inc., the leading global provider of live video transmission, analysis and archive solutions for the qualitative market research industry.

Since September 30, 2012, we have issued an additional \$3.0 million in SBA debentures.

Critical Accounting Policies and Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions affecting amounts reported in the financial statements. We have identified investment valuation and revenue recognition as our most critical accounting estimates. We continuously evaluate our estimates, including those related to the matters described below. These estimates are based on the information that is currently available to us and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates under different assumptions or conditions. A discussion of our critical accounting policies follows.

Valuation of Portfolio Investments

We conduct the valuation of our investments, pursuant to which our net asset value is determined, at all times consistent with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or GAAP, and the 1940 Act.

Our investments generally consist of illiquid securities including debt and equity investments in lower middle-market companies. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Because we expect that there will not be a readily available market for substantially all of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board using a documented valuation policy and consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair

Table of Contents

value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a readily available market value existed for such investments, and the difference could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our Board undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially evaluated and rated by the investment professionals of our Investment Advisor responsible for the portfolio investment;

preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with the investment committee of our Investment Advisor;

our Board also engages one or more independent valuation firms to provide an independent appraisal for each of our investments at least once in every calendar year, and for new portfolio companies, at least once in the twelve-month period subsequent to the initial investment;

the audit committee of our Board reviews the preliminary valuations of our Investment Advisor and of the independent valuation firm(s) and responds and supplements the valuation recommendations to reflect any comments; and

the Board discusses the valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith, based on the input of our Investment Advisor, the independent valuation firm(s) and the audit committee.

In making the good faith determination of the value of portfolio investments, we start with the cost basis of the security, which includes the amortized original issue discount and payment-in-kind income, if any. The transaction price is typically the best estimate of fair value at inception. When evidence supports a subsequent change to the carrying value from the original transaction price, adjustments are made to reflect the expected exit values.

We perform detailed valuations of our debt and equity investments, using both the market and income approaches as appropriate. Under the market approach, we typically use the enterprise value methodology to determine the fair value of an investment. There is no one methodology to estimate enterprise value and, in fact, for any one portfolio company, enterprise value is generally best expressed as a range of values, from which we derive a single estimate of enterprise value. Under the income approach, we typically prepare and analyze discounted cash flow models to estimate the present value of future cash flows of either an individual debt investment or of the underlying portfolio company itself.

We evaluate investments in portfolio companies using the most recent portfolio company financial statements and forecasts. We also consult with the portfolio company's senior management to obtain further updates on the portfolio company's performance, including information such as industry trends, new product development and other operational issues.

For our debt investments, including senior secured loans and subordinated notes, the primary valuation technique used to estimate the fair value is the discounted cash flow method. However, if there is deterioration in credit quality or a debt investment is in workout status, we may consider other methods in determining the fair value, including the value attributable to the debt investment from the enterprise value of the portfolio company or the proceeds that would be received in a liquidation analysis. Our discounted cash flow models estimate a range of fair values by applying an appropriate discount rate to the future cash flow streams of our debt investments, based on future interest and principal payments as set forth in the associated loan agreements. We prepare a weighted average cost of capital for use in the discounted cash flow model for each

Table of Contents

investment, based on factors including, but not limited to: current pricing and credit metrics for similar proposed or executed investment transactions of private companies; the portfolio company's historical financial results and outlook; and the portfolio company's current leverage and credit quality as compared to leverage and credit quality as of the date the investment was made. We may also consider the following factors when determining the fair value of debt investments: the portfolio company's ability to make future scheduled payments; prepayment penalties; estimated remaining life; the nature and realizable value of any collateral; and changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets that generally may affect the price at which similar investments may be made. We estimate the remaining life of our debt investments to generally be the legal maturity date of the instrument, as we generally intend to hold loans to maturity. However, if we have information available to us that the loan is expected to be repaid in the near term, we would use an estimated remaining life based on the expected repayment date.

For our equity investments, including equity and warrants, we generally use a market approach, including valuation methodologies consistent with industry practice, to estimate the enterprise value of portfolio companies. Typically, the enterprise value of a private company is based on multiples of EBITDA, cash flows, net income, revenues, or in limited cases, book value. In estimating the enterprise value of a portfolio company, we analyze various factors consistent with industry practice, including but not limited to original transaction multiples, the portfolio company's historical and projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public. Where applicable, we consider our ability to influence the capital structure of the portfolio company, as well as the timing of a potential exit.

We may also utilize an income approach when estimating the fair value of our equity securities, either as a primary methodology if consistent with industry practice or if the market approach is otherwise not applicable, or as a supporting methodology to corroborate the fair value ranges determined by the market approach. We typically prepare and analyze discounted cash flow models based on projections of the future free cash flows (or earnings) of the portfolio company. We consider various factors, including but not limited to the portfolio company's projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public.

Determination of fair value involves subjective judgments and estimates. Accordingly, the notes to our financial statements express the uncertainties with respect to the possible effect of such valuations, and any changes in such valuations, on the financial statements.

We classify our investments in accordance with the 1940 Act. See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement for definitions of Control, Affiliate and Non-Control/Non-Affiliate included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

Revenue Recognition

The Company's revenue recognition policies are as follows:

Investments and related investment income. Realized gains or losses on portfolio investments are calculated based upon the difference between the net proceeds from the disposition and the amortized cost basis of the investment, without regard to unrealized gains and losses previously recognized. Changes in the fair value of investments from the prior period, as determined by our Board through the application of our valuation policy, are included as changes in unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments in the consolidated statement of operations.

Table of Contents

Interest, fee and dividend income. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis to the extent that we expect to collect such amounts. Interest and dividend income is accrued based upon the outstanding principal amount and contractual terms of debt and preferred equity investments. Interest is accrued on a daily basis. Dividend income is recorded as dividends when declared or at the point an obligation exists for the portfolio company to make a distribution. Distributions of earnings from portfolio companies are evaluated to determine if the distribution is income or a return of capital.

We have investments in our portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind income provision, which represents contractual interest or dividends that are added to the principal balance and recorded as income. We stop accruing payment-in-kind income when it is determined that payment-in-kind income is no longer collectible. In addition, to maintain RIC tax treatment, substantially all of this income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of distributions, even though we have not yet collected the cash. We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before, or without, receiving cash representing such income.

In connection with our debt investments, we will sometimes receive warrants or other equity-related securities (Warrants). We determine the cost basis of Warrants based upon their respective fair values on the date of receipt in proportion to the total fair value of the debt and Warrants received. Any resulting difference between the face amount of the debt and its recorded fair value resulting from the assignment of value to the Warrants are treated as original issue discount (OID), and accreted into interest income based on the effective interest method over the life of the debt security.

All transaction fees received in connection with our investments are recognized as income. Such fees typically include fees for services, including structuring and advisory services, provided to portfolio companies. We recognize income from fees for providing such structuring and advisory services when the services are rendered or the transactions are completed. Upon the prepayment of a loan or debt security, any prepayment penalties are recorded as fee income when received. Prior to the Formation Transactions, and in accordance with the prior limited partnership agreement, we historically recorded transaction fees provided in connection with our investments as a direct offset to management fee expense.

We also typically receive upfront loan origination or closing fees in connection with investments. Such upfront loan origination and closing fees are capitalized as unearned income offset against investments on our statement of assets and liabilities and amortized as additional interest income over the life of the investment.

Non-accrual. Loans or preferred equity securities are placed on non-accrual status when principal, interest or dividend payments become materially past due, or when there is reasonable doubt that principal, interest or dividends will be collected. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal, interest or dividends are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We may be a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financial needs of our portfolio companies. As of September 30, 2012, we had one off-balance sheet arrangement with a portfolio company consisting of a \$1.0 million revolving credit facility commitment that was unfunded. The commitment is generally subject to the borrowers meeting certain criteria such as compliance with financial and nonfinancial covenants. As of December 31, 2011, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements.

Table of Contents

Related Party Transactions

We have entered into a number of business relationships with affiliated or related parties, including the following:

Prior to the consummation of the Formation Transactions, the Fund had entered into a management agreement with Fidus Capital, LLC to manage the day-to-day operational and investment activities of the Fund and was paid management fees. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement.

In connection with the Formation Transactions, the Fund terminated its management services agreement with Fidus Capital, LLC and we entered into the Investment Advisory Agreement with Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, as our Investment Advisor. The investment professionals of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC were also the investment professionals of Fidus Capital, LLC. We entered into the Investment Advisory Agreement with Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC to manage our day-to-day operating and investing activities. We pay our Investment Advisor a fee for its services under the Investment Advisory Agreement consisting of two components – a base management fee and an incentive fee. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement.

Edward H. Ross, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Cary L. Schaefer, our Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance Officer and Secretary, and Thomas C. Lauer, one of our directors, are all managers of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC.

We entered into the Administration Agreement with Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC to provide us with the office facilities and administrative services necessary to conduct day-to-day operations. See Note 5 to our consolidated financial statements in this prospectus supplement.

We entered into a license agreement with Fidus Partners, LLC, pursuant to which Fidus Partners, LLC has granted us a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the name – Fidus.

In connection with our initial public offering and our election to be regulated as a BDC, we applied for and received exemptive relief from the SEC on March 27, 2012 to allow us to take certain actions that would otherwise be prohibited by the 1940 Act, as applicable to BDCs. The relief permits Fidus Investment Corporation and Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P. to operate effectively as one company, specifically allowing them to: (1) engage in certain transactions with each other; (2) invest in securities in which the other is or proposes to be an investor; (3) file consolidated reports with the Commission; and (4) be subject to modified consolidated asset coverage requirements for senior securities issued by a BDC and its SBIC subsidiary. The fourth exemption described above allows us to exclude any indebtedness guaranteed by the SBA and issued by Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P. from the 200.0% asset coverage requirements applicable to us.

In addition, we, the Fund and our Investment Advisor have each adopted a joint code of ethics that governs the conduct of our and our Investment Advisor's officers, directors and employees. Our officers and directors also remain subject to the duties imposed by both the 1940 Act and the Maryland General Corporation Law.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates. Changes in interest rates affect both our cost of funding and the valuation of our investment portfolio. Our risk management systems and procedures are designed to identify and analyze our risk, to set appropriate policies and limits and to continually monitor these risks and limits by means of

Table of Contents

reliable administrative and information systems and other policies and programs. In the future, our investment income may also be affected by changes in various interest rates, including the London Interbank Offering Rate, or LIBOR and prime rates, to the extent of any debt investments that include floating interest rates. As of September 30, 2012, all of our debt investments earned interest at fixed rates and all of our pooled SBA debentures bore interest at fixed rates. Assuming that the consolidated statements of assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were to remain constant, a hypothetical 100 basis point change in interest rates would not have a material effect on our level of interest income from debt investments or interest expense on SBA debentures.

Because we currently borrow, and plan to borrow in the future, money to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the rate at which we invest the funds borrowed. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income. In periods of rising interest rates, our cost of funds would increase, which could reduce our net investment income if there is not a corresponding increase in interest income generated by our investment portfolio.

S-34

Table of Contents

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following summary of additional material U.S. federal income tax considerations supplements the discussion set forth under the heading **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations** in the accompanying prospectus, is for general information purposes only and is not tax advice. This discussion does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular holders of our common stock in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances.

We urge you to consult your own tax advisor regarding the specific tax consequences to you of acquisition, ownership and disposition of our common stock and of our election to be taxed as a RIC. Specifically, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal, state, local, foreign, and other tax consequences of such acquisition, ownership, disposition and election, and regarding potential changes in applicable tax laws.

The current U.S. federal income tax treatment of RICs may be modified, possibly with retroactive effect, by legislative, judicial or administrative action at any time. The RIC rules are under review constantly by persons involved in the legislative process and by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. Treasury Department which may result in statutory changes as well as revisions to Treasury regulations, administrative rulings and other guidance.

Recently Enacted Legislation

The recently enacted American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) permanently extended certain U.S. federal income tax rates in effect for 2012 for taxpayers that are taxable as individuals, trusts or estates. Among other things, ATRA provided for the permanent extension of the ordinary income and long-term capital gains tax rates in effect for individuals with taxable income at or below certain thresholds, which are indexed for inflation (\$400,000 in the case of unmarried individuals and \$450,000 in the case of married couples filing jointly). However, because ATRA did not extend such tax rates with respect to taxable income above such thresholds, taxpayers that are taxable as individuals, trusts or estates will be subject to a maximum U.S. federal income tax rate of 39.6% on ordinary income and 20.0% on long-term capital gains for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012.

ATRA also provided for a permanent extension of the taxation of qualified dividends received by taxpayers that are taxable as individuals, trusts or estates at the same maximum U.S. federal income tax rates applicable to long-term capital gains. Accordingly, distributions of our investment company taxable income that are reported by us as being derived from **qualified dividend income** will be taxed in the hands of non-corporate U.S. stockholders at the rates applicable to long-term capital gain, provided that holding period requirements and all other requirements are met by both the stockholders and us. As discussed in the accompanying prospectus, dividends distributed by us will generally not be attributable to qualified dividend income. In addition, ATRA permanently extended the 28.0% rate for backup withholding.

ATRA also extended the provision of the Code that exempts certain distributions of interest and net short-term capital gains to Non-U.S. stockholders from U.S. federal withholding tax. For our taxable year ending December 31, 2013 (and retroactively for our taxable year ended December 31, 2012), we generally will not be required to withhold any amounts with respect to distributions of (i) U.S.-source interest income that would not have been subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax if they had been earned directly by a Non-U.S. stockholder, and (ii) net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses that would not have been subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax if they had been earned directly by a Non-U.S.

Table of Contents

stockholder, in each case only to the extent that such distributions are properly designated by us as interest-related dividends or short-term capital gain dividends, as the case may be, and certain other requirements are met. There can be no assurance that this provision will be further extended and, depending on the circumstances, we may designate all, some or none of our potentially eligible dividends as such qualified net interest income or as qualified short-term capital gains, or treat such dividends, in whole or in part, as ineligible for this exemption from withholding tax. Additionally, a portion of our distributions may be ineligible for this potential exemption from withholding tax. In order to qualify for this exemption from withholding tax, a Non-U.S. stockholder must comply with applicable certification requirements relating to its non-U.S. status (including, in general, furnishing an IRS Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute or successor form). In the case of common stock held through an intermediary, the intermediary could withhold even if we designate the payment as qualified net interest income or qualified short-term capital gain. Prospective investors should contact their intermediaries with respect to the application of these rules to their accounts.

FATCA Withholding

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) imposes a 30.0% withholding tax on certain types of payments made to foreign financial institutions and certain other non-U.S. entities unless certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligation requirements are satisfied.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS recently issued final Treasury regulations under FATCA. FATCA generally imposes a 30.0% withholding tax on dividends on, and gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, our common stock if paid to a foreign entity unless either (i) the foreign entity is a foreign financial institution that undertakes certain due diligence, reporting, withholding, and certification obligations, or in the case of a foreign financial institution that is a resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into an intergovernmental agreement to implement FATCA, the entity complies with the diligence and reporting requirements of such agreement, (ii) the foreign entity is not a foreign financial institution and identifies certain of its U.S. investors, or (iii) the foreign entity otherwise is excepted under FATCA. Under delayed effective dates provided for in the Treasury regulations, such required withholding would not begin until January 1, 2014 with respect to dividends on our common stock, and January 1, 2017 with respect to gross proceeds from a sale or other disposition of our common stock.

If withholding is required under FATCA on a payment related to our common stock, investors that otherwise would not be subject to withholding (or that otherwise would be entitled to a reduced rate of withholding) generally will be required to seek a refund or credit from the IRS to obtain the benefit of such exemption or reduction (provided that such benefit is available). You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the effect of FATCA on an investment in our common stock.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

The Company and the underwriters named below have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares being offered. Subject to certain conditions, each underwriter has severally agreed to purchase the number of shares indicated in the following table. Raymond James & Associates, Inc. is the representative of the underwriters.

Underwriter	Number of Shares
Raymond James & Associates, Inc.	
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated	
BB&T Capital Markets, a division of BB&T Securities, LLC	
Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.	
Total	

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the shares of common stock offered hereby are subject to the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and to certain other conditions. The underwriters are severally obligated to take and pay for all shares of common stock offered hereby (other than those covered by the underwriters' over-allotment option described below) if any such shares are taken. We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol FDUS.

Over-Allotment Option

We have granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, to purchase up to an aggregate of _____ additional shares of common stock at the public offering price set forth on the cover page hereof, less the underwriting discount. The underwriters may exercise this option solely for the purpose of covering over-allotments, if any, made in connection with the offering of the shares of common stock offered hereby. To the extent such option is exercised, each underwriter will become obligated, subject to certain conditions, to purchase approximately the same percentage of such additional shares of common stock as the number set forth next to such underwriter's name in the preceding table bears to the total number of shares set forth next to the names of all underwriters in the preceding table.

Lock-Up Agreements

We, and certain of our executive officers and directors, have agreed, subject to certain exceptions, not to issue, sell, offer to sell, contract or agree to sell, hypothecate, pledge, transfer, grant any option to purchase, establish an open put equivalent position or otherwise dispose of or agree to dispose of directly or indirectly, any shares of our common stock, or any securities convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for any shares of our common stock or any right to acquire shares of our common stock, for 90 days from the date of this prospectus supplement, subject to extension upon material announcements or earnings releases. The representative, at any time and without notice, may release all or any portion of the common stock subject to the foregoing lock-up agreements.

Table of Contents**Underwriting Discounts**

The underwriters initially propose to offer the shares directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of \$ per share below the public offering price. After the initial public offering of the shares, the offering price and other selling terms may be changed by the underwriters.

The following table provides information regarding the per share and total underwriting discount that we are to pay to the underwriters. These amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriters option to purchase up to additional shares from us.

	Per Share	Total without Exercise of Over- allotment	Total with Full Exercise of Over- allotment
Underwriting discount payable by us on shares sold to the public	\$	\$	\$

We estimate that the total expenses of the offering payable by us, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$300,000.

A prospectus supplement in electronic format may be made available on the web sites maintained by one or more of the underwriters, or selling group members, if any, participating in this offering. The representative may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters and selling group members for the sale to their online brokerage account holders. Internet distributions will be allocated by the underwriters and selling group members that will make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. The representative may agree to allocate a number of shares to underwriters for sale to their online brokerage account holders.

Price Stabilization, Short Positions and Penalty Bids

In connection with this offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell shares of our common stock in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. An over-allotment involves syndicate sales of shares in excess of the number of shares to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Stabilizing transactions consist of some bids or purchases of shares of our common stock made for the purpose of preventing or slowing a decline in the market price of the shares while the offering is in progress.

In addition, the underwriters may impose penalty bids, under which they may reclaim the selling concession from a syndicate member when the shares of our common stock originally sold by that syndicate member are purchased in a stabilizing transaction or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

Similar to other purchase transactions, these activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the common stock or preventing or slowing a decline in the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than

Table of Contents

the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. Except for the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering, the underwriters may carry out these transactions on the Nasdaq Global Select Market, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Neither the underwriters nor we make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the shares. In addition, neither the underwriters nor we make any representation that the underwriters will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Passive Market Making

In connection with the offering, the underwriters may engage in passive market making transactions in the common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M under the Exchange Act during the period before the commencement of offers or sales of common stock and extending through the completion of distribution. A passive market maker must display its bids at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid of the security. However, if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid that bid must be lowered when specified purchase limits are exceeded.

Conflicts of Interest

The underwriters and/or their affiliates from time to time provide and may in the future provide investment banking, commercial banking and financial advisory services to us, for which they have received and may receive customary compensation.

In addition, the underwriters and/or their affiliates may from time to time refer investment banking clients to us as potential portfolio investments. If we invest in those clients, we may utilize net proceeds from this offering to fund such investments, and the referring underwriter or its affiliate may receive placement fees from its client in connection with such financing, which placement fees may be paid out of the amount funded by us.

The addresses of the underwriters are: Raymond James & Associates, Inc., 880 Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg, Florida 33716 and Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated, 777 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202; BB&T Capital Markets, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 410, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., 125 Broad Street, New York, New York 10004.

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters will be passed upon for us by Bass, Berry & Sims PLC, Memphis, Tennessee, and the legality of the securities offered by us and certain matters with respect to Maryland law will be passed upon by Venable LLP, Baltimore, Maryland. Bass, Berry & Sims PLC also represents our investment advisor. Certain legal matters in connection with this offering will be passed upon for the underwriters by Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, Washington, D.C.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

McGladrey LLP (formerly McGladrey & Pullen, LLP) is the independent public accounting firm located at One South Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606, for Fidus Investment Corporation.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form N-2, together with all amendments and related exhibits, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with respect to the shares of common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. The registration statement contains additional information about us and the shares of common stock being offered by this prospectus supplement.

We file with or submit to the SEC annual, quarterly and current periodic reports, proxy statements and other information meeting the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. You may inspect and copy these reports, proxy statements and other information, as well as the registration statement and related exhibits and schedules, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-0102. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at (202) 551-8090. We maintain a website at <http://www.fidus.com> and intend to make all of our annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other publicly filed information available, free of charge, on or through our website. Information contained on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, and you should not consider information on our website to be part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. You may also obtain such information by contacting us in writing at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 1005, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Investor Relations. The SEC maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information we file with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of these reports, proxy and information statements and other information may also be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov, or by writing the SEC's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-0102.

Table of Contents

FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

<u>Consolidated Statements of Assets and Liabilities September 30, 2012 (unaudited) and December 31, 2011</u>	S-42
<u>Consolidated Statements of Operations Three and Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 (unaudited) and 2011 (unaudited)</u>	S-43
<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Net Assets Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 (unaudited) and 2011 (unaudited)</u>	S-44
<u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows Nine Months Ended September 30, 2012 (unaudited) and 2011 (unaudited)</u>	S-45
<u>Consolidated Schedule of Investments September 30, 2012 (unaudited) and December 31, 2011</u>	S-46
<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)</u>	S-52

S-41

Table of Contents**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Assets and Liabilities**

	September 30, 2012 (unaudited)	December 31, 2011
ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value		
Control investments (cost: \$20,630,677 and \$19,916,617, respectively)	\$ 30,407,264	\$ 28,598,962
Affiliate investments (cost: \$59,311,692 and \$49,913,338, respectively)	57,636,050	50,058,243
Non-control/non-affiliate investments (cost: \$158,423,437 and \$122,709,976, respectively)	163,874,163	126,088,167
Total investments, at fair value (cost: \$238,365,806 and \$192,539,931, respectively)	251,917,477	204,745,372
Cash and cash equivalents	68,129,793	39,058,516
Interest receivable	3,754,228	1,686,851
Deferred financing costs (net of accumulated amortization of \$1,466,376 and \$1,134,767, respectively)	3,464,999	2,687,233
Prepaid expenses and other assets	817,004	465,171
Total assets	328,083,501	248,643,143
LIABILITIES		
SBA debentures	141,500,000	104,000,000
Accrued interest payable	501,768	1,718,989
Due to affiliates	3,356,185	2,162,160
Accounts payable and other liabilities	605,741	279,849
Total liabilities	145,963,694	108,160,998
Net assets	\$ 182,119,807	\$ 140,482,145
ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS		
Common stock, \$0.001 par value (100,000,000 shares authorized, 11,930,084 and 9,427,021 shares issued and outstanding at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, respectively)	\$ 11,930	\$ 9,427
Additional paid-in capital	177,109,526	138,648,226
Undistributed net investment income	275,063	422,049
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments	1,492,676	(481,937)
Accumulated net unrealized appreciation on investments	3,230,612	1,884,380
Total net assets	\$ 182,119,807	\$ 140,482,145
Net asset value per share	\$ 15.27	\$ 14.90

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Operations (unaudited)**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
Investment income:				
Interest and fee income				
Control investments	\$ 743,717	\$ 871,795	\$ 2,193,331	\$ 2,545,183
Affiliate investments	1,992,048	1,102,565	5,553,392	3,027,253
Non-control/non-affiliate investments	6,023,598	3,816,417	15,843,256	10,062,551
Total interest and fee income	8,759,363	5,790,777	23,589,979	15,634,987
Dividend income				
Control investments		124,697		361,073
Affiliate investments	30,787		91,645	
Non-control/non-affiliate investments	156,504	11,320	428,432	11,320
Total dividend income	187,291	136,017	520,077	372,393
Interest on idle funds and other income	33,828	23,427	95,445	55,891
Total investment income	8,980,482	5,950,221	24,205,501	16,063,271
Expenses:				
Interest expense	1,651,492	1,376,205	4,663,356	4,095,257
Base management fee	1,099,361	705,159	3,044,075	2,740,562
Less: management fee offset				(430,208)
Incentive fee	1,644,150	535,841	3,567,566	535,841
Administrative service expenses	218,692	184,069	671,834	206,242
Professional fees	158,603	308,482	571,755	478,832
Other general and administrative expenses	198,084	185,749	699,901	291,870
Total expenses	4,970,382	3,295,505	13,218,487	7,918,396
Net investment income before income taxes	4,010,100	2,654,716	10,987,014	8,144,875
Income tax expense (benefit)	7,921		13,267	
Net investment income	4,002,179	2,654,716	10,973,747	8,144,875
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on investments:				
Realized gain (loss) on non-control/non-affiliate investments	1,974,613		1,974,613	(7,935,430)
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	599,812	490,836	1,346,232	10,876,497
Net gain on investments	2,574,425	490,836	3,320,845	2,941,067
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 6,576,604	\$ 3,145,552	\$ 14,294,592	\$ 11,085,942
Per common share data: (1)				
Net investment income per share-basic and diluted	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.28	\$ 1.14	\$ 0.86
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations per share-basic and diluted	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.33	\$ 1.49	\$ 1.18
Dividends declared per share	\$ 0.38	\$ 0.32	\$ 1.08	\$ 0.32

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Weighted average number of shares outstanding - basic and diluted	9,939,307	9,427,021	9,599,029	9,427,021
---	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------

- (1) The weighted average shares outstanding for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, are based on the assumption that the number of shares issued in the Formation Transactions and Offering (including the over-allotment) in June and July 2011 (9,427,021 shares of common stock) had been issued on January 1, 2011.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

S-43

Table of Contents**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Changes in Net Assets (unaudited)**

	Partners Capital	Common Stock Number of Shares	Par Value	Additional Paid in Capital	Undistributed Net Investment Income	Accumulated Net Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	Accumulated Net Unrealized Appreciation on Investments	Total Net Assets
Balances at December 31, 2010	\$ 52,004,664		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$ 52,004,664
Capital contributions	7,000,000							7,000,000
Capital distributions	(1,500,000)							(1,500,000)
Net investment income through June 20, 2011	5,077,597							5,077,597
Realized loss on investments through June 20, 2011	(7,935,430)							(7,935,430)
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments through June 20, 2011	10,385,661							10,385,661
Formation transactions	(65,032,492)	4,056,521	4,057	65,028,435				
Public offering of common stock, net of expenses		5,370,500	5,370	73,619,791				73,625,161
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations June 21 to September 30, 2011					3,067,278		490,836	3,558,114
Dividends declared and paid					(3,016,646)			(3,016,646)
Balances at September 30, 2011	\$	9,427,021	\$ 9,427	\$ 138,648,226	\$ 50,632	\$	\$ 490,836	\$ 139,199,121
Balances at December 31, 2011	\$	9,427,021	\$ 9,427	\$ 138,648,226	\$ 422,049	\$ (481,937)	\$ 1,884,380	\$ 140,482,145
Public offering of common stock, net of expenses		2,472,500	2,472	37,949,401				37,951,873
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations					10,973,747	1,974,613	1,346,232	14,294,592
Dividends declared and paid		30,563	31	511,899	(11,120,733)			(10,608,803)
Balances at September 30, 2012	\$	11,930,084	\$ 11,930	\$ 177,109,526	\$ 275,063	\$ 1,492,676	\$ 3,230,612	\$ 182,119,807

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION****Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (unaudited)**

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$ 14,294,592	\$ 11,085,942
Adjustments to reconcile net increase in net assets resulting from operations to net cash used in operating activities:		
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	(1,346,232)	(10,876,497)
Realized (gain) loss on investments	(1,974,613)	7,935,430
Interest and dividend income paid-in-kind	(3,490,398)	(3,125,259)
Accretion of original issue discount	(849,756)	(492,048)
Accretion of origination fees	(153,181)	(3,803)
Amortization of deferred financing costs	331,609	271,494
Purchase of investments	(57,687,812)	(37,641,858)
Proceeds from repayments and sales of investments	17,882,623	5,285,791
Proceeds from loan origination fees	447,264	144,500
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Interest receivable	(2,067,377)	(1,182,259)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(351,833)	(203,568)
Accrued interest payable	(1,217,221)	(1,221,102)
Due to affiliates	1,194,025	830,131
Accounts payable and other liabilities	325,892	67,343
Net cash used in operating activities	(34,662,418)	(29,125,763)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from offering, net of expenses	37,951,873	73,625,161
Proceeds received from SBA debentures	37,500,000	3,250,000
Payment of deferred financing costs	(1,109,375)	(78,813)
Capital contributions		7,000,000
Capital distributions		(1,500,000)
Cash dividends paid to stockholders	(10,608,803)	(3,016,646)
Net cash provided by financing activities	63,733,695	79,279,702
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	29,071,277	50,153,939
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Beginning of period	39,058,516	1,757,139
End of period	\$ 68,129,793	\$ 51,911,078
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information		
Cash payments for interest	\$ 5,548,968	\$ 5,044,865

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

Table of Contents**Fidus Investment Corporation****Consolidated Schedule of Investments****September 30, 2012 (unaudited)**

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
Control Investments ⁽⁵⁾							
<i>Worldwide Express Operations, LLC</i>	Transportation Services						
Subordinated Note		11.0%/3.0%	2/1/2014	\$ 8,879,619	\$ 8,879,619	\$ 8,879,619	
Subordinated Note		10.0%/4.0%	2/1/2014	11,634,145	11,480,668	11,634,145	
Warrant (213,381 units) (7)						8,457,000	
Common Units (51,946 units) (7)					270,390	1,436,500	
Sub Total					20,630,677	30,407,264	17%
Total Control Investments					20,630,677	30,407,264	17%
Affiliate Investments ⁽⁵⁾							
<i>Apex Microtechnology, Inc.</i>	Electronic Control Supplier						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/2.0%	2/16/2018	6,200,000	5,923,676	5,923,676	
Warrant (2,294 units)					220,366	220,366	
Common Units (11,690 units)					1,169,000	1,169,000	
Sub Total					7,313,042	7,313,042	4%
<i>Avrio Technology Group, LLC</i>	Electronic Control Supplier						
Subordinated Note		9.0%/7.5%	10/15/2015	9,050,645	9,050,645	6,933,534	
Common Units (1,000 units) (7)					1,000,000		
Sub Total					10,050,645	6,933,534	4%
<i>Malabar International</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/2.5%	5/21/2017	4,955,915	4,925,199	4,955,915	
Preferred Equity (1,494 shares) (6)		6.0%/0.0%			1,987,139	2,741,000	
Sub Total					6,912,338	7,696,915	4%
<i>Medsurant Holdings, LLC</i>	Healthcare Services						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/0.0%	4/12/2016	7,250,000	5,924,646	7,250,000	
Preferred Units (60,977 units) (7)					698,804	852,200	
Warrant (222,224 units) (7)					2,182,466	3,112,400	
Sub Total					8,805,916	11,214,600	6%
<i>Paramount Building Solutions, LLC</i>	Retail Cleaning						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/4.0%	2/15/2014	6,433,248	6,433,248	6,433,248	
Common Units (107,143 units) (7)					1,500,000	575,200	
Sub Total					7,933,248	7,008,448	4%

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

<i>Trantech Radiator Products, Inc.</i>	Utility Equipment Manufacturer						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/1.8%	5/4/2017	9,146,122	9,107,926	9,146,122	
Common Shares (6,875 shares)					687,500	1,122,100	
Sub Total					9,795,426	10,268,222	6%
<i>Westminster Cracker Company, Inc.</i>	Specialty Cracker Manufacturer						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/4.0%	11/17/2014	7,292,880	7,292,880	7,073,789	
Common Units (1,208,197 units)					1,208,197	127,500	
Sub Total					8,501,077	7,201,289	4%
Total Affiliate Investments					59,311,692	57,636,050	32%
Non-Control/Non-Affiliate Investments (5)							
<i>Acentia, LLC (f/k/a ITSolutions)</i>	IT Services						
Common Units (499 units)					500,000	277,600	0%
<i>ACFP Management, Inc.</i>	Restaurants						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/2.0%	6/29/2017	7,514,048	7,482,082	7,514,048	4%
<i>Brook & Whittle Limited</i>	Specialty Printing						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/4.8%	8/9/2016	6,547,400	6,547,400	6,547,400	
Subordinated Note		12.0%/2.0%	8/9/2016	2,150,853	2,069,046	1,988,284	
Warrant (1,051 shares)					285,000	442,000	
Common Shares (148 shares)					110,374	62,200	
Sub Total					9,011,820	9,039,884	5%

Table of Contents**Fidus Investment Corporation****Consolidated Schedule of Investments**

September 30, 2012 (continued) (unaudited)

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
<i>Brook Furniture Rental, Inc.</i>	Furniture Rental						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/1.5%	9/30/2016	\$ 7,716,714	\$ 7,295,604	\$ 7,716,714	
Warrants (2.5%)					485,188	543,500	
Sub Total					7,780,792	8,260,214	5%
<i>Caldwell & Gregory, LLC</i>	Laundry Services						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/1.5%	4/23/2016	1,882,911	1,882,911	1,882,911	
Preferred Units (11,628 units) (7)					1,162,786	1,497,500	
Common Units (4,464 units) (7)					4,464	272,200	
Sub Total					3,050,161	3,652,611	2%
<i>Connect-Air International, Inc.</i>	Specialty Distribution						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/3.0%	12/31/2014	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	
Preferred Interest (6)		0.0%/10.0%	12/31/2014		5,496,714	5,966,500	
Sub Total					9,496,714	9,966,500	5%
<i>Continental Anesthesia Management, LLC</i>	Healthcare Services						
Senior Secured Loan		13.5%/0.0%	11/10/2014	10,200,000	10,082,254	10,200,000	
Warrant (263 shares)					276,070	100,900	
Sub Total					10,358,324	10,300,900	6%
<i>Convergent Resources, Inc.</i>	Debt Collection Services						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/3.0%	12/27/2017	5,544,000	5,491,571	5,491,571	3%
<i>FutureTech Holding Company</i>	IT Services						
Subordinated Note		13.5%/5.5%	2/29/2016	7,765,618	7,702,121	7,765,618	4%
<i>Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc.</i>	Movie Theaters						
Subordinated Note		12.8%/0.0%	3/31/2015	12,500,000	12,119,198	12,500,000	
Warrant (71 shares)					750,000	2,293,600	
Sub Total					12,869,198	14,793,600	8%
<i>Innovative Product Achievement, LLC</i>	Healthcare Products						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/2.5%	12/21/2016	6,334,073	6,310,053	6,334,073	3%
<i>Jacob Ash Holdings, Inc.</i>	Apparel Distribution						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/4.0%	8/11/2016	3,500,000	3,486,469	3,500,000	
Subordinated Note		13.0%/0.0%	8/11/2016	1,750,000	1,717,665	1,750,000	
Preferred Equity (500 shares) (6)		0.0%/15.0%	8/11/2016		561,464	421,400	
Warrant (129,630 shares)					67,408		

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Sub Total				5,833,006	5,671,400	3%
<i>Jan-Pro Holdings, LLC</i>	Commercial Cleaning					
Subordinated Note		12.5%/3.5%	3/18/2017	7,545,358	7,545,358	7,545,358
Preferred Equity (1,054,619 shares)					832,124	427,800
Sub Total				8,377,482	7,973,158	4%
<i>K2 Industrial Services, Inc.</i>	Industrial Cleaning & Coatings					
Subordinated Note		11.8%/2.0%	5/23/2017	12,209,993	12,159,276	12,209,993
Preferred Equity (1,200 shares)					1,200,000	861,300
Sub Total				13,359,276	13,071,293	7%
<i>Lightning Diversion Systems, Inc.</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing					
Revolving Loan (\$1,000,000 Commitment)		12.0%/0.0%	6/17/2017		(4,717)	(4,717)
Senior Secured Loan		12.0%/0.0%	6/17/2017	7,412,742	7,377,773	7,377,773
Common Units (600,000 units)					600,000	600,000
Sub Total				7,973,056	7,973,056	4%

S-47

Table of Contents**Fidus Investment Corporation****Consolidated Schedule of Investments****September 30, 2012 (continued) (unaudited)**

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
<i>National Truck Protection Co., Inc.</i>	Financial Services						
Senior Secured Loan		13.5%/2.0%	8/10/2017	9,000,000	\$ 8,934,368	\$ 8,934,368	
Common Units (531 units)					450,000	450,000	
Sub Total					9,384,368	9,384,368	5%
<i>Nobles Manufacturing, Inc.</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/3.0%	4/6/2016	\$ 6,825,000	6,825,000	6,825,000	
Preferred Equity (1,300,000 shares)					1,300,000	1,812,500	
Common Equity (1,300,000 shares)							
Sub Total					8,125,000	8,637,500	5%
<i>S.B. Restaurant Co. (dba Elephant Bar)</i>	Restaurants						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/1.0%	1/10/2018	7,517,292	7,077,152	7,077,152	
Warrant (652 shares)					415,992	415,992	
Sub Total					7,493,144	7,493,144	4%
<i>Simplex Manufacturing Co.</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/0.0%	10/31/2013	4,550,000	4,404,690	4,550,000	
Warrant (24 shares)					710,000	1,056,300	
Sub Total					5,114,690	5,606,300	3%
<i>Tulsa Inspection Resources, Inc.</i>	Oil & Gas Services						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/0.0%	3/12/2014	4,000,000	3,942,914	4,000,000	
Subordinated Note		17.5%/0.0%	3/12/2014	648,471	648,471	648,471	
Warrant (6 shares)					193,435	1,490,800	
Common Equity (1 share)					94,500	102,500	
Sub Total					4,879,320	6,241,771	3%
<i>United Biologics, LLC</i>	Healthcare Services						
Senior Secured Loan		12.0%/2.0%	3/5/2017	6,829,145	6,265,530	6,828,254	
Common Equity (88,968 units) (7)					1,000,000	1,000,000	
Warrant (78,148 units)					565,729	597,300	
Sub Total					7,831,259	8,425,554	5%
Total Non-Control/Non-Affiliate Investments					158,423,437	163,874,163	90%
Total Investments					\$ 238,365,806	\$ 251,917,477	138%

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

- (1) All debt investments are income producing. Equity investments are non-income producing unless otherwise noted.
- (2) See Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements for portfolio composition by geographic location.
- (3) Equity ownership may be held in shares or units of companies related to the portfolio companies.
- (4) Rate includes the cash interest or dividend rate and paid-in-kind interest or dividend rate, if any.
- (5) See Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies, Investment Classification for definitions of Control and Affiliate classifications.
- (6) Income producing. Maturity date, if any, represents mandatory redemption date.
- (7) Investment is held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

S-48

Table of Contents

Fidus Investment Corporation
Consolidated Schedule of Investments
December 31, 2011

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3) Control Investments (5)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
Worldwide Express Operations, LLC							
	Transportation Services						
Subordinated Note		11.0%/3.0%	2/1/2014	\$ 8,683,141	\$ 8,683,141	\$ 8,683,141	
Subordinated Note		0.0%/14.0%	2/1/2014	11,200,821	10,963,086	11,200,821	
Warrant (213,381 units) (7)						7,386,100	
Common Units (51,946 units) (7)					270,390	1,328,900	
Sub Total					19,916,617	28,598,962	20%
Total Control Investments					19,916,617	28,598,962	20%
Affiliate Investments (5)							
Avrio Technology Group, LLC							
	Electronic Control Supplier						
Subordinated Note		9.0%/7.5%	10/15/2015	8,560,918	8,560,918	8,061,600	
Common Units (1,000 units) (7)					1,000,000	372,200	
Sub Total					9,560,918	8,433,800	6%
Malabar International							
	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/2.5%	5/21/2017	4,863,472	4,827,896	4,827,896	
Preferred Equity (1,494 shares) (6)					1,985,329	1,985,329	
Sub Total					6,813,225	6,813,225	5%
Medsurant Holdings, LLC							
	Healthcare Services						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/0.0%	4/12/2016	7,250,000	5,676,797	7,250,000	
Preferred Units (40,750 units) (7)					500,000	500,000	
Warrant (166,970 units) (7)					1,669,700	1,989,900	
Sub Total					7,846,497	9,739,900	7%
Paramount Building Solutions, LLC							
	Retail Cleaning						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/4.0%	2/15/2014	6,240,663	6,240,663	6,240,663	
Common Units (107,143 units) (7)					1,500,000	1,745,400	
Sub Total					7,740,663	7,986,063	6%
Trantech Radiator Products, Inc.							
	Utility Equipment Manufacturer						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/1.8%	5/4/2017	9,025,375	8,981,055	8,981,055	
Common Shares (6,875 shares)					687,500	687,500	
Sub Total					9,668,555	9,668,555	7%
Westminster Cracker Company, Inc.							
	Specialty Cracker Manufacturer						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/4.0%	11/17/2014	7,075,283	7,075,283	6,901,700	
Common Units (1,208,197 units)					1,208,197	515,000	

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Sub Total	8,283,480	7,416,700	5%
Total Affiliate Investments	49,913,338	50,058,243	36%

S-49

Table of Contents**Fidus Investment Corporation****Consolidated Schedule of Investments****December 31, 2011 (continued)**

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
Non-Control/Non-Affiliate Investments (5)							
<i>ACFP Acquisition Company, Inc.</i>	Restaurants						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/2.0%	6/29/2017	\$ 7,400,822	\$ 7,363,840	\$ 7,363,840	5%
<i>Brook & Whittle Limited</i>	Specialty Printing						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/4.8%	8/9/2016	6,316,340	6,316,340	6,316,340	
Subordinated Note		12.0%/2.0%	8/9/2016	2,118,858	1,993,369	2,038,896	
Warrant (1,051 shares)					285,000	550,200	
Common Shares (148 Shares)					110,374	77,500	
Sub Total					8,705,083	8,982,936	6%
<i>Brook Furniture Rental, Inc.</i>	Furniture Rental						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/1.5%	9/30/2016	7,629,171	7,131,385	7,131,385	
Warrants (2.5%)					485,188	485,188	
Sub Total					7,616,573	7,616,573	5%
<i>Caldwell & Gregory, LLC</i>	Laundry Services						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/1.5%	4/23/2016	3,465,874	3,465,874	3,465,874	
Preferred Units (11,628 units) (7)					1,162,786	1,424,485	
Common Units (4,464 units) (7)					4,464	166,700	
Sub Total					4,633,124	5,057,059	4%
<i>Connect-Air International, Inc.</i>	Specialty Distribution						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/3.0%	12/31/2014	4,213,879	4,213,879	4,213,879	
Preferred Interest (6)		0.0%/10.0%	12/31/2014		5,131,979	5,131,979	
Sub Total					9,345,858	9,345,858	7%
<i>Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc.</i>	Movie Theaters						
Subordinated Note		12.8%/0.0%	3/31/2015	12,500,000	12,007,236	12,500,000	
Warrant (71 shares)					750,000	2,080,300	
Sub Total					12,757,236	14,580,300	10%
<i>Innovative Product Achievement, LLC</i>	Healthcare Products						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/2.5%	12/21/2016	6,334,073	6,305,809	6,305,809	4%
<i>Interactive Technology Solutions, LLC</i>	Government IT Services						
Subordinated Note		12.0%/3.0%	12/31/2015	5,182,173	5,182,173	5,182,173	
Common Units (499 units)					500,000	371,000	
Sub Total					5,682,173	5,553,173	4%
<i>Jacob Ash Holdings, Inc.</i>	Apparel Distribution						

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Subordinated Note	13.0%/4.0%	8/11/2016	3,555,421	3,539,273	3,539,273	
Subordinated Note	13.0%/0.0%	8/11/2016	1,750,000	1,711,444	1,711,444	
Preferred Equity (500 shares) (6)	0.0%/15.0%	8/11/2016		497,768	497,768	
Warrant (129,630 shares)				67,408	67,408	
Sub Total				5,815,893	5,815,893	4%

S-50

Table of Contents**Fidus Investment Corporation****Consolidated Schedule of Investments****December 31, 2011 (continued)**

Portfolio Company / Type of Investment (1) (2) (3)	Industry	Rate (4) Cash/PIK	Maturity	Principal Amount	Cost	Fair Value	Percent of Net Assets
<i>Jan-Pro Holdings, LLC</i>	Commercial Cleaning						
Subordinated Note		12.5%/3.5%	3/18/2017	\$ 7,350,713	\$ 7,350,713	\$ 7,350,713	
Preferred Equity (1,054,619 shares)					832,124	420,200	
Sub Total					8,182,837	7,770,913	6%
<i>K2 Industrial Services, Inc.</i>	Industrial Cleaning & Coatings						
Subordinated Note		11.8%/2.0%	5/23/2017	12,026,000	11,967,141	11,967,141	
Preferred Equity (1,200 shares)					1,200,000	1,200,000	
Sub Total					13,167,141	13,167,141	9%
<i>Nobles Manufacturing, Inc.</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/3.0%	4/6/2016	6,825,000	6,825,000	6,825,000	
Preferred Equity (1,300,000 shares)					1,300,000	2,428,300	
Common Equity (1,300,000 shares)							
Sub Total					8,125,000	9,253,300	7%
<i>Restoration Holdco, LLC</i>	Restoration & Mitigation Services						
Senior Secured Note		13.0%/0.0%	8/11/2016	4,400,000	4,241,962	4,241,962	
Warrant (9.5 units)					127,139	127,139	
Sub Total					4,369,101	4,369,101	3%
<i>Simplex Manufacturing Co.</i>	Aerospace & Defense Manufacturing						
Subordinated Note		13.0%/0.0%	10/31/2013	4,550,000	4,307,693	4,437,900	
Warrant (24 shares)					710,000	406,900	
Sub Total					5,017,693	4,844,800	3%
<i>TBG Anesthesia Management, LLC</i>	Healthcare Services						
Senior Secured Loan		13.5%/0.0%	11/10/2014	10,750,000	10,590,891	10,750,000	
Warrant (263 shares)					276,070	290,600	
Sub Total					10,866,961	11,040,600	8%
<i>Tulsa Inspection Resources, Inc.</i>	Oil & Gas Services						
Subordinated Note		14.0%/0.0%	3/12/2014	4,000,000	3,913,748	3,953,400	
Subordinated Note		17.5%/0.0%	3/12/2014	648,471	648,471	648,471	

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Warrant (6 shares)	193,435	419,000	
Sub Total	4,755,654	5,020,871	4%
Total Non-Control/Non-Affiliate Investments	122,709,976	126,088,167	90%
Total Investments	\$ 192,539,931	\$ 204,745,372	146%

- (1) All debt investments are income producing. Equity investments are non-income producing unless otherwise noted.
- (2) See Note 3 to the consolidated financial statements for portfolio composition by geographic location.
- (3) Equity ownership may be held in shares or units of companies related to the portfolio companies.
- (4) Rate includes the cash interest or dividend rate and paid-in-kind interest or dividend rate, if any.
- (5) See Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies, Investment Classification for definitions of Control and Affiliate classifications.
- (6) Income producing. Maturity date, if any, represents mandatory redemption date.
- (7) Investment is held by a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.

See Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited).

S-51

Table of Contents**FIDUS INVESTMENT CORPORATION****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited)****Note 1. Organization and Nature of Business**

Fidus Investment Corporation, a Maryland corporation (FIC, and together with its subsidiaries, the Company), was formed on February 14, 2011 for the purposes of (i) acquiring 100% of the limited partnership interests of Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P. and its consolidated subsidiaries (collectively, the Fund) and 100% of the membership interests of the Fund's general partner, Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC (FMCGP), (ii) raising capital in an initial public offering that was completed in June 2011 (the Offering) and (iii) thereafter operating as an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company (BDC) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act). The Fund has also elected to be regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. In addition, for federal income tax purposes, the Company elected to be treated as a regulated investment company (RIC) under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 2011.

The Company provides customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies. The Fund commenced operations on May 1, 2007, and on October 22, 2007, was granted a license to operate as a Small Business Investment Company, also called an SBIC, under the authority of the United States Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBIC license allows the Fund to obtain leverage by issuing SBA-guaranteed debentures (SBA debentures), subject to the issuance of a leverage commitment by the SBA and other customary procedures. As an SBIC, the Fund is subject to a variety of regulations and oversight by the SBA under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended (the SBIC Act), concerning, among other things, the size and nature of the companies in which it may invest and the structure of those investments.

On June 20, 2011, FIC acquired 100% of the limited partnership interests in the Fund and 100% of the equity interests in FMCGP, in exchange for 4,056,521 shares of common stock in FIC (the Formation Transactions). The Fund became FIC's wholly-owned subsidiary, retained its SBIC license, and continues to hold its existing investments and make new investments. The Offering consisted of the sale of 4,670,000 shares of the Company's common stock at a price of \$15.00 per share resulting in net proceeds of \$63,853,186, after deducting underwriting fees and commissions totaling \$4,532,010 and transaction costs associated with the offering totaling \$1,664,804. The transaction costs were primarily for accounting, legal and other professional services and were recorded as a reduction to additional paid-in capital. On July 14, 2011, the Company's underwriters purchased 700,500 shares of the Company's common stock at the public offering price of \$15.00 per share to cover over-allotments resulting in proceeds to the Company of \$9,771,975, net of underwriting fees of \$735,525.

The management agreement between the Fund and Fidus Capital, LLC (the Fund's former investment advisor) was terminated in conjunction with the Formation Transactions. For all periods subsequent to the consummation of the Formation Transactions and the Offering, the Company pays a quarterly base management fee and an incentive fee to Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC (the Investment Advisor) under an investment advisory agreement (the Investment Advisory Agreement). The investment professionals of the Investment Advisor are the same as those of Fidus Capital, LLC.

On September 11, 2012, the Company issued 2,472,500 shares in a follow-on public offering, including shares purchased by the underwriters pursuant to their exercise of the over-allotment

Table of Contents

option, at an offering price of \$16.10 per share resulting in net proceeds of \$37,951,873 after deducting underwriting fees and commissions and offering costs totaling \$1,855,377. As of September 30, 2012, the Company had 11,930,084 shares of common stock outstanding.

Note 2. Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of presentation: The accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP), as established by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). These consolidated financial statements reflect the guidance in the Accounting Standards Codification (ASC), which is the single source of authoritative GAAP recognized by the FASB. In the opinion of management, the consolidated financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications that are necessary for the fair presentation of financial results as of and for the periods presented. Certain prior period amounts have been reclassified to conform to the current period presentation. The current period s results of operation are not necessarily indicative of results that ultimately may be achieved for the year. Therefore, the unaudited financial statements and notes should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and notes thereto for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Use of estimates: The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires 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 consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Consolidation: The Company will generally not consolidate its investments in a company other than an investment company subsidiary or a controlled operating company whose business consists of providing services to the Company. As a result, the consolidated financial statements of the Company include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including the Fund and Fidus Investment GP, LLC, the Fund s general partner. All significant intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

Fair value of financial instruments: The Company applies fair value to substantially all of its financial instruments in accordance with ASC Topic 820 *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (ASC Topic 820). ASC Topic 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework used to measure fair value, and requires disclosures for fair value measurements, including the categorization of financial instruments into a three-level hierarchy based on the transparency of valuation inputs. See Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements for further discussion regarding the fair value measurements and hierarchy.

Investment classification: The Company classifies its investments in accordance with the requirements of the 1940 Act. Under the 1940 Act, *Control Investments* are defined as investments in those companies where the Company owns more than 25% of the voting securities of such company or has rights to maintain greater than 50% of the board representation. Under the 1940 Act, *Affiliate Investments* are defined as investments in those companies where the Company owns between 5% and 25% of the voting securities of such company. *Non-Control/Non-Affiliate Investments* are those that neither qualify as Control Investments nor Affiliate Investments.

Segments: In accordance with ASC Topic 280 *Segment Reporting*, the Company has determined that it has a single reporting segment and operating unit structure.

Table of Contents

Cash and cash equivalents: Cash and cash equivalents are highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition. The Company places its cash in financial institutions and, at times, such balances may be in excess of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits. The Company does not believe it is exposed to any significant credit risk.

Deferred financing costs: Deferred financing costs include SBA debenture commitment and leverage fees that have been capitalized and are amortized on a straight-line basis into interest expense over the term of the debenture agreement (10 years). Deferred financing costs also include costs related to the Company's previous revolving credit facility. These costs have been capitalized and amortized into interest expense over the term of the credit facility.

Revenue recognition: The Company's revenue recognition policies are as follows:

Investments and related investment income. Realized gains or losses on portfolio investments are calculated based upon the difference between the net proceeds from the disposition and the amortized cost basis of the investment, without regard to unrealized gains and losses previously recognized. Changes in the fair value of investments from the prior period, as determined by our board of directors (the Board) through the application of the Company's valuation policy, are included as changes in unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments in the consolidated statement of operations.

Interest, fee and dividend income. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis to the extent that the Company expects to collect such amounts. Interest and dividend income is accrued based upon the outstanding principal amount and contractual terms of debt and preferred equity investments. Interest is accrued on a daily basis. Dividend income is recorded as dividends when declared or at the point an obligation exists for the portfolio company to make a distribution. Distributions of earnings from portfolio companies are evaluated to determine if the distribution is income or a return of capital.

The Company has investments in its portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind income provision, which represents contractual interest or dividends that are added to the principal balance and recorded as income. The Company stops accruing payment-in-kind income when it is determined that payment-in-kind income is no longer collectible. To maintain RIC tax treatment, and to avoid corporate tax, substantially all of this income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of distributions, even though the Company has not yet collected the cash.

In connection with the Company's debt investments, the Company will sometimes receive warrants or other equity-related securities (Warrants). The Company determines the cost basis of Warrants based upon their respective fair values on the date of receipt in proportion to the total fair value of the debt and Warrants received. Any resulting difference between the face amount of the debt and its recorded fair value resulting from the assignment of value to the Warrants is treated as original issue discount (OID), and accreted into interest income based on the effective interest method over the life of the debt security.

All transaction fees received in connection with the Company's investments are recognized as income. Such fees typically include fees for services, including structuring and advisory services, provided to portfolio companies. The Company recognizes income from fees for providing such structuring and advisory services when the services are rendered or the transactions are completed. Upon the prepayment of a loan or debt security, any prepayment penalties are recorded as fee income when received. Prior to the Formation Transactions, and in accordance with the prior limited partnership agreement, the Company historically recorded transaction fees provided

Table of Contents

in connection with the Company's investments as a direct offset to management fee expense (See Note 5 to the consolidated financial statements). Fee income from structuring and advisory services, amendments and prepayment penalties for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$514,465 and \$279,375, respectively. Fee income from structuring and advisory services, amendments and prepayment penalties for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$1,130,694 and \$419,792, respectively.

The Company also typically receives upfront loan origination or closing fees in connection with investments. Such upfront loan origination and closing fees are capitalized as unearned income offset against investments on our statement of assets and liabilities and amortized as additional interest income over the life of the investment. Upfront loan origination and closing fees received in the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$171,700 and \$113,250, respectively. Upfront loan origination and closing fees received in the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$447,264 and \$144,500, respectively.

Non-accrual. Loans or preferred equity securities are placed on non-accrual status when principal, interest or dividend payments become materially past due, or when there is reasonable doubt that principal, interest or dividends will be collected. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal, interest or dividends are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current.

Income taxes: The Company has elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code beginning with the taxable year ended December 31, 2011 and, among other things, intends to make the required distributions to its stockholders as specified therein. In order to qualify as a RIC, the Company is required to timely distribute to its stockholders at least 90.0% of investment company taxable income, as defined by the Code, each year. Depending on the level of taxable income earned in a tax year, the Company may choose to carry forward taxable income in excess of current year distributions into the next tax year and pay a 4.0% excise tax on such income. Any such carryover taxable income must be distributed through a dividend declared prior to the later of the filing the final tax return related to the year in which the Company generated such taxable income or the 15th day of the 9th month following the close of such taxable year.

In the future, pursuant to SBA guidelines, the Fund may be limited by provisions of the SBA Act, and SBA regulations governing SBICs, from making certain distributions to FIC that may be necessary to enable FIC to make the minimum required distributions to its stockholders and qualify as a RIC.

The Company has certain indirect wholly-owned taxable subsidiaries (the Taxable Subsidiaries), each of which generally holds one of its portfolio investments listed on the consolidated schedule of investments. The Taxable Subsidiaries are consolidated for financial reporting purposes, such that the Company's consolidated financial statements reflect the Company's investment in the portfolio companies owned by the Taxable Subsidiaries. The purpose of the Taxable Subsidiaries is to permit the Company to hold equity investments in portfolio companies that are organized as limited liability companies (LLCs) (or other forms of pass through entities) while complying with the source-of-income requirements contained in the RIC tax provisions. The Taxable Subsidiaries are not consolidated with the Company for U.S. federal corporate income tax purposes, and each Taxable Subsidiary will be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on its taxable income. Any such income or expense is reflected in the consolidated statements of operations.

ASC Topic 740 *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* (ASC Topic 740) provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, presented and disclosed

Table of Contents

in the consolidated financial statements. ASC Topic 740 requires the evaluation of tax positions taken in the course of preparing the Company's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are more-likely-than-not to be sustained by the applicable tax authority. Tax benefits of positions not deemed to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold would be recorded as a tax expense in the current year. It is the Company's policy to recognize accrued interest and penalties related to uncertain tax benefits in income tax expense. There were no material uncertain income tax positions at September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011. The 2009 through 2011 tax years remain subject to examination by U.S. federal and most state tax authorities.

Dividends: Dividends and distributions to common stockholders are recorded on the record date. The amount, if any, to be paid as a dividend, is determined by the Board each quarter and is generally based upon the earnings estimated by management. Net realized capital gains, if any, are distributed at least annually, although the Company may decide to retain such capital gains for investment.

The determination of the tax attributes for the Company's distributions is made annually, based upon its taxable income for the full year and distributions paid for the full year. Ordinary dividend distributions from a RIC do not qualify for the preferential tax rate (currently applicable through 2012) on qualified dividend income from domestic corporations and qualified foreign corporations, except to the extent that the RIC received the income in the form of qualifying dividends from domestic corporations and qualified foreign corporations. The tax attributes for dividends will generally include both ordinary income and capital gains but may also include qualified dividends or return of capital.

The Company has adopted a dividend reinvestment plan (DRIP) that provides for the reinvestment of dividends on behalf of its stockholders, unless a stockholder has elected to receive dividends in cash. As a result, if the Company declares a cash dividend, the Company's stockholders who have not opted out of the DRIP at least three days prior to the dividend payment date will have their cash dividend automatically reinvested into additional shares of the Company's common stock. The Company has the option to satisfy the share requirements of the DRIP through the issuance of new shares of common stock or through open market purchases of common stock by the DRIP plan administrator. Newly issued shares are valued based upon the final closing price of the Company's common stock on a date determined by the Board. Shares purchased in the open market to satisfy the DRIP requirements will be valued based upon the average price of the applicable shares purchased by the DRIP plan administrator, before any associated brokerage or other costs. See Note 9 to the consolidated financial statements regarding dividend declarations and distributions.

Earnings and net asset value per share: The earnings per share and weighted average shares outstanding calculations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, are based on the assumption that the number of shares issued in the Formation Transactions and the Offering (including the over-allotment) in June and July 2011 (9,427,021 shares of common stock) had been issued on January 1, 2011.

Recent accounting pronouncements: In May 2011, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)* (ASU 2011-04). ASU 2011-04 represents the converged guidance of the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) (collectively, the Standards Boards) on fair value measurement. The collective efforts of the Standards Boards and their staffs, reflected in ASU 2011-04, have resulted in common requirements for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements, including a consistent

Table of Contents

meaning of the term "fair value" and enhanced disclosure requirements for investments that do not have readily determinable fair values. The Standards Boards have concluded the common requirements will result in greater comparability of fair value measurements presented and disclosed in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP and IFRSs. The amendments to the FASB Codification in ASU 2011-04 are to be applied prospectively. For public entities, the amendments are effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. The Company adopted the amendments of ASU 2011-04 as of January 1, 2012. See Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements for the related disclosures. The adoption of ASU 2011-04 did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In November 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-11, *Balance Sheet (Topic 210)*, containing new guidance that requires an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position. This guidance is effective for annual and interim periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013. An entity should provide the disclosures required by those amendments retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. The Company's effective date is January 1, 2013. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial position.

Note 3. Portfolio Company Investments

The Company's portfolio investments principally consist of secured and unsecured debt, equity warrants and direct equity investments in privately held companies. The debt investments may or may not be secured by either a first or second lien on the assets of the portfolio company. The debt investments generally bear interest at fixed rates, and generally mature between five and seven years from the original investment. In connection with a debt investment, the Company also often receives nominally priced equity warrants and/or makes direct equity investments. The Company's warrants or equity investments may be in a holding company related to the portfolio company. In addition, the Company periodically makes equity investments in its portfolio companies through Taxable Subsidiaries. In both situations, the name of the operating company is reflected on the consolidated schedule of investments.

As of September 30, 2012, the Company had debt and equity investments in 29 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$251,917,477 and a weighted average effective yield on its debt investments of 15.4%. At September 30, 2012, the Company held equity ownership in 86.2% of its portfolio companies and the average fully diluted equity ownership in those portfolio companies was 8.6%. As of December 31, 2011, the Company had debt and equity investments in 23 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$204,745,372 and a weighted average effective yield on its debt investments of 15.3%. At December 31, 2011, the Company held equity ownership in 91.3% of its portfolio companies and the average fully diluted equity ownership in those portfolio companies was 9.0%. The weighted average yields were computed using the effective interest rates for all debt investments at cost as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, including accretion of original issue discount but excluding any debt investments on non-accrual status.

Purchases of debt and equity investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$57,687,812 and \$37,641,858, respectively. Repayments and sales of portfolio investments for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$17,882,623 and \$5,285,791, respectively.

Table of Contents

Investments by type with corresponding percentage of total portfolio investments consisted of the following:

	September 30, 2012		December 31, 2011	
Cost:				
Senior secured loans	\$ 32,655,208	13.7%	\$ 14,832,853	7.7%
Subordinated notes	177,725,488	74.5	155,252,227	80.6
Equity	21,833,456	9.2	17,890,911	9.3
Warrants	6,151,654	2.6	4,563,940	2.4
Total	\$ 238,365,806	100.0%	\$ 192,539,931	100.0%
Fair value:				
Senior secured loans	\$ 33,335,678	13.2%	\$ 14,991,962	7.3%
Subordinated notes	178,076,641	70.8	157,098,414	76.7
Equity	21,775,000	8.6	18,852,261	9.3
Warrants	18,730,158	7.4	13,802,735	6.7
Total	\$ 251,917,477	100.0%	\$ 204,745,372	100.0%

All investments made by the Company as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were made in portfolio companies located in the United States. The following tables show portfolio composition by geographic region at cost and fair value and as a percentage of total investments. The geographic composition is determined by the location of the corporate headquarters of the portfolio company, which may not be indicative of the primary source of the portfolio company's business.

	September 30, 2012		December 31, 2011	
Cost:				
Midwest	\$ 62,543,235	26.3%	\$ 66,462,930	34.5%
Southwest	48,587,546	20.4	32,412,934	16.8
Northeast	33,230,271	13.9	28,486,629	14.8
Southeast	48,208,896	20.2	36,154,165	18.8
West	45,795,858	19.2	29,023,273	15.1
Total	\$ 238,365,806	100.0%	\$ 192,539,931	100.0%
Fair value:				
Midwest	\$ 61,997,041	24.6%	\$ 68,460,815	33.4%
Southwest	59,396,079	23.6	41,605,896	20.3
Northeast	31,574,541	12.5	27,768,702	13.6
Southeast	48,999,301	19.5	36,166,177	17.7
West	49,950,515	19.8	30,743,782	15.0
Total	\$ 251,917,477	100.0%	\$ 204,745,372	100.0%

At September 30, 2012, the Company had one portfolio company investment that represented more than 10% of the total investment portfolio. Such investment represented 12.1% of the fair

Table of Contents

value of the portfolio and 8.7% of cost as of September 30, 2012. At December 31, 2011, the Company had one portfolio company investment that represented more than 10% of the total investment portfolio. Such investment represented 14.0% of the fair value of the portfolio and 10.3% of cost as of December 31, 2011.

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, there were no investments on non-accrual status.

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

Investments

The Company has established and documented processes and methodologies for determining the fair values of portfolio company investments on a recurring basis in accordance with ASC Topic 820. Fair value is the price that would be received in the sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Where available, fair value is based on observable market prices or parameters, or derived from such prices or parameters. Where observable prices or inputs are not available or reliable, valuation techniques are applied. Under ASC Topic 820, portfolio investments recorded at fair value in the consolidated financial statements are classified within the fair value hierarchy based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their value, as defined below:

Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted, quoted prices in active markets for identical assets as of the measurement date.

Level 2 Inputs include quoted prices for similar assets in active markets, or that are quoted prices for identical or similar assets in markets that are not active and inputs that are observable, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term, if applicable, of the investment.

Level 3 Inputs include those that are both unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement.

An investment's categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Company's investment portfolio is comprised of debt and equity securities of privately held companies for which quoted prices falling within the categories of Level 1 and Level 2 inputs are not available. Therefore, the Company values all of its portfolio investments at fair value, as determined in good faith by the Board, using Level 3 inputs. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised by the Board in determining fair value is greatest for investments classified as Level 3. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the Board's estimate of fair value may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed, and those differences may be material. In addition, changes in the market environment, portfolio company performance and other events that may occur over the lives of the investments may cause the gains or losses ultimately realized on these investments to be materially different than the valuations currently assigned.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, the Company's Board undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

the quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially evaluated and rated by the investment professionals of the Company's Investment Advisor responsible for the portfolio investment;

Table of Contents

preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with the investment committee of the Company's Investment Advisor;

the Board also engages one or more independent valuation firm(s) to conduct independent appraisals of a selection of our investments for which market quotations are not readily available. The Company will consult with independent valuation firm(s) relative to each portfolio company at least once in every calendar year, and for new portfolio companies, at least once in the twelve-month period subsequent to the initial investment. The Board consulted with the independent valuation firm in arriving at the Company's determination of fair value on ten of its portfolio company investments representing 44.9% of the total portfolio investments at fair value as of September 30, 2012. The Board consulted with the independent valuation firm in arriving at the Company's determination of fair value on ten of its portfolio company investments representing 51.3% of the total portfolio investments at fair value as of December 31, 2011;

the audit committee of the Board reviews the preliminary valuations of the Investment Advisor and of the independent valuation firm(s) and responds and supplements the valuation recommendations to reflect any comments; and

the Board discusses these valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith, based on the input of the Investment Advisor, the independent valuation firm(s) and the audit committee.

In making the good faith determination of the value of portfolio investments, the Company starts with the cost basis of the security, which includes the amortized OID and payment-in-kind income, if any. The transaction price is typically the best estimate of fair value at inception. When evidence supports a subsequent change to the carrying value from the original transaction price, adjustments are made to reflect the expected exit values.

The Company performs detailed valuations of its debt and equity investments, using both the market and income approaches as appropriate. Under the market approach, the Company typically uses the enterprise value methodology to determine the fair value of an investment. There is no one methodology to estimate enterprise value and, in fact, for any one portfolio company, enterprise value is generally best expressed as a range of values, from which the Company derives a single estimate of enterprise value. Under the income approach, the Company typically prepares and analyzes discounted cash flow models to estimate the present value of future cash flows of either an individual debt investment or of the underlying portfolio company itself.

The Company evaluates investments in portfolio companies using the most recent portfolio company financial statements and forecasts. The Company also consults with the portfolio company's senior management to obtain further updates on the portfolio company's performance, including information such as industry trends, new product development and other operational issues.

For the Company's debt investments, including senior secured loans and subordinated notes, the primary valuation technique used to estimate the fair value is the discounted cash flow method. However, if there is deterioration in credit quality or a debt investment is in workout status, the Company may consider other methods in determining the fair value, including the value attributable to the debt investment from the enterprise value of the portfolio company or the proceeds that would be received in a liquidation analysis. The Company's discounted cash flow models estimate a range of fair values by applying an appropriate discount rate to the future cash flow streams of its debt investments, based on future interest and principal payments as set forth in the associated loan agreements. The Company prepares a weighted average cost of capital for use in the discounted cash flow model for each investment, based on factors including, but not

Table of Contents

limited to: current pricing and credit metrics for similar proposed or executed investment transactions of private companies; the portfolio company's historical financial results and outlook; and the portfolio company's current leverage and credit quality as compared to leverage and credit quality as of the date the investment was made. The Company may also consider the following factors when determining the fair value of debt investments: the portfolio company's ability to make future scheduled payments; prepayment penalties; estimated remaining life; the nature and realizable value of any collateral; and changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets that generally may affect the price at which similar investments may be made. The Company estimates the remaining life of its debt investments to generally be the legal maturity date of the instrument, as the Company generally intends to hold its loans to maturity. However, if the Company has information available to it that the loan is expected to be repaid in the near term, it would use an estimated remaining life based on the expected repayment date.

For the Company's equity investments, including equity and warrants, the Company generally uses a market approach, including valuation methodologies consistent with industry practice, to estimate the enterprise value of portfolio companies. Typically, the enterprise value of a private company is based on multiples of EBITDA, cash flows, net income, revenues, or in limited cases, book value. In estimating the enterprise value of a portfolio company, the Company analyzes various factors consistent with industry practice, including but not limited to original transaction multiples, the portfolio company's historical and projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public. Where applicable, the Company considers the Company's ability to influence the capital structure of the portfolio company, as well as the timing of a potential exit.

The Company may also utilize an income approach when estimating the fair value of its equity securities, either as a primary methodology if consistent with industry practice or if the market approach is otherwise not applicable, or as a supporting methodology to corroborate the fair value ranges determined by the market approach. The Company typically prepares and analyzes discounted cash flow models based on projections of the future free cash flows (or earnings) of the portfolio company. The Company considers various factors, including but not limited to the portfolio company's projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public.

The Company's debt and equity investments are subject to market risk. Market risk is the potential for changes in the value of investments due to market changes. Market risk is directly impacted by the volatility and liquidity in the markets in which the investments are traded.

The Company reviews the fair value hierarchy classifications on a quarterly basis. Reclassifications impacting Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy are reported as transfers in or out of the Level 3 category as of the beginning of the quarter in which the reclassifications occur. There were no transfers among Levels 1, 2, and 3 during the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011.

Table of Contents

The following tables present a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for fair valued investments measured using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 and 2012:

	Senior Secured Loans	Subordinated Notes	Equity	Warrants	Total
Balance, December 31, 2010	\$ 16,302,829	\$ 106,323,193	\$ 13,622,546	\$ 5,092,910	\$ 141,341,478
Realized loss on investments			(6,627,973)	(1,307,457)	(7,935,430)
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	(234,748)	(628,611)	4,727,008	7,012,848	10,876,497
Purchase of investments	7,972,362	25,406,798	2,482,464	1,780,234	37,641,858
Proceeds from repayments and sales of investments	(500,000)	(4,785,791)			(5,285,791)
Non-cash conversion of security types	(4,139,000)	4,139,000			
Interest and dividend income paid-in-kind		2,753,769	371,490		3,125,259
Loan origination fees received	(49,000)	(95,500)			(144,500)
Accretion of loan origination fees	1,531	2,272			3,803
Accretion of original issue discount	133,830	357,314	904		492,048
Balance, September 30, 2011	\$ 19,487,804	\$ 133,472,444	\$ 14,576,439	\$ 12,578,535	\$ 180,115,222
Balance, December 31, 2011	\$ 14,991,962	\$ 157,098,414	\$ 18,852,261	\$ 13,802,735	\$ 204,745,372
Realized gain on investments	113,667			1,860,946	1,974,613
Net change in unrealized appreciation on investments	521,360	(1,495,032)	(1,019,805)	3,339,709	1,346,232
Purchase of investments	26,110,063	26,063,642	3,512,304	2,001,803	57,687,812
Payments from repayments and sales of investments	(8,546,183)	(7,061,405)		(2,275,035)	(17,882,623)
Interest and dividend income paid-in-kind	127,752	2,939,240	423,406		3,490,398
Proceeds from loan origination fees	(213,064)	(234,200)			(447,264)
Accretion of loan origination fees	88,507	62,865	1,809		153,181
Accretion of original issue discount	141,614	703,117	5,025		849,756
Balance, September 30, 2012	\$ 33,335,678	\$ 178,076,641	\$ 21,775,000	\$ 18,730,158	\$ 251,917,477

Table of Contents

The total change in unrealized appreciation included in the consolidated statements of operations attributable to Level 3 investments still held at September 30, 2012 and 2011, was \$1,346,232 and \$2,947,553, respectively.

The following table presents quantitative information about the significant unobservable inputs of the Company's Level 3 debt and equity investments as of September 30, 2012:

Quantitative Information about Level 3 Fair Value Measurements				
	Fair Value at September 30, 2012	Valuation Techniques	Unobservable Inputs	Range (weighted average)
Debt investments:				
Senior secured loans	\$ 33,335,678	Market comparable companies Discounted cash flow	EBITDA multiples Weighted average cost of capital	5.0x - 7.5x (6.1x) 12.7% - 16.7% (14.5%)
Subordinated notes	178,076,641	Market comparable companies Discounted cash flow	EBITDA multiples Weighted average cost of capital	4.5x - 9.9x (6.6x) 13.4% - 29.9% (16.6%)
Equity investments:				
Equity	\$ 21,775,000	Market comparable companies	EBITDA multiples	5.0x - 9.9x (6.2x)
Warrants	18,730,158	Market comparable companies	EBITDA multiples	4.5x - 8.5x (7.1x)

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the Company's debt investments, including senior secured loans and subordinated notes, are weighted average cost of capital and EBITDA multiples. Significant increases (or decreases) in either of these inputs in isolation could have a significant impact on estimated fair values, with the fair value of a debt investment susceptible to change in inverse relation to a change in the discount rate. Often, a change in the assumption used for the EBITDA multiple is accompanied by an inversely related change in the weighted average cost of capital.

The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement of the Company's equity investments, including equity and warrants, are EBITDA multiples. Significant increases (or decreases) in this input could result in a significantly higher (or lower) estimate of fair value.

Other Financial Assets and Liabilities

ASC Topic 820 requires disclosure of the fair value of financial instruments for which it is practical to estimate such value. The Company believes that the carrying amounts of its other financial instruments such as cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables approximate the fair value of such items due to the short maturity of such instruments. SBA debentures are carried at cost and with their longer maturity dates, fair value is estimated by discounting remaining payments using current market rates for similar instruments and considering such factors as the legal maturity date and the ability of market participants to prepay the debentures. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the fair value of the Company's SBA debentures using Level 3 inputs is estimated at \$141,500,000 and \$104,000,000, respectively, which is the same as the Company's carrying value of the debentures.

Note 5. Related Party Transactions

Prior management agreement: Prior to the consummation of the Formation Transactions, the Fund had entered into a management agreement with Fidus Capital, LLC, our Investment Advisor's predecessor, to manage the day-to-day operational and investment activities of the Fund. The Fund paid Fidus Capital, LLC, each fiscal quarter in advance, 0.5% of the sum of (i) the Fund's Regulatory Capital (as defined in the SBIC Act), (ii) any Permitted Distribution as defined by the previous partnership agreement, and (iii) an assumed two tiers (two times) of outstanding SBA debenture leverage on the sum of clauses (i) and (ii) up

Table of Contents

to the maximum amount as determined by the SBA, currently \$150.0 million. Under the previous agreement, gross management fees for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011 were \$0 and \$1,958,755, respectively, and were partially offset by the management fee offset (transaction fees received in connection with the Fund's investments) of \$0 and \$430,208, respectively.

Current management and incentive fee agreement: Concurrent with the Formation Transactions, the Company entered into the Investment Advisory Agreement with the Investment Advisor. Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement and subject to the overall supervision of the Board, the Investment Advisor provides investment advisory services to the Company. For providing these services, the Investment Advisor receives a fee, consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.75% based on the average value of total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts) at the end of the two most recently completed calendar quarters. The base management fee is payable quarterly in arrears. Up to and including the first full calendar quarter of the Company's operations, the base management fee was calculated based on the initial value of the Company's total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts) at the closing of the Formation Transactions. The base management fee under the Investment Advisory Agreement for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$1,099,361 and \$705,159, respectively. The base management fee under the Investment Advisory Agreement for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and for the period June 21, 2011 through September 30, 2011 totaled \$3,044,075 and \$781,807, respectively.

The incentive fee has two parts. One part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears based on the Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income for the quarter. Pre-incentive fee net investment income means interest income, dividend income and any other income (including any other fees such as commitment, origination, structuring, diligence and consulting fees or other fees that the Company receives from portfolio companies but excluding fees for providing managerial assistance) accrued during the calendar quarter, minus operating expenses for the quarter (including the base management fee, any expenses payable under the Administration Agreement (defined below) and any interest expense and dividends paid on any outstanding preferred stock, but excluding the incentive fee and any organizing and offering costs). Pre-incentive fee net investment income includes, in the case of investments with a deferred interest feature (such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind income, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero-coupon securities), accrued income the Company has not yet received in cash. The Investment Advisor is not under any obligation to reimburse the Company for any part of the incentive fee it receives that was based on accrued interest that the Company never actually receives.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income does not include any realized capital gains, realized capital losses or unrealized capital appreciation or depreciation. Because of the structure of the incentive fee, it is possible that the Company may pay an incentive fee in a quarter where the Company incurs a loss. For example, if the Company receives pre-incentive fee net investment income in excess of the hurdle rate (as defined below) for a quarter, the Company will pay the applicable incentive fee even if the Company has incurred a loss in that quarter due to realized and unrealized capital losses.

Pre-incentive fee net investment income, expressed as a rate of return on the value of the Company's net assets (defined as total assets less indebtedness and before taking into account any incentive fees payable during the period) at the end of the immediately preceding calendar quarter, is compared to a fixed hurdle rate of 2.0% per quarter. If market interest rates rise, the Company

Table of Contents

may be able to invest funds in debt instruments that provide for a higher return, which would increase the Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income and make it easier for the Investment Advisor to surpass the fixed hurdle rate and receive an incentive fee based on such net investment income. The Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income used to calculate this part of the incentive fee is also included in the total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts) used to calculate the 1.75% base management fee.

The Company pays the Investment Advisor an incentive fee with respect to pre-incentive fee net investment income in each calendar quarter as follows:

no incentive fee in any calendar quarter in which the pre-incentive fee net investment income does not exceed the hurdle rate of 2.0%;

100.0% of the Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5% in any calendar quarter. This portion of the pre-incentive fee net investment income (which exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5%) is referred to as the catch-up provision. The catch-up is meant to provide the Investment Advisor with 20.0% of the pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply if this net investment income exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter; and

20.0% of the amount of the Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter. The sum of the calculations above equals the income incentive fee. The income incentive fee is appropriately prorated for any period of less than three months and adjusted for any share issuances or repurchases during the calendar quarter. The income incentive fee for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$1,129,265 and \$437,674, respectively. The income incentive fee for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$2,903,397 and \$437,674, respectively. The Investment Advisor waived the income incentive fee of \$82,512 for the period June 21, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

The second part of the incentive fee is a capital gains incentive fee that is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each fiscal year (or upon termination of the Investment Advisory Agreement, as of the termination date), and equals 20.0% of the net realized capital gains as of the end of the fiscal year. In determining the capital gains incentive fee payable to the Investment Advisor, the Company calculates the cumulative aggregate realized capital gains and cumulative aggregate realized capital losses since the Formation Transactions, and the aggregate unrealized capital depreciation as of the date of the calculation, as applicable, with respect to each of the investments in the Company's portfolio. For this purpose, cumulative aggregate realized capital gains, if any, equal the sum of the differences between the net sales price of each investment, when sold, and the original cost of such investment. Cumulative aggregate realized capital losses equals the sum of the amounts by which the net sales price of each investment, when sold, is less than the original cost of such investment. Aggregate unrealized capital depreciation equals the sum of the difference, if negative, between the valuation of each investment as of the applicable calculation date and the original cost of such investment. At the end of the applicable year, the amount of capital gains that serves as the basis for the calculation of the capital gains incentive fee payable equals the cumulative aggregate realized capital gains less cumulative aggregate realized capital losses, less aggregate unrealized capital depreciation, with respect to the Company's portfolio of investments. If this number is positive at the end of such year, then the capital gains incentive fee payable for such year equals 20.0% of such amount, less the aggregate amount of any capital gains incentive fees paid in all prior years. The Company will accrue the capital gains

Table of Contents

incentive fee if, on a cumulative basis, the sum of net realized gains/(losses) plus net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) is positive. If, on a cumulative basis, the sum of net realized gains/(losses) plus net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) decreases during a period, the Company will reverse any excess capital gains incentive fee previously accrued such that the amount of capital gains incentive fee accrued is no more than 20.0% of the sum of net realized gains/(losses) plus net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation). During the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized accrued capital gains incentive fees totaling \$514,885 and \$98,167, respectively. During the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, the Company recognized capital gains incentive fees totaling \$664,169 and \$98,167, respectively.

The sum of the income incentive fee and the capital gains incentive fee is the incentive fee and is reported in the consolidated statement of operations. Accrued management fees, income incentive fees and capital gains incentive fees are reported in the due to affiliates line in the consolidated statement of assets and liabilities.

Unless terminated earlier as described below, the Investment Advisory Agreement will continue in effect for a period of two years from its effective date. It will remain in effect from year to year thereafter if approved annually by the Board or by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the Company's outstanding voting securities, and, in either case, if also approved by a majority of the Company's directors who are not interested persons. The Investment Advisory Agreement automatically terminates in the event of its assignment, as defined in the 1940 Act, by the Investment Advisor and may be terminated by either party without penalty upon not less than 60 days' written notice to the other. The holders of a majority of the Company's outstanding voting securities may also terminate the Investment Advisory Agreement without penalty.

Administration Agreement: Concurrent with the Formation Transactions, the Company also entered into an administration agreement (the Administration Agreement) with the Investment Advisor. Under the Administration Agreement, the Investment Advisor furnishes the Company with office facilities and equipment, provides it clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities and provides the Company with other administrative services necessary to conduct its day-to-day operations. The Company reimburses the Investment Advisor for the allocable portion of overhead expenses incurred in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, including rent and the Company's allocable portion of the cost of its chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and their respective staffs. Under the Administration Agreement, the Investment Advisor also provides managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which the Company is required to provide such assistance. Under the Administration Agreement, administrative expenses for services provided for the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$218,692 and \$184,069, respectively. Administrative expenses for services provided for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$671,834 and \$206,242, respectively.

Note 6. Debt

Credit facility: The Fund previously had a \$5,000,000 unsecured line of credit with American Bank & Trust. On June 27, 2011, the Fund repaid the line of credit in full and terminated the agreement. Interest accrued monthly at an annual rate of 6%. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2011, interest and fee amortization expense on the unsecured line of credit included in interest expense on the consolidated statement of operations amounted to \$0 and \$39,572, respectively.

SBA debentures: The Company uses debenture leverage provided through the SBA to fund a portion of its investment purchases. The SBA has made commitments to issue \$150,000,000 in the

Table of Contents

form of debenture securities to the Company on or before September 30, 2016. Unused commitments as of September 30, 2012 were \$8,500,000. The SBA may limit the amount that may be drawn each year under these commitments, and each issuance of leverage is conditioned on the Company's full compliance, as determined by the SBA, with the terms and conditions set forth in the SBIC Act.

As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the Company's issued and outstanding SBA debentures mature as follows:

Pooling Date (1)	Maturity Date	Fixed Interest Rate	September 30, 2012	December 31, 2011
3/26/2008	3/1/2018	6.188%	\$ 24,750,000	\$ 24,750,000
9/24/2008	9/1/2018	6.442	11,950,000	11,950,000
3/25/2009	3/1/2019	5.337	19,750,000	19,750,000
9/23/2009	9/1/2019	4.950	10,000,000	10,000,000
3/24/2010	3/1/2020	4.825	13,000,000	13,000,000
9/22/2010	9/1/2020	3.932	12,500,000	12,500,000
3/29/2011	3/1/2021	4.801	1,550,000	1,550,000
9/21/2011	9/1/2021	3.594	3,250,000	3,250,000
3/21/2012	3/1/2022	3.483	3,250,000	3,250,000
3/21/2012	3/1/2022	3.051	19,000,000	4,000,000
9/19/2012	9/1/2022	2.530	11,000,000	
9/19/2012	9/1/2022	3.049	11,500,000	
			\$ 141,500,000	\$ 104,000,000

(1) The SBA has two scheduled pooling dates for debentures (in March and in September). Certain debentures drawn during the reporting periods may not be pooled until the subsequent pooling date.

Interest on SBA debentures is payable semi-annually on March 1 and September 1. For the three months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, interest and fee amortization expense on outstanding SBA debentures amounted to \$1,651,492 and \$1,376,205, respectively. For the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011, interest and fee amortization expense on outstanding SBA debentures amounted to \$4,663,356 and \$4,055,685 respectively. As of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, accrued interest payable totaled \$501,768 and \$1,718,989, respectively. The weighted average fixed interest rate for all SBA debentures as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 was 4.6% and 5.1%, respectively.

Deferred financing costs as of September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, are as follows:

	September 30, 2012	December 31, 2011
SBA debenture commitment fees	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,300,000
SBA debenture leverage fees	3,431,375	2,522,000
Subtotal	4,931,375	3,822,000
Accumulated amortization	(1,466,376)	(1,134,767)
Net deferred financing costs	\$ 3,464,999	\$ 2,687,233

Table of Contents

Note 7. Commitments and Contingencies

Commitments: As of September 30, 2012, the Company had one outstanding revolving loan commitment to a portfolio company for \$1,000,000 that was unfunded. The commitment is generally subject to the borrowers meeting certain criteria such as compliance with financial and nonfinancial covenants. As of December 31, 2011, the Company had no off-balance sheet arrangements or unfunded commitments.

Indemnifications: In the normal course of business, the Company enters into contracts and agreements that contain a variety of representations and warranties that provide indemnifications under certain circumstances. The Company's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Company that have not yet occurred. The Company expects the risk of future obligation under these indemnifications to be remote.

Legal proceedings: In the normal course of business, the Company may be subject to legal and regulatory proceedings that are generally incidental to its ongoing operations. While the outcome of these legal proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, the Company does not believe these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents**Note 8. Financial Highlights**

The following is a schedule of financial highlights for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 and 2011:

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2012	2011 (1)
Per share data:		
Net asset value at beginning of period	\$ 14.90	\$ 13.33
Net investment income (2)	1.14	0.86
Net realized loss on investments (2)	0.21	(0.84)
Net unrealized appreciation on investments (2)	0.14	1.16
Total increase from investment operations (2)	1.49	1.18
Capital contributions from partners prior to formation transactions		0.74
Capital distributions to partners prior to formation transactions		(0.16)
Accretive effect of public stock offering (issued shares above NAV)	0.03	
Dividends to stockholders	(1.08)	(0.32)
Other (3)	(0.07)	
Net asset value at end of period	\$ 15.27	\$ 14.77
Market value at end of period	\$ 16.70	\$ 12.59
Shares outstanding at end of period	11,930,084	9,427,021
Weighted average shares outstanding during the period	9,599,029	9,427,021
Ratios to average net assets (annualized):		
Expenses other than incentive fee	8.6%	7.3%
Incentive fee (4)	3.1%	0.5%
Total expenses	11.7%	7.8%
Net investment income	9.7%	8.0%
Total return (5)	37.1%	(13.9%)
Net assets at end of period	\$ 182,119,807	\$ 139,199,121
Average debt outstanding	\$ 121,437,500	\$ 95,312,500
Weighted average debt per share (2)	\$ 12.65	\$ 10.11
Portfolio turnover ratio (annualized)	10.5%	4.5%

- (1) Per share data, shares outstanding and ratios to average net assets for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 are presented as if the Offering (including the over-allotment) and Formation Transactions had occurred on January 1, 2011.
- (2) Weighted average per share data.
- (3) Represents the impact of the different share amounts used in calculating per share data as a result of calculating certain per share data based upon the weighted average basic shares outstanding during the period and certain per share data based on the shares outstanding as of a period end or a transaction date.

Table of Contents

- (4) The Investment Advisor voluntarily waived \$82,512 of incentive fees for the period June 21, 2011 through June 30, 2011.
- (5) The total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 equals the change in the ending market value of the Company's common stock plus dividends paid per share during the period, divided by the beginning common stock price and is not annualized. Total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2011 equals the change in the ending market value of the Company's common stock from the Offering price of \$15.00 per share plus any dividends paid per share during the period, divided by the Offering price and is not annualized.

Note 9. Dividends and Distributions

The Company's dividends and distributions are recorded on the record date. The following table summarizes the Company's dividend declaration and distribution during the nine months ended September 30, 2012.

Date Declared	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount Per Share	Cash Distribution	DRIP Shares Issued	DRIP Shares Value
2/10/2012	3/14/2012	3/28/2012	\$ 0.34	\$ 3,205,187		\$
4/30/2012	6/13/2012	6/27/2012	0.36	3,393,728		
7/31/2012	9/11/2012	9/25/2012	0.38	4,009,888	30,563	511,930
			\$ 1.08	\$ 10,608,803	30,563	\$ 511,930

For the nine months ended September 30, 2012, \$1,702,981 of the total \$11,120,733 paid to stockholders represented DRIP participation. During this period, the Company satisfied the DRIP participation requirements with the purchase of 83,225 shares of common stock in the open market at an average price of \$14.31 per share and issued 30,563 shares valued at \$16.75 per share at the date of issuance.

Note 10. Subsequent Events

On October 2, 2012, the Company made a follow-on equity investment of \$1,091,068 in ACFP Management, Inc.

On October 15, 2012, the Company submitted an application to the SBA for a second SBIC license, after receiving a "Green Light" letter from the SBA on July 30, 2012 allowing the Company to proceed with such an application.

On October 29, 2012, the Board declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.38 per share payable on December 21, 2012 to stockholders of record as of December 7, 2012.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

\$300,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Subscription Rights

Debt Securities

Warrants

We may offer, from time to time, in one or more offerings or series, together or separately, up to \$300,000,000 of our common stock, shares of our preferred stock, subscription rights, debt securities, or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock, or debt securities, which we refer to collectively as the securities. We may sell our securities through underwriters or dealers, at-the-market to or through a market maker into an existing trading market or otherwise directly to one or more purchasers or through agents or through a combination of methods of sale. The identities of such underwriters, dealers, market makers or agents, as the case may be, will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus. The securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus.

We may offer shares of common stock at a discount to net asset value per share in certain circumstances. On June 6, 2012, our common stockholders voted to allow us to sell or otherwise issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Sales of common stock at prices below net asset value per share dilute the interests of existing stockholders, have the effect of reducing our net asset value per share and may reduce our market price per share. In addition, continuous sales of common stock below net asset value may have a negative impact on total returns and could have a negative impact on the market price of our shares of common stock. See **Risk Factors** on page 11 and **Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value** on page 98 of this prospectus for more information.

Our stockholders specified that the cumulative number of shares sold in each offering during the one-year period ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may not exceed 25.0% of our outstanding common stock immediately prior to such sale. In addition, as approved by our stockholders, we cannot issue shares of our common stock below net asset value unless our board of directors determines that it would be in our and our stockholders' best interests to do so. Shares of closed-end investment companies such as us frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. This risk is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our common stock will trade above, at or below net asset value. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in our common stock.

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies located throughout the United States. We are an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. Our strategy includes partnering with business owners, management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives.

We generally invest in securities that would be rated below investment grade if they were rated by rating agencies. Below investment grade securities, which are often referred to as high yield or junk, have speculative characteristics with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal.

Our common stock is listed on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol FDUS. On August 17, 2012, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq Global Select Market was \$16.10 per share and our net asset value on June 30, 2012 was \$15.02 per share.

Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC serves as our investment advisor and as our administrator.

Investing in our securities is speculative and involves numerous risks, and you could lose your entire investment if any of the risks occur. Among these risks is the risk associated with leverage and dilution. For more information regarding these risks, please see Risk Factors beginning on page 11.

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Please read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement, if any, before investing, and keep it for future reference. It concisely sets forth important information about us that a prospective investor ought to know before investing in our securities. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This information is available free of charge by contacting us at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 820, Evanston, Illinois 60201, Attention: Investor Relations, by accessing our website at <http://www.fidus.com> or by calling us collect at (847) 859-3940. Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into, and you should not consider that information to be part of, this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. The Securities and Exchange Commission also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains such information.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is August 30, 2012

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<u>SUMMARY</u>	1
<u>FEES AND EXPENSES</u>	8
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	11
<u>SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	38
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	40
<u>FORMATION TRANSACTIONS</u>	41
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	42
<u>SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA</u>	44
<u>SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA</u>	46
<u>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS</u>	47
<u>SENIOR SECURITIES</u>	62
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	63
<u>PORTFOLIO COMPANIES</u>	74
<u>MANAGEMENT</u>	77
<u>MANAGEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS</u>	88
<u>CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS</u>	95
<u>CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDERS</u>	97
<u>SALES OF COMMON STOCK BELOW NET ASSET VALUE</u>	98
<u>DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN</u>	102
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	104
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR CAPITAL STOCK</u>	114
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK</u>	120
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR SUBSCRIPTION RIGHTS</u>	121
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR DEBT SECURITIES</u>	122
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR WARRANTS</u>	132
<u>REGULATION</u>	134
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	140
<u>CUSTODIAN, TRANSFER AND DIVIDEND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR</u>	142
<u>BROKERAGE ALLOCATION AND OTHER PRACTICES</u>	142
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	142
<u>INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM</u>	142
<u>AVAILABLE INFORMATION</u>	142
<u>PRIVACY NOTICE</u>	143
<u>INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</u>	F-1

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using the shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may offer, from time to time, up to \$300,000,000 worth of our common stock, preferred stock, subscription rights, debt securities, or warrants representing rights to purchase shares of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. Each time we use this prospectus to offer securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent required by law, we will amend or supplement the information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement to reflect any material changes to such information subsequent to the date of the prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement and prior to the completion of any offering.

Table of Contents

pursuant to the prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement. Please carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under Available Information and Risk Factors before you make an investment decision. During an offering, we will disclose material amendments to this prospectus through a post-effective amendment or prospectus supplement.

No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus or any accompanying supplement to this prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations not contained in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement as if we had authorized it. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement do not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy any security other than the registered securities to which they relate, nor do they constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The information contained in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement is accurate as of the dates on their covers.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read the entire prospectus and any prospectus supplement carefully, including Risk Factors, Selected Financial Data, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and the financial statements contained elsewhere in this prospectus.

Fidus Investment Corporation is a Maryland corporation, formed on February 14, 2011, for the purpose of acquiring 100.0% of the equity interests in Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P., or the Fund, and its general partner, Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, raising capital in its initial public offering, or IPO, which was completed in June 2011, and thereafter, operating as an externally managed business development company, or BDC, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, or the 1940 Act. The Fund is licensed as a small business investment company, or SBIC, by the United States Small Business Administration, or SBA. Simultaneously with the consummation of our IPO, we acquired all of the equity interests in the Fund and its former general partner as described elsewhere in this prospectus under Formation Transactions, whereby the Fund became our wholly owned subsidiary. Unless otherwise noted in this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement, the terms we, us, our, the Company and Fidus refer to the Fund prior to the IPO and to Fidus Investment Corporation and its subsidiaries, including the Fund, for the periods after the IPO.

As used in this prospectus the term our investment advisor refers to Fidus Capital, LLC prior to the Formation Transactions and Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC after the Formation Transactions. The investment professionals of Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC were also the investment professionals of Fidus Capital, LLC.

Fidus Investment Corporation

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies, which we define as U.S. based companies having revenues between \$10.0 million and \$150.0 million. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. We were formed to continue and to expand the business of the Fund, which was formed in February 2007 and is licensed by the SBA as a SBIC. Our investment strategy includes partnering with business owners, management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives. We seek to maintain a diversified portfolio of investments in order to help mitigate the potential effects of adverse economic events related to particular companies, regions or industries.

We invest in companies that possess some or all of the following attributes: predictable revenues; positive cash flows; defensible and/or leading market positions; diversified customer and supplier bases; and proven management teams with strong operating discipline. We target companies in the lower middle-market with annual earnings, before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, or EBITDA, between \$3.0 million and \$20.0 million; however, we may from time to time opportunistically make investments in larger or smaller companies. Our investments typically range between \$5.0 million and \$15.0 million per portfolio company.

As of June 30, 2012, we had debt and equity investments in 27 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$234.1 million. The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of June 30, 2012 was 15.5%. Yields are computed using the effective interest rates as of June 30, 2012, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments. There can be no assurance that the weighted average yield will remain at its current level.

Table of Contents

Market Opportunity

We believe that the limited amount of capital available to lower middle-market companies, coupled with the desire of these companies for flexible and partnership-oriented sources of capital, creates an attractive investment environment for us. From our perspective, lower middle-market companies have faced difficulty raising debt capital in both the capital markets and private markets. As a result of the difficulties in the credit markets and fewer sources of capital for lower middle-market companies, we see opportunities for improved risk-adjusted returns. Furthermore, we believe with a large pool of uninvested private equity capital seeking debt capital to complete transactions and a substantial supply of refinancing opportunities, there is an opportunity to attain appealing risk-adjusted returns on debt and equity investments. See [The Company](#) for more information.

Business Strategy

We intend to accomplish our goal of becoming the premier provider of capital to and value-added partner of lower middle-market companies by:

Leveraging the experience of our investment advisor;

Capitalizing on our strong transaction sourcing network;

Serving as a value-added partner with customized financing solutions;

Employing rigorous due diligence and underwriting processes focused on capital preservation;

Actively managing our portfolio;

Maintaining portfolio diversification; and

Benefiting from lower cost of capital through our SBIC subsidiary.

Investment Criteria/Guidelines

We use the following criteria and guidelines in evaluating investment opportunities and constructing our portfolio. However, not all of these criteria and guidelines have been, or will be, met in connection with each of our investments.

Value Orientation / Positive Cash Flow. Our investment advisor places a premium on analysis of business fundamentals from an investor's perspective and has a distinct value orientation. We focus on companies with proven business models in which we can invest at relatively low multiples of operating cash flow. We also typically invest in companies with a history of profitability and minimum trailing twelve month EBITDA of \$3.0 million. We do not invest in start-up companies, turn-around situations or companies that we believe have unproven business plans.

Experienced Management Teams with Meaningful Equity Ownership. We target portfolio companies that have management teams with significant experience and/or relevant industry experience coupled with meaningful equity ownership. We believe management teams with these attributes are more likely to manage the companies in a manner that protects our debt investment and enhances the value of our equity investment.

Niche Market Leaders with Defensible Market Positions. We invest in companies that have developed defensible and/or leading positions within their respective markets or market niches and are well positioned to capitalize on growth opportunities. We favor companies that demonstrate significant competitive advantages, which we believe helps to protect their market position and profitability.

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Diversified Customer and Supplier Base. We prefer to invest in companies that have a diversified customer and supplier base. Companies with a diversified customer and supplier base are generally better able to endure economic downturns, industry consolidation and shifting customer preferences.

-2-

Table of Contents

Significant Invested Capital. We believe the existence of significant underlying equity value provides important support to our debt investments. With respect to our debt investments, we look for portfolio companies where we believe aggregate enterprise value significantly exceeds aggregate indebtedness, after consideration of our investment.

Viable Exit Strategy. We invest in companies that we believe will provide a steady stream of cash flow to repay our loans and reinvest in their respective businesses. In addition, we also seek to invest in companies whose business models and expected future cash flows offer attractive exit possibilities for our equity investments. We expect to exit our investments typically through one of three scenarios: (a) the sale of the company resulting in repayment of all outstanding debt and equity; (b) the recapitalization of the company through which our investments are replaced with debt or equity from a third party or parties; or (c) the repayment of the initial or remaining principal amount of our debt investment from cash flow generated by the company. In some investments, there may be scheduled amortization of some portion of our debt investment which would result in a partial exit of our investment prior to the maturity of the debt investment.

About Our Advisor

Our investment activities are managed by Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, our investment advisor. Pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory and management agreement, which we refer to as the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor is responsible for determining the composition of our portfolio, including sourcing potential investments, conducting research and diligence on potential investments and equity sponsors, analyzing investment opportunities, structuring our investments and monitoring our investments and portfolio companies on an ongoing basis. Our investment advisor's investment professionals seek to capitalize on their significant deal origination and sourcing, credit underwriting, due diligence, investment structuring, execution, portfolio management and monitoring experience. These professionals have developed a broad network of contacts within the investment community, have gained extensive experience investing in assets that constitute our primary focus and have expertise in investing across all levels of the capital structure of lower middle-market companies. For information regarding the people who control our investment advisor and their affiliations with the Company, see [Certain Relationships and Related Transactions](#) Investment Advisory Agreement.

Our relationship with our investment advisor is governed by and dependent on the Investment Advisory Agreement and may be subject to conflicts of interest. We pay our investment advisor a fee for its services under the Investment Advisory Agreement consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.75% of the average value of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts). The incentive fee consists of two parts. The first part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears and equals 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the immediately preceding quarter, subject to a 2.0% preferred return, or hurdle, and a catch up feature. The second part is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each fiscal year in an amount equal to 20.0% of our realized capital gains and unrealized capital appreciation, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. For more information about how we compensate our investment advisor and the related conflicts of interest, see [Management and Other Agreements](#) Investment Advisory Agreement and [Certain Relationships and Related Transactions](#) Conflicts of Interest.

Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how our investment advisor addresses conflicts of interest associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors periodically review our investment advisor's services and fees as well as its portfolio management

Table of Contents

decisions and portfolio performance. In connection with these reviews, our independent directors consider whether the fees and expenses (including those related to leverage) that we pay to our investment advisor remain appropriate.

Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company that is registered as an investment advisor under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, or the Advisers Act. In addition, Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC serves as our administrator and provides us with office space, equipment and clerical, book-keeping and record-keeping services pursuant to an administration agreement, which we refer to as the Administration Agreement.

Operating and Regulatory Structure

Our investment activities are managed by our investment advisor under the direction of our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of us.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For example, while we are permitted to finance investments using leverage, which may include the issuance of shares of preferred stock, or notes and other borrowings, our ability to use leverage is limited in significant respects. See Regulation. Any decision on our part to use leverage will depend upon our assessment of the attractiveness of available investment opportunities in relation to the costs and perceived risks of such leverage. The use of leverage to finance investments creates certain risks and potential conflicts of interest. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business and Structure Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to raise, and the way in which we raise additional capital which may have a negative effect on our growth and Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business and Structure Because we borrow money and may in the future issue additional senior securities including preferred stock and debt securities, the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested in us is magnified and may increase the risk of investing in us.

We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. In order to maintain our status as a RIC, we must satisfy certain source of income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. See Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Risk Factors

The value of our assets, as well as the market price of our shares, will fluctuate. Our investments may be risky, and you may lose part of or all of your investment in us. Investing in our securities involves other risks, including the following:

our inexperience operating a BDC;

our dependence on key personnel of our investment advisor and our executive officers;

our ability to maintain or develop referral relationships;

our ability to manage our business effectively;

our use of leverage;

uncertain valuations of our portfolio investments;

competition for investment opportunities;

potential divergent interests of our investment advisor and our stockholders arising from our management and incentive fee structure;

-4-

Table of Contents

actual and potential conflicts of interest with our investment advisor;

constraint on investment due to access to material nonpublic information;

other potential conflicts of interest;

SBA regulations affecting our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary;

changes in interest rates;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business and portfolio investments;

fluctuations in our quarterly operating results;

our ability to maintain our status as a RIC and as a BDC;

risks associated with the timing, form and amount of any distributions to our stockholders;

changes in laws or regulations applicable to us;

dilutions risks related to issuing shares below our current net asset value;

possible resignation of our investment advisor;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

risks associated with investing in lower middle-market companies;

our ability to invest in qualifying assets; and

our ability to identify and timely close on investment opportunities.

See Risk Factors beginning on page 11 and the other information included in this prospectus, and any prospectus supplement, for additional discussion of factors you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

Corporate Information

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Our principal executive offices are located at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 820, Evanston, Illinois 60201, and our telephone number is (847) 859-3940. Our corporate website is located at <http://www.fidus.com>. Information on our website is not incorporated into this prospectus or any supplements to this prospectus, and you should not consider information contained on our website to be part of this prospectus or any supplements to this prospectus.

-5-

Table of Contents

The Offering

We may offer, from time to time, up to \$300,000,000 worth of our securities, on terms to be determined at the time of the offering. Our securities may be offered at prices and on terms to be disclosed in one or more prospectus supplements.

Our securities may be offered directly to one or more purchasers by us or through agents designated from time to time by us, or to or through underwriters or dealers. The prospectus supplement relating to the offering will disclose the terms of the offering, including the name or names of any agents or underwriters involved in the sale of our securities by us, the purchase price, and any fee, commission or discount arrangement between us and our agents or underwriters or among our underwriters or the basis upon which such amount may be calculated. See Plan of Distribution. We may not sell any of our securities through agents, underwriters or dealers without delivery of a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering of our securities.

The Nasdaq Global Select Market Symbol

FDUS

Use of proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from selling our securities to make investments in lower middle-market companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and for working capital and general corporate purposes. See Use of Proceeds.

Dividends and distributions

We pay quarterly distributions to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. Our distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors. Our ability to declare distributions depends on our earnings, our overall financial condition (including our liquidity position), maintenance of our RIC status and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant from time to time.

When we make distributions, we will be required to determine the extent to which such distributions are paid out of current or accumulated earnings, recognized capital gains or capital. To the extent there is a return of capital, investors will be required to reduce their basis in our stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In the future, our distributions may include a return of capital.

Dividend reinvestment plan

We have adopted a dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders, which is an opt out dividend reinvestment plan. Under this plan, if we declare a cash distribution, our stockholders who have not opted out of our dividend reinvestment plan will have their cash distribution automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, rather than receiving the cash distribution. If a stockholder opts out, that stockholder will receive cash distributions. Stockholders who receive distributions in the form of shares of common stock generally are subject to the same U.S. federal income tax consequences as stockholders who elect to receive their distributions in cash; however, since their cash distributions will be reinvested, such stockholders will not receive cash with which to pay any applicable taxes on reinvested distributions. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

Table of Contents

Taxation	We have elected to be treated as a RIC under the Code, effective with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders. To maintain RIC tax treatment, we must distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of our net long-term capital losses, if any. See Distributions and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations .
Effective trading at a discount	Shares of closed-end investment companies, including business development companies, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. The risk that our shares may trade at a discount to our net asset value is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our shares will trade above, at or below net asset value. See Risk Factors .
Sales of common stock below net asset value	Generally, the offering price per share of our common stock, exclusive of any underwriting commissions or discounts, may not be less than the net asset value per share of our common stock at the time we make the offering except (1) in connection with a rights offering to our existing stockholders, (2) with the consent of the majority of our common stockholders and approval of our board of directors, or (3) under such circumstances as the SEC may permit. On June 6, 2012, our common stockholders voted to allow us to sell or otherwise issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Sales or other issuances by us of our common stock at a discount from our net asset value pose potential risks for our existing stockholders whether or not they participate in the offering, as well as for new investors who participate in the offering. See Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value in this prospectus and in the prospectus supplement, if applicable.
Available information	We are required to file periodic reports, current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. This information is available on the SEC's Internet website at www.sec.gov . You can also inspect any materials we file with the SEC, without charge, at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the Public Reference Room. We intend to provide much of the same information on our website at www.fidus.com . Information contained on our website is not part of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and should not be relied upon as such.

Table of Contents**FEES AND EXPENSES**

The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear, directly or indirectly, based on the assumptions set forth below. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by you, us, the Company or Fidus, or that we will pay fees or expenses, stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses as investors in us.

Stockholder transaction expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)	(1)
Offering expenses borne by us (as a percentage of offering price)	(2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	(3)
Total stockholder transaction expenses paid by us (as a percentage of offering price)	(4)

Annual expenses (as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock)⁽⁵⁾:

Base management fee	2.8%(6)
Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement	2.5%(7)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	4.9%(8)
Other expenses	1.9%(9)
Total annual expenses	12.2%(10)

- (1) In the event that securities to which this prospectus relates are sold to or through underwriters, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the applicable sales load.
- (2) In the event that we conduct an offering of any of our securities, a corresponding prospectus supplement will disclose the estimated offering expenses because they will be ultimately borne by us.
- (3) The expenses of administering our dividend reinvestment plan are included in other expenses.
- (4) Total stockholder transaction expenses may include a sales load and will be disclosed in a future prospectus supplement, if any.
- (5) Annual expenses is calculated as a percentage of net assets attributable to common stock because such expenses are ultimately paid by our common stockholders. Offering expenses, if any, will be borne directly or indirectly by our common stockholders. Net assets attributable to common stock equals average net assets for the six months ended June 30, 2012.
- (6) Our base management fee is 1.75% of the average value of our total assets (other than cash and cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts) and are estimated by assuming the base management fee remains consistent with the fees incurred for the six months ended June 30, 2012. We may from time to time decide it is appropriate to change the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement. Under the 1940 Act, any material change to our Investment Advisory Agreement must be submitted to stockholders for approval. The 2.8% reflected in the table is calculated on our net assets (rather than our total assets). See Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement.
- (7) This item represents our investment advisor's incentive fees based on annualizing actual amounts earned on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and assumes that the capital gains incentive fees payable at the end of the 2012 calendar year will be based on the actual cumulative realized capital gains net of cumulative realized losses and unrealized capital depreciation as of June 30, 2012.

The incentive fee consists of two parts:

The first, payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income (including interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash), subject to a 2.0% quarterly (8.0% annualized) hurdle rate and a catch-up provision measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment advisor receives no incentive fee until our

Table of Contents

pre-incentive fee net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.0% but then receives, as a catch-up, 100.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5%. The effect of this provision is that, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter, our investment advisor will receive 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply.

The second part, payable annually in arrears, equals 20.0% of our realized capital gains net of realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the fiscal year (or upon the termination of the Investment Advisory Agreement, as of the termination date), less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. We accrue, but do not pay, a capital gains incentive fee in connection with any net unrealized capital appreciation, as appropriate. Incentive fees payable under Investment Advisory Agreement does not include an accrual for a capital gains incentive fee of \$149,284 for the six months ended June 30, 2012 because no capital gains incentive fee was earned and payable under the Investment Advisory Agreement.

See Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement.

- (8) Interest payments on borrowed funds represent our annualized interest payments on SBA debentures as of June 30, 2012, adjusted for projected increases in outstanding SBA debentures. As of June 30, 2012, we had outstanding SBA debentures of \$121.3 million, with capacity to borrow up to an aggregate of \$150.0 million. This item is based on the sum of (i) actual interest expense for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and annualized for a full year, plus (ii) an increase in outstanding SBA debentures of \$28.8 million at a fixed rate of 3.5%. If, in the future, we enter into a credit facility or issue any debt securities, interest payments on borrowed funds will include estimated annual interest payments for any amounts outstanding under such credit facility or any debt securities we may issue. The amount of leverage that we employ at any particular time will depend on, among other things, our board of directors assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.
- (9) Other expenses represent our estimated annual operating expenses, including professional fees, directors fees, insurance costs, expenses of our dividend reinvestment plan and payments under the Administration Agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by our administrator. See Management and Other Agreements Administration Agreement. Other expenses exclude interest payments on borrowed funds, and if we issue debt securities or preferred stock, interest payments on debt securities and distributions with respect to preferred stock. We currently do not have any class of securities outstanding other than common stock. Other expenses are based on actual other expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2012 and annualized for a full year.
- (10) Total annual expenses as a percentage of consolidated net assets attributable to common stock are higher than the total annual expenses percentage would be for a company that is not leveraged. We borrow money to leverage our net assets and increase our total assets. The SEC requires that the total annual expenses percentage be calculated as a percentage of net assets, rather than the total assets including assets that have been purchased with borrowed amounts. If the total annual expenses percentage were calculated instead as a percentage of average consolidated total assets for the six months ended June 30, 2012, our total annual expenses would be 6.6% of average consolidated total assets.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in us. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed we would have no additional leverage, that none of our assets are cash or cash equivalents and that our

Table of Contents

annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above. Transaction expenses are not included in the following example.

	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5.0% annual return	\$ 125	\$ 348	\$ 538	\$ 903

The foregoing table is to assist you in understanding the various costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5.0% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5.0%. The incentive fee under the Investment Advisory Agreement, which, assuming a 5.0% annual return, would either not be payable or have an insignificant impact on the expense amounts shown above, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. In addition, while the example assumes reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value, if our board of directors authorizes and we declare a cash dividend, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan who have not otherwise elected to receive cash will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the valuation date for the distribution. See [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#) for additional information regarding our dividend reinvestment plan.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a number of significant risks. You should carefully consider these risk factors, together with all of the other information included in this prospectus, or any prospectus supplement. The risks set out below are not the only risks we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or not presently deemed material by us may also impair our operations and performance. If any of the following events occur, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. In such case, our net asset value and the trading price of our common stock could decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Relating to Our Business and Structure

We have a limited operating history as a BDC and our investment advisor has limited experience managing a BDC or a RIC, and we may not be able to operate our business successfully or generate sufficient revenue to make or sustain distributions to our stockholders.

The Fund commenced operations and obtained a license to operate as an SBIC in 2007. Prior to the completion of the Formation Transactions and our IPO in June 2011, we did not operate as a BDC and had not qualified to be treated as a RIC, and our investment advisor had never managed any BDC. As a result, we have limited operating results under these regulatory frameworks that can demonstrate to you either their effect on our business or our ability to manage our business under these frameworks. We are subject to the business risks and uncertainties associated with recently formed businesses, including the risk that we will not achieve our investment objective, or that we will not maintain our qualification to be treated as a RIC, and that the value of your investment could decline substantially.

The 1940 Act and the Code impose numerous constraints on the operations of BDCs and RICs. BDCs are required, for example, to invest at least 70.0% of their total assets in qualifying assets, which generally include securities of U.S. private or thinly traded public companies, cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt instruments that mature in one year or less from the date of investment. Any failure to comply with the requirements imposed on BDCs by the 1940 Act could cause the SEC to bring an enforcement action against us and/or expose us to claims of private litigants. Moreover, qualification for treatment as a RIC requires satisfaction of source-of-income, asset diversification and distribution requirements. Both we and our investment advisor have limited experience operating under these constraints, which may hinder our ability to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities and to achieve our investment objective.

We are dependent upon our investment advisor's managing members and our executive officers for our future success. If our investment advisor was to lose any of its managing members or we lose any of our executive officers, our ability to achieve our investment objective could be significantly harmed.

We depend on the investment expertise, skill and network of business contacts of the managing members of our investment advisor, who evaluate, negotiate, structure, execute and monitor our investments. Our future success will depend to a significant extent on the continued service and coordination of the investment professionals of our investment advisor and executive officers, particularly Edward H. Ross, John J. Ross, II, B. Bragg Comer, III, Thomas C. Lauer, W. Andrew Worth and Cary L. Schaefer. Although Messrs. E. Ross, Comer, Lauer and Worth and Ms. Schaefer intend to devote all of their business time to our operations, they may have other demands on their time in the future. Mr. J. Ross will not devote all of his business time to our operations and will have other demands on his time as a result of other activities. The departure of any of these individuals could have a material adverse effect on our ability to achieve our investment objective.

Table of Contents

Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships with financial institutions, sponsors and investment professionals. Any inability of our investment advisor to maintain or develop these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.

We depend upon the investment professionals of our investment advisor to maintain their relationships with financial institutions, sponsors and investment professionals, and we intend to rely to a significant extent upon these relationships to provide us with potential investment opportunities. If the investment professionals of our investment advisor fail to maintain such relationships, or to develop new relationships with other sources of investment opportunities, we will not be able to grow our investment portfolio. In addition, individuals with whom the investment professionals of our investment advisor have relationships are not obligated to provide us with investment opportunities, and, therefore, we can offer no assurance that these relationships will generate investment opportunities for us in the future.

Our financial condition and results of operation depends on our ability to manage our business effectively.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective and grow depends on our ability to manage our business and deploy our capital effectively. This depends, in turn, on our investment advisor's ability to identify, evaluate and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria. The achievement of our investment objectives on a cost-effective basis depends upon our investment advisor's execution of our investment process, its ability to provide competent, attentive and efficient services to us and, to a lesser extent, our access to financing on acceptable terms. Our investment advisor will have substantial responsibilities under the Investment Advisory Agreement. In addition, our investment advisor's investment professionals may be called upon to provide managerial assistance to our portfolio companies. These activities may distract them or slow our rate of investment. Any failure to manage our business and our future growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Even if we are able to grow and build upon our investment operations in a manner commensurate with the increased capital available to us as a result of being a publicly-traded company, any failure to manage our growth effectively could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects. Our results of operations depend on many factors, including the availability of opportunities for investment, readily accessible short and long-term funding alternatives in the financial markets and economic conditions. Furthermore, if we cannot successfully operate our business or implement our investment policies and strategies, it could negatively impact our ability to distributions to our stockholders and could cause you to lose all or part of your investment.

We may suffer credit losses and our investments could be rated below investment grade.

Private debt in the form of mezzanine, senior secured or unitranche loans to corporate and asset-based borrowers is highly speculative and involves a high degree of risk of credit loss, and therefore an investment in our shares of common stock may not be suitable for someone with a low tolerance for risk. These risks are likely to increase during an economic recession, such as the economic recession or downturn that the U.S. and many other countries have recently experienced or are experiencing.

In addition, investments in our portfolio are typically not rated by any rating agency. We believe that if such investments were rated, the vast majority would be rated below investment grade due to speculative characteristics of the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal. Our investments may result in an amount of risk, volatility or potential loss of principal that is greater than that of alternative investments.

Table of Contents

Because we borrow money and may in the future issue additional senior securities, including preferred stock and debt securities, the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested in us is magnified and may increase the risk of investing in us.

Borrowings, also known as leverage, magnify the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested and, therefore, increase the risks associated with investing in us. The Fund borrows from and issues debt securities to the SBA, and we may borrow from banks and other lenders in the future. The SBA has fixed dollar claims on the Fund's assets that are superior to the claims of our stockholders. We may also borrow from banks and other lenders or issue additional senior securities including preferred stock and debt securities in the future. If the value of our assets increases, then leveraging would cause the net asset value attributable to our common stock to increase more sharply than it would have had we not used leverage. Conversely, if the value of our assets decreases, leveraging would cause net asset value to decline more sharply than it otherwise would have had we not leveraged. Similarly, any increase in our income in excess of interest payable on the borrowed funds would cause our net income to increase more than it would without the leverage, while any decrease in our income would cause net income to decline more sharply than it would have had we not borrowed. Such a decline could negatively affect our ability to make distributions to our stockholders. Leverage is generally considered a speculative investment technique.

Our ability to achieve our investment objectives may depend in part on our ability to achieve additional leverage on favorable terms by borrowing from the SBA, banks or other lenders, and there can be no assurance that such additional leverage can in fact be achieved.

As a BDC, we are generally required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total borrowings and other senior securities, which include all of our borrowings (other than SBA leverage) and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200.0%. If this ratio declines below 200.0%, we may not be able to incur additional debt and may need to sell a portion of our investments to repay some debt when it is disadvantageous to do so, and we may not be able to make distributions.

The following table illustrates the effect of leverage on returns from an investment in our common stock assuming various annual returns, net of expenses. The calculations in the table below are hypothetical and actual returns may be higher or lower than those appearing in the table below.

Assumed Return on Our Portfolio**(Net of Expenses)**

	(10.0)%	(5.0)%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%
Corresponding return to common stockholder ⁽¹⁾	(23.0)%	(13.6)%	(4.1)%	5.3%	14.8%

(1) Assumes \$267.5 million in total assets, \$121.3 million in outstanding SBA debentures and \$141.6 million in net assets as of June 30, 2012 and an average cost of funds of 4.8%.

Funding a portion of our investments with preferred stock magnifies the potential for gain or loss and the risks of investing in us in the same way as our other borrowings.

Preferred stock, which is another form of leverage, has the same risks to our common stockholders as borrowings because the distributions with respect to any preferred stock must be cumulative. Payment of such distributions and repayment of the liquidation preference of such preferred stock must take preference over any distributions or other payments to our common stockholders, and preferred stockholders are not subject to any of our expenses or losses and are not entitled to participate in any income or appreciation in excess of their stated preference.

Table of Contents

Many of our portfolio investments are recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors, and, as a result, there is uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments.

Many of our portfolio investments take the form of debt and equity securities that are not publicly-traded. The debt and equity securities in which we invest for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors. As part of the valuation process, we may take into account the following types of factors, if relevant, in determining the fair value of our investments:

a comparison of the portfolio company's securities to publicly-traded securities;

the enterprise value of a portfolio company;

the nature and realizable value of any collateral;

the portfolio company's ability to make payments and its earnings and discounted cash flow;

the markets in which the portfolio company does business; and

changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets generally that may affect the price at which similar investments may be made in the future and other relevant factors.

We adjust quarterly the valuation of our portfolio to reflect the determination of our board of directors of the fair value of each investment in our portfolio. Any changes in fair value from the prior period are recorded in our statement of operations as net change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a readily available market value existed for such investments, and the differences could be material. Declines in prices and liquidity in the corporate debt markets may also result in significant net unrealized depreciation in our debt portfolio. Our net asset value could be adversely affected if our determinations regarding the fair value of our investments were materially higher than the values that we ultimately realize upon the disposal of such investments.

We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, which could reduce returns and result in losses.

A number of entities compete with us to make the types of investments that we plan to make. We compete with public and private funds, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity and hedge funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, we believe some of our competitors may have access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments. These characteristics could allow our competitors to consider a wider variety of investments, establish more relationships and offer better pricing and more flexible structuring than we offer. We may lose investment opportunities if we do not match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure. If we match our competitors' pricing, terms and structure, we may experience a decrease in net investment income or an increase in risk of capital loss. A significant part of our competitive advantage stems from the fact that the lower middle-market is underserved by traditional commercial and investment banks, and generally has less access to capital. A significant increase in the number and/or the size of our competitors in this target market could force us to accept less attractive investment terms.

Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a BDC or the source of income, asset diversification and distribution requirements we must satisfy to maintain our RIC status. The competitive pressures we face may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. As a result of this existing and potentially increasing

competition, we may not be able to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities from time to time, and we may not be able to identify and make investments that are consistent with our investment objective.

Table of Contents

Our management and incentive fee structure may create incentives for our investment advisor that are not fully aligned with the interests of our stockholders.

In the course of our investing activities, we pay management and incentive fees to our investment advisor. These fees are based on our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts). As a result, investors in our common stock invest on a gross basis and receive distributions on a net basis after expenses, resulting in a lower rate of return than one might achieve through direct investments. Because these fees are based on our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts), our investment advisor benefits when we incur debt or use leverage. This fee structure may encourage our investment advisor to cause us to borrow money to finance additional investments. Under certain circumstances, the use of borrowed money may increase the likelihood of default, which would disfavor our stockholders. Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how our investment advisor addresses these and other conflicts of interests associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors periodically review our investment advisor's services and fees as well as its portfolio management decisions and portfolio performance. In connection with these reviews, our independent directors consider whether our fees and expenses (including those related to leverage) remain appropriate. As a result of this arrangement, our investment advisor may from time to time have interests that differ from those of our stockholders, giving rise to a conflict.

The part of the incentive fee payable to our investment advisor that relates to our net investment income is computed and paid on income that includes interest income that has been accrued but not yet received in cash. This fee structure may be considered to involve a conflict of interest for our investment advisor to the extent that it may encourage our investment advisor to favor debt financings that provide for deferred interest, rather than current cash payments of interest. Our investment advisor may have an incentive to invest in deferred interest securities in circumstances where it would not have done so but for the opportunity to continue to earn the incentive fee even when the issuers of the deferred interest securities would not be able to make actual cash payments to us on such securities. This risk could be increased because our investment advisor is not obligated to reimburse us for any incentive fees received even if we subsequently incur losses or never receive in cash the deferred income that was previously accrued.

The valuation process for certain of our portfolio holdings creates a conflict of interest.

A substantial portion of our portfolio investments are made in the form of securities that are not publicly traded. As a result, our board of directors determines the fair value of these securities in good faith pursuant to our valuation policy. In connection with that determination, investment professionals from our investment advisor prepare portfolio company valuations based upon the most recent portfolio company financial statements available and projected financial results of each portfolio company. In addition, certain members of our board of directors, including Messrs. E. Ross and Lauer, have a pecuniary interest in our investment advisor. The participation of our investment advisor's investment professionals in our valuation process, and the pecuniary interest in our investment advisor by certain members of our board of directors, would result in a conflict of interest as the management fee that we will pay our investment advisor is based on our gross assets less cash.

Our incentive fee may induce our investment advisor to make speculative investments.

Our investment advisor receives an incentive fee based, in part, upon net capital gains realized on our investments. Unlike that portion of the incentive fee based on income, there is no hurdle rate applicable to the portion of the incentive fee based on net capital gains. As a result, our investment advisor may have a tendency to invest more capital in investments that are likely to result in capital gains as compared to income producing securities. Such a practice could result in our investing in more speculative securities than would otherwise be the case, which could result in higher investment losses, particularly during economic downturns.

Table of Contents

We may be obligated to pay our investment advisor incentive compensation even if we incur a loss and may pay more than 20.0% of our net capital gains because we cannot recover payments made in previous years.

Our investment advisor will be entitled to incentive compensation for each fiscal quarter in an amount equal to a percentage of the excess of our net investment income for that quarter above a threshold return for that quarter. Our pre-incentive fee net investment income for incentive compensation purposes excludes realized and unrealized capital losses that we may incur in the fiscal quarter, even if such capital losses result in a net loss on our statement of operations for that quarter. Thus, we may be required to pay our investment advisor incentive compensation for a fiscal quarter even if there is a decline in the value of our portfolio or we incur a net loss for that quarter. Further, if we pay an incentive fee of 20.0% of our realized capital gains (net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis) and thereafter experience additional realized capital losses or unrealized capital depreciation, we will not be able to recover any portion of the incentive fee previously paid.

We may have potential conflicts of interest related to obligations that our investment advisor may have to other clients.

Although currently we and the Fund are the only investment vehicles managed by our investment advisor, we may in the future have conflicts of interest with our investment advisor or its respective other clients that elect to invest in similar types of securities as we will invest. Our investment advisor's investment committee serves or may serve as officers, directors or principals of entities that operate in the same or a related line of business as we do, or of investment funds or other investment vehicles managed by our investment advisor. In serving in these multiple capacities, they may have obligations to other clients or investors in those entities, the fulfillment of which may not be in the best interests of us or our stockholders. Our investment advisor will seek to allocate investment opportunities among eligible accounts in a manner that is fair and equitable over time and consistent with an allocation policy approved by our board of directors.

Our investment advisor or its investment committee may, from time to time, possess material non-public information, limiting our investment discretion.

The investment professionals of our investment advisor may serve as directors of, or in a similar capacity with, companies in which we invest, the securities of which are purchased or sold on our behalf. In the event that material non-public information is obtained with respect to such companies, or we become subject to trading restrictions under the internal trading policies of those companies or as a result of applicable law or regulations, we could be prohibited for a period of time from purchasing or selling the securities of such companies, and this prohibition may have an adverse effect on us.

We may have conflicts related to other arrangements with our investment advisor.

We entered into a license agreement with Fidus Partners, LLC under which Fidus Partners, LLC granted us a non-exclusive (provided that there is not a change in control of Fidus Partners, LLC), royalty-free license to use the name Fidus. Some of the members of our investment advisor's investment committee and the senior origination professionals of our investment advisor are professionals of Fidus Partners, LLC. See Management and Other Agreements License Agreement. In addition, we rent office space from our investment advisor and pay to our investment advisor our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred in performing its obligations under the Administration Agreement, such as our allocable portion of the cost of our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer. This creates conflicts of interest that our board of directors must monitor.

The Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement with our investment advisor were not negotiated on an arm's length basis and may not be as favorable to us as if they had been negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.

The Investment Advisory Agreement and the Administration Agreement were negotiated between related parties. Consequently, their terms, including fees payable to our investment advisor and our administrator, may

Table of Contents

not be as favorable to us as if they had been negotiated with an unaffiliated third party. In addition, we may choose not to enforce, or to enforce less vigorously, our rights and remedies under these agreements because of our desire to maintain our ongoing relationship with our investment advisor and our administrator.

The Fund is licensed by the SBA, and therefore, subject to SBA regulations.

The Fund is licensed to operate as an SBIC and is regulated by the SBA. Under current SBA regulations, a licensed SBIC can provide capital to those entities that have a tangible net worth not exceeding \$18.0 million and an average annual net income after U.S. federal income taxes not exceeding \$6.0 million for the two most recent fiscal years. In addition, a licensed SBIC must devote 25.0% of its investment activity to those entities that have a tangible net worth not exceeding \$6.0 million and an average annual net income after U.S. federal income taxes not exceeding \$2.0 million for the two most recent fiscal years. The SBA regulations also provide alternative size standard criteria to determine eligibility, which depend on the industry in which the business is engaged and are based on either the number of employees or the gross sales. The SBA regulations permit licensed SBICs to make long term loans to small businesses, invest in the equity securities of such businesses and provide them with consulting and advisory services. The SBA also places certain limitations on the financing terms of investments by SBICs in portfolio companies and prohibits SBICs from providing funds for certain purposes or to businesses in certain prohibited industries. Further, the SBA regulations require that a licensed SBIC be periodically examined and audited by the SBA staff to determine its compliance with the relevant SBA regulations. Compliance with these SBA requirements may cause the Fund to forego attractive investment opportunities that are not permitted under the SBA regulations, and may cause the Fund to make investments it otherwise would not make in order to remain in compliance with these regulations.

Failure to comply with the SBA regulations could result in the loss of the SBIC license and the resulting inability to participate in the SBA debenture program. The SBA prohibits, without prior SBA approval, a change of control of an SBIC or transfers that would result in any person (or a group of persons acting in concert) owning 10.0% or more of a class of capital stock of a licensed SBIC. Current SBA regulations provide the SBA with certain rights and remedies if an SBIC violates their terms. A key regulatory metric for SBA is the extent of Capital Impairment, which is the extent of realized (and, in certain circumstances, net unrealized) losses compared with the SBIC's private capital commitments. Interest payments, management fees, organization and other expenses are included in determining realized losses. SBA regulations preclude the full amount of unrealized appreciation from portfolio companies from being considered when calculating Capital Impairment in certain circumstances. Remedies for regulatory violations are graduated in severity depending on the seriousness of Capital Impairment or other regulatory violations. For minor regulatory infractions, the SBA issues a warning. For more serious infractions, the use of SBA debentures may be limited or prohibited, outstanding debentures can be declared to be immediately due and payable, restrictions on distributions and making new investments may be imposed management fees may be required to be reduced. In severe cases, the SBA may require the removal of a general partner of an SBIC or its officers, directors, managers or partners, or the SBA may obtain appointment of a receiver for the SBIC.

SBA regulations limit the amount that may be borrowed from the SBA by an SBIC.

The SBA regulations currently limit the amount that is available to be borrowed by any SBIC and guaranteed by the SBA to 300.0% of an SBIC's regulatory capital or \$150.0 million, whichever is less. For two or more SBICs under common control, the maximum amount of outstanding SBA debentures cannot exceed \$225.0 million. As of June 30, 2012, the Fund had \$121.3 million of SBA debentures. With \$75.0 million of regulatory capital as of June 30, 2012, the Fund has the current capacity to issue up to a total of \$150.0 million of SBA debentures. If the Fund borrows the maximum amount from the SBA and thereafter requires additional capital, our cost of capital may increase, and there is no assurance that we will be able to obtain additional financing on acceptable terms.

Moreover, the Fund's current status as an SBIC does not automatically assure that it will continue to receive SBA debenture funding. Receipt of SBA debenture funding is dependent upon the Fund continuing to be in

Table of Contents

compliance with SBA regulations and policies and there being funding available. The amount of SBA debenture funding available to SBICs is dependent upon annual Congressional authorizations and in the future may be subject to annual Congressional appropriations. There can be no assurance that there will be sufficient SBA debenture funding available at the times desired by the Fund.

The debentures issued by the Fund to the SBA have a maturity of ten years and bear interest semi-annually at fixed rates. The Fund will need to generate sufficient cash flow to make required debt payments to the SBA. If the Fund is unable to generate such cash flow, the SBA, as a debt holder, will have a superior claim to our assets over our stockholders in the event it liquidates or the SBA exercises its remedies under such debentures as the result of a default by the Fund.

The Fund, as an SBIC, is limited in its ability to make distributions to us, which could result in us being unable to meet the minimum distribution requirements to maintain our status as a RIC.

In order to maintain our status as a RIC, we are required to distribute to our stockholders on an annual basis 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses. For this purpose, our taxable income will include the income of the Fund (and any other entities that are disregarded as separate from us for U.S. federal income tax purposes). The Fund's ability to make distributions to us may be limited by the Small Business Investment Act of 1958. As a result, in order to maintain our status as a RIC, we may be required to make distributions attributable to the Fund's income without receiving any corresponding cash distributions from it with respect to such income. We can make no assurances that the Fund will be able to make, or not be limited in making, distributions to us. If we are unable to satisfy the annual distribution requirements, we may fail to maintain our status as a RIC, which would result in the imposition of corporate-level U.S. federal income tax on our entire taxable income without regard to any distributions made by us. See We will be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax if we are unable to maintain our qualification as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

Changes in interest rates will affect our cost of capital and net investment income.

Most of our debt investments bear interest at fixed rates and the value of these investments could be negatively affected by increases in market interest rates. In addition, to the extent that we borrow additional funds to make investments, an increase in interest rates would make it more expensive for us to use debt to finance our investments. As a result, a significant increase in market interest rates could both reduce the value of our portfolio investments and increase our cost of capital, which would reduce our net investment income. Conversely, a decrease in interest rates may have an adverse impact on our returns by requiring us to seek lower yields on our debt investments and by increasing the risk that our portfolio companies will prepay the debt investments, resulting in the need to redeploy capital at potentially lower rates.

You should also be aware that a rise in market interest rates typically leads to higher interest rates applicable to our debt investments. Accordingly, an increase in interest rates may result in an increase of the amount of incentive fees payable to our investment advisor.

An extended continuation of the disruption in the capital markets and the credit markets could negatively affect our business.

As a BDC, it is essential for us to maintain our ability to raise additional capital for investment purposes. Without sufficient access to the capital markets or credit markets, we may be forced to curtail our business operations or we may not be able to pursue new business opportunities. Since the middle of 2007, the capital markets and the credit markets have been experiencing extreme volatility and disruption and, accordingly, there has been and will continue to be uncertainty in the financial markets in general. Ongoing disruptive conditions in the financial industry and the impact of new legislation in response to those conditions could restrict our business operations and could adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

From time to time, we may borrow from financial institutions in order to obtain additional capital. Unfavorable economic conditions result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. Our ability to incur indebtedness (including by issuing preferred stock) is limited by applicable regulations such that our asset coverage under the 1940 Act must equal at least 200.0% of total indebtedness immediately after each time we incur indebtedness exclusive of the SBA debentures pursuant to our SEC exemptive relief. Additionally, shrinking portfolio values will negatively impact our ability to borrow additional funds because our net asset value is reduced for purposes of the 200.0% asset leverage test. If the fair value of our assets declines substantially, we may fail to maintain the asset coverage ratio stipulated by the 1940 Act, which could, in turn, cause us to lose our status as a BDC and materially impair our business operations. A protracted disruption in the credit markets could also materially decrease demand for our investments.

We will access the capital markets periodically to issue debt or equity securities. Volatility or dislocation in the capital markets may depress our stock price below our net asset value per share and create a challenging environment in which to raise debt and equity capital. As a BDC, we are generally not able to issue additional shares of our common stock at a price less than net asset value without first obtaining approval for such issuance from our stockholders and our independent directors. In addition, we are required to distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, if any, to our stockholders in order to maintain our status as a RIC. As a result, earnings that we distribute to our stockholders will not be available to fund new investments. An inability to access the capital markets could limit our ability to grow our business and execute our business strategy fully and could decrease our earnings, if any, which may have an adverse effect on the value of our securities.

We may experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results.

We could experience fluctuations in our quarterly operating results due to a number of factors, including our ability or inability to make investments in companies that meet our investment criteria, the interest rate payable on the debt securities we acquire, the default rate on such securities, the level of our expenses, variations in and the timing of the recognition of realized and unrealized gains or losses, the degree to which we encounter competition in our markets and general economic conditions. As a result of these factors, results for any period should not be relied upon as being indicative of performance in future periods.

We will be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax if we are unable to maintain qualification as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

We have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011; however, no assurance can be given that we will be able to maintain our RIC status. To maintain our status as a RIC under the Code and to avoid the imposition of U.S. federal income taxes on income and gains distributed to our stockholders, we must meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. The source-of-income requirement will be satisfied if we derive at least 90.0% of our gross income for each year from dividends, interest, gains from sale of securities or similar sources. To maintain our status as a RIC, we must also meet certain asset diversification requirements at the end of each calendar quarter. Failure to meet these requirements may result in our losing our RIC status or our having to dispose of certain investments quickly in order to prevent the loss of RIC status. Because most of our investments will be in private or thinly traded public companies, any such dispositions could be made at disadvantageous prices and may result in substantial losses. The annual distribution requirement applicable to RICs will be satisfied if we distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, if any, to our stockholders on an annual basis. In addition, we will be subject to a 4.0% nondeductible federal excise tax to the extent that we do not satisfy certain additional minimum distribution requirements on a calendar-year basis. We will be subject, to the extent we use debt financing, to certain asset coverage ratio requirements under the 1940 Act and financial covenants under loan and credit agreements that could, under certain circumstances, restrict us from making annual distributions necessary to maintain our status as a RIC. If we are unable to obtain cash from other sources, we

Table of Contents

may fail to maintain our status as a RIC and, thus, may be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax on our entire taxable income without regard to any distributions made by us. If we fail to maintain our status as a RIC for any reason and become subject to U.S. corporate income tax, the resulting tax liability could substantially reduce our net assets, the amount of income available for distributions to stockholders and the amount of our distributions and the amount of funds available for new investments. Such a failure would have a material adverse effect on us and our stockholders. See **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a RIC.**

We may not be able to pay you distributions, our distributions may not grow over time, a portion of distributions paid to you may be a return of capital, and investors in our debt securities may not receive all of the interest income to which they are entitled.

We intend to pay quarterly distributions to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. We cannot assure you that we will achieve investment results that will allow us to make a specified level of cash distributions or year-to-year increases in cash distributions. Our ability to pay distributions might be harmed by, among other things, the risk factors described in this prospectus. In addition, the inability to satisfy the asset coverage test applicable to us as a BDC could, in the future, limit our ability to pay distributions. All distributions will be paid at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend on our earnings, our financial condition, maintenance of our RIC status, compliance with applicable BDC regulations, SBA regulations and such other factors as our board of directors may deem relevant from time to time. We cannot assure you that we will pay distributions to our stockholders in the future.

If we issue debt securities in the future, the above-referenced restrictions on distributions may also inhibit our ability to make required interest payments to holders of any such debt securities, which may cause a default under the terms of our then-existing debt agreements. Such a default could materially increase our cost of raising capital, as well as cause us to incur penalties under the terms of our then-existing debt agreements.

When we make quarterly distributions, we will be required to determine the extent to which such distributions are paid out of current and accumulated earnings and profits, recognized capital gain or capital. To the extent there is a return of capital, investors will be required to reduce their basis in our stock for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before, or without, receiving cash representing such income.

For U.S. federal income tax purposes, we are required to include in our income certain amounts that we have not yet received in cash, such as original issue discount, which may arise if we receive warrants in connection with the making of a loan or in other circumstances, and contracted payment-in-kind interest, which represents contractual interest added to the loan balance and due at the end of the loan term. Such original issue discount, or increases in loan balances as a result of contracted payment-in-kind arrangements, will be included in our income before we receive any corresponding cash payments. We also may be required to include in our income certain other amounts that we will not receive in cash.

Since in certain cases we may be required to recognize income before or without receiving cash representing such income, we may have difficulty meeting the requirement to distribute on an annual basis at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains in excess of net long-term capital losses, if any, to maintain our status as a RIC. In such a case, we may have to sell some of our investments at times and/or at prices we would not consider advantageous, raise additional debt or equity capital or forgo new investment opportunities to satisfy the annual distribution requirements. In such circumstances, if we are unable to obtain such cash from other sources, we may fail to maintain our status as a RIC and thus be subject to corporate-level U.S. federal income tax. See **Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations Taxation as a RIC.**

Table of Contents

If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest, it is possible that accrued interest previously used in the calculation of the incentive fee will become uncollectible. Our investment advisor will not be under any obligation to reimburse us for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued income that we never receive as a result of a default by an entity on the obligation that resulted in the accrual of such income. That part of the incentive fee payable by us that relates to our net investment income will be computed and paid on income that may include interest that has been accrued but not yet received in cash, such as market discount, debt instruments with payment-in-kind interest, preferred stock with payment-in-kind dividends and zero coupon securities.

You may have a current tax liability on distributions you elect to reinvest in our common stock but would not receive cash to pay such tax liability.

If you participate in our dividend reinvestment plan, you will be deemed to have received, and for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be taxed on, the amount reinvested in our common stock to the extent the amount reinvested was not a tax-free return of capital. As a result, unless you are a tax-exempt entity, you may have to use funds from other sources to pay your tax liability on the value of our common stock received as a result of the distribution.

Because we expect to distribute substantially all of our net investment income and net realized capital gains to our stockholders, we will need additional capital to finance our growth, and such capital may not be available on favorable terms or at all.

We have elected to be taxed for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011. If we continue to meet certain requirements, including source-of-income, asset diversification and distribution requirements, and if we continue to be regulated as a BDC, we will continue to qualify to be taxed as a RIC and therefore will not have to pay U.S. federal corporate income tax on income that we timely distribute to our stockholders, allowing us to substantially reduce or eliminate our corporate-level income tax liability. As a BDC, we are generally required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total senior securities, which includes all of our borrowings (other than SBA leverage) and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200.0% at the time we issue any debt or preferred stock. This requirement limits the amount of our leverage. Because we will continue to need capital to grow our investment portfolio, this limitation may prevent us from incurring debt or issuing preferred stock and require us to raise additional equity at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

While we expect to be able to borrow and to issue additional debt and equity securities, we cannot assure you that debt and equity financing will be available to us on favorable terms, or at all. If additional funds are not available to us, we could be forced to curtail or cease new investment activities, and our net asset value could decline. In addition, as a BDC, we generally are not permitted to issue equity securities priced below net asset value without stockholder approval. At our Annual Stockholders Meeting on June 6, 2012, our stockholders voted to allow us to issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The maximum number of shares issuable below net asset value pursuant to the authority granted by our stockholders that could result in such dilution is limited to 25.0% of the Company's then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. We do not intend to issue shares of our common stock below net asset value unless our board of directors determines that it would be in our stockholders' best interests to do so. For an illustration on the potential dilutive effect of an offering of our common stock at a price below net asset value, please see the illustration below.

Illustration: Examples of Dilutive Effect of the Issuance of Shares Below Net Asset Value. The following table illustrates the level of net asset value dilution that would be experienced by a nonparticipating stockholder in three different hypothetical offerings of different sizes and levels of discount from net asset value per share, although it is not possible to predict the level of market price decline that may occur. Actual sales prices and discounts may differ from the presentation below.

Table of Contents

Assume that Company XYZ has 1,000,000 common shares outstanding, \$15,000,000 in total assets and \$5,000,000 in total liabilities. The current net asset value and net asset value per share are thus \$10,000,000 and \$10.00, respectively. The table illustrates the dilutive effect on nonparticipating Stockholder A of (1) an offering of 50,000 shares (5.0% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.50 per share after offering expenses and commission (a 5.0% discount from net asset value), (2) an offering of 100,000 shares (10.0% of the outstanding shares) at \$9.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 10.0% discount from net asset value) and (3) an offering of 200,000 shares (20.0% of the outstanding shares) at \$8.00 per share after offering expenses and commissions (a 20.0% discount from net asset value). The acronym NAV stands for net asset value.

In any offering of common stock, we will present the actual dilution to stockholders in tabular form in the prospectus supplement specific to that offering.

	Prior to Sale Below NAV	Example 1 5.0% Offering at 5.0% Discount		Example 2 10.0% Offering at 10.0% Discount		Example 3 20.0% Offering at 20.0% Discount	
		Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change	Following Sale	% Change
Offering Price							
Price per Share to Public		\$ 10.00		\$ 9.47		\$ 8.42	
Net Proceeds per Share to Issuer		\$ 9.50		\$ 9.00		\$ 8.00	
Decrease to NAV							
Total Shares Outstanding	1,000,000	1,050,000	5.00%	1,100,000	10.00%	1,200,000	20.00%
NAV per Share	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.98	(0.24)%	\$ 9.91	(0.91)%	\$ 9.67	(3.33)%
Dilution to Stockholder							
Shares Held by Stockholder A	10,000	10,000		10,000		10,000	
Percentage Held by Stockholder A	1.0%	0.95%	(4.76)%	0.91%	(9.09)%	0.83%	(16.67)%
Total Asset Values							
Total NAV Held by Stockholder A	\$ 100,000	\$ 99,762	(0.24)%	\$ 99,091	(0.91)%	\$ 96,667	(3.33)%
Total Investment by Stockholder A (Assumed to Be \$10.00 per Share)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	
Total Dilution to Stockholder A (Total NAV Less Total Investment)		\$ (238)		\$ (909)		\$ (3,333)	
Per Share Amounts							
NAV per Share Held by Stockholder A	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.98		\$ 9.91		\$ 9.67	
Investment per Share Held by Stockholder A (Assumed to be \$10.00 per Share)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00		\$ 10.00	
Dilution per Share Held by Stockholder A (NAV per Share Less Investment per Share)		\$ (0.02)		\$ (0.09)		\$ (0.33)	
Percentage Dilution to Stockholder A (Dilution per Share Divided by Investment per Share)			(0.24)%		(0.91)%		(3.33)%

Our board of directors may change our investment objective, operating policies and strategies without prior notice or stockholder approval, the effects of which may be adverse.

Our board of directors has the authority, except as otherwise provided by the 1940 Act, to modify or waive certain of our operating policies and strategies without prior notice and without stockholder approval. Under Maryland law, we also cannot be dissolved without prior stockholder approval except by judicial action. In addition, upon approval of a majority of our stockholders, we may elect to withdraw our status as a BDC. If we, or the Fund, decide to withdraw our election, or if we otherwise fail to maintain our qualification, as a BDC, we may be subject to the substantially greater regulation under the 1940 Act as a closed-end investment company. Compliance with such regulations would significantly decrease our operating flexibility, and could significantly increase our costs of doing business. We cannot predict the effect any changes to our current operating policies and strategies would have on our business, operating results or the value of our common stock. Nevertheless, any such changes could adversely affect our business and impair our ability to make distributions.

Table of Contents

Any failure on our part to maintain our status as a BDC would reduce our operating flexibility.

If we, or the Fund, fail to maintain our status as a BDC, we might be regulated as a closed-end investment company under the 1940 Act, which would subject us to substantially more onerous regulatory restrictions under the 1940 Act and correspondingly decrease our operating flexibility.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to raise, and the way in which we raise, additional capital which may have a negative effect on our growth.

Our business will require capital to operate and grow. We may acquire such additional capital from the following sources:

Senior Securities. Currently we, through our SBIC subsidiary, issue debt securities guaranteed by the SBA. In the future, we may issue debt securities or preferred stock and/or borrow money from banks or other financial institutions, which we refer to collectively as senior securities. As a result of issuing senior securities, we will be exposed to additional risks, including, but not limited to, the following:

Under the provisions of the 1940 Act, we are permitted, as a BDC, to issue senior securities only in amounts such that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, equals at least 200.0% after each issuance of senior securities. If the value of our assets declines, we may be unable to satisfy this test. If that happens, we may be required to sell a portion of our investments and, depending on the nature of our leverage, repay a portion of our debt at a time when such sales and/or repayments may be disadvantageous. Further, we may not be permitted to declare or make any distribution to stockholders or repurchase shares until such time as we satisfy this test.

Any amounts that we use to service our debt or make payments on preferred stock will not be available for distributions to our common stockholders.

It is likely that any senior securities or other indebtedness we issue will be governed by an indenture or other instrument containing covenants restricting our operating flexibility. Additionally, some of these securities or other indebtedness may be rated by rating agencies, and in obtaining a rating for such securities and other indebtedness, we may be required to abide by operating and investment guidelines that further restrict operating and financial flexibility.

We and, indirectly, our stockholders will bear the cost of issuing and servicing such securities and other indebtedness.

Preferred stock or any convertible or exchangeable securities that we issue in the future may have rights, preferences and privileges more favorable than those of our common stock, including separate voting rights and could delay or prevent a transaction or a change in control to the detriment of the holders of our common stock.

Additional Common Stock. Under the provisions of the 1940 Act, we are not generally able to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the current net asset value of the common stock if our board of directors determines that such sale is in the best interests of our stockholders, and our stockholders approve such sale. At our Annual Stockholders Meeting on June 6, 2012, our stockholders voted to allow us to sell or otherwise issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The maximum number of shares issuable below net asset value pursuant to the authority granted by our stockholders that could result in such dilution is limited to 25.0% of the Company's then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. We do not intend to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock below net asset value unless our board of directors determines that it would be in our stockholders' best interests to do so. In any such case, however, the price at which our common stock are to be issued and sold may not be

Table of Contents

less than a price which, in the determination of our board of directors, closely approximates the market value of such securities (less any distributing commission or discount). We may also make rights offerings to our stockholders at prices per share less than the net asset value per share, subject to applicable requirements of the 1940 Act. If we raise additional funds by issuing more common stock or senior securities convertible into, or exchangeable for, our common stock, the percentage ownership of our stockholders at that time would decrease, and they may experience dilution. Moreover, we can offer no assurance that we will be able to issue and sell additional equity securities in the future, on favorable terms or at all.

Changes in laws or regulations governing our operations may adversely affect our business or cause us to alter our business strategy.

We are subject to regulation at the local, state and federal level. New legislation may be enacted or new interpretations, rulings or regulations could be adopted, including those governing the types of investments we are permitted to make, any of which could harm us and our stockholders, potentially with retroactive effect. In addition, any change to the SBA's current debenture program could have a significant impact on our ability to obtain low-cost leverage and, therefore, our competitive advantage over other funds.

Additionally, any changes to the laws and regulations governing our operations related to permitted investments may cause us to alter our investment strategy in order to meet our investment objectives. Such changes could result in material differences to the strategies and plans set forth in this prospectus and may shift our investment focus from the areas of expertise of our investment advisor to other types of investments in which our investment advisor may have little or no expertise or experience. Any such changes, if they occur, could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and the value of your investment.

The impact of recent financial reform legislation on us is uncertain.

In light of current conditions in the U.S. and global financial markets and the U.S. and global economy, legislators, the presidential administration and regulators have increased their focus on the regulation of the financial services industry. The Dodd-Frank Reform Act became effective on July 21, 2010; however, many provisions of the Dodd-Frank Reform Act have delayed effectiveness or will not become effective until the relevant federal agencies issue new rules to implement the Dodd-Frank Reform Act. Nevertheless, the Dodd-Frank Reform Act may have a material adverse impact on the financial services industry as a whole and on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Accordingly, we cannot predict the effect the Dodd-Frank Reform Act or its implementing regulations will have on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

Our ability to enter into and exit investment transactions with our affiliates will be restricted.

Except in those instances where we have received prior exemptive relief from the SEC, we will be prohibited under the 1940 Act from knowingly participating in certain transactions with our affiliates without the prior approval of our independent directors. Any person that owns, directly or indirectly, 5.0% or more of our outstanding voting securities is deemed our affiliate for purposes of the 1940 Act and we are generally prohibited from buying or selling any security from or to such affiliate, absent the prior approval of our independent directors. The 1940 Act also prohibits joint transactions with an affiliate, which could include investments in the same portfolio company (whether at the same or different times), without prior approval of our independent directors. If a person acquires more than 25.0% of our voting securities, we will be prohibited from buying or selling any security from or to such person, or entering into joint transactions with such person, absent the prior approval of the SEC. These restrictions could limit or prohibit us from making certain attractive investments that we might otherwise make absent such restrictions.

Table of Contents

Our investment advisor can resign on 60 days' notice, and we may not be able to find a suitable replacement within that time, resulting in a disruption in our operations that could adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Our investment advisor has the right, under the Investment Advisory Agreement, to resign at any time upon not less than 60 days' written notice, whether we have found a replacement or not. If our investment advisor resigns, we may not be able to find a new investment advisor or hire internal management with similar expertise and ability to provide the same or equivalent services on acceptable terms within 60 days, or at all. If we are unable to do so quickly, our operations are likely to experience a disruption, our financial condition, business and results of operations as well as our ability to pay distributions are likely to be adversely affected and the market price of our shares may decline. In addition, investment activities are likely to suffer if we are unable to identify and reach an agreement with a single institution or group of executives having the expertise possessed by our investment advisor and its affiliates. Even if we are able to retain comparable management, whether internal or external, the integration of such management and their lack of familiarity with our investment objective may result in additional costs and time delays that may adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Our investment advisor can resign from its role as our administrator under the Administration Agreement, and we may not be able to find a suitable replacement, resulting in a disruption in our operations that could adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Our investment advisor has the right to resign under the Administration Agreement, whether we have found a replacement or not. If our investment advisor resigns, we may not be able to find a new administrator or hire internal management with similar expertise and ability to provide the same or equivalent services on acceptable terms, or at all. If we are unable to do so quickly, our operations are likely to experience a disruption, our financial condition, business and results of operations as well as our ability to pay distributions are likely to be adversely affected and the market price of our shares may decline. In addition, administrative activities are likely to suffer if we are unable to identify and reach an agreement with a service provider or individuals with the expertise possessed by our investment advisor. Even if we are able to retain a comparable service provider or individuals to perform such services, whether internal or external, their integration into our business and lack of familiarity with our investment objective may result in additional costs and time delays that may adversely affect our financial condition, business and results of operations.

Efforts to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act will involve significant expenditures, and non-compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act may adversely affect us and the market price of our common stock.

As a publicly-traded company, we incur legal, accounting and other expenses, including costs associated with the periodic reporting requirements applicable to a company whose securities are registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, as well as additional corporate governance requirements, including requirements under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, or the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and other rules implemented by the SEC.

As a public company, we are subject to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and the related rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC. Under current SEC rules, beginning with its fiscal year ending December 31, 2012, our management will be required to report on its internal controls over financial reporting pursuant to Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and rules and regulations of the SEC thereunder. We will then be required to review on an annual basis its internal controls over financial reporting, and on a quarterly and annual basis to evaluate and disclose changes in our internal controls over financial reporting. As a result, we expect to incur significant additional expenses in the near term, which may negatively impact our financial performance and our ability to make distributions. This process also will result in a diversion of our management's time and attention. We cannot be certain as to the timing of completion of our evaluation, testing and remediation actions or the impact of the same on our operations and may not be able to ensure that the process is effective or that the internal

Table of Contents

controls are or will be effective in a timely manner. There can be no assurance that our quarterly reviews will not identify material weaknesses. In the event that we are unable to maintain or achieve compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and related rules, our value and results or operations may be adversely affected.

We are highly dependent on information systems and systems failures could significantly disrupt our business, which may, in turn, negatively affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

Our business is highly dependent on the communications and information systems of our investment advisor. Any failure or interruption of such systems could cause delays or other problems in our activities. This, in turn, could have a material adverse effect on our operating results and negatively affect the market price of our common stock and our ability to make distributions to our stockholders.

Risks Relating to Our Investments

Economic recessions or downturns could impair our portfolio companies and harm our operating results.

Many of our portfolio companies are susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions and may be unable to repay our loans during these periods. Therefore, our non-performing assets are likely to increase and the value of our portfolio is likely to decrease during these periods. Adverse economic conditions may decrease the value of collateral securing some of our loans and the value of our equity investments. Economic slowdowns or recessions could lead to financial losses in our portfolio and a decrease in revenues, net income and assets. Unfavorable economic conditions also could increase our funding costs, limit our access to the capital markets or result in a decision by lenders not to extend credit to us. These events could prevent us from increasing our investments and harm our operating results.

Our investments in portfolio companies may be risky, and we could lose all or part of our investment.

Investing in lower middle-market companies involves a number of significant risks. Among other things, these companies:

may have limited financial resources and may be unable to meet their obligations under their debt instruments that we hold, which may be accompanied by a deterioration in the value of any collateral and a reduction in the likelihood of us realizing any guarantees from subsidiaries or affiliates of portfolio companies that we may have obtained in connection with our investment;

may have shorter operating histories, narrower product lines and smaller market shares, which tend to render them more vulnerable to competitors' actions and market conditions, as well as general economic downturns, than larger businesses;

are more likely to depend on the management talents and efforts of a small group of persons; therefore, the death, disability, resignation or termination of one or more of these persons could have a material adverse impact on our portfolio company and, in turn, on us;

generally have less predictable operating results, may from time to time be parties to litigation, may be engaged in rapidly changing businesses with products subject to a substantial risk of obsolescence, and may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, finance expansion or maintain their competitive position; and

generally have less publicly available information about their businesses, operations and financial condition. If we are unable to uncover all material information about these companies, we may not make a fully informed investment decision, and may lose all or part of our investment.

In addition, in the course of providing significant managerial assistance to certain portfolio companies, certain of our management and directors may serve as directors on the boards of such companies. To the extent

Table of Contents

that litigation arises out of investments in these companies, our management and directors may be named as defendants in such litigation, which could result in an expenditure of funds (through our indemnification of such officers and directors) and the diversion of management time and resources.

The lack of liquidity in our investments may adversely affect our business.

All of our assets may be invested in illiquid securities, and a substantial portion of our investments in leveraged companies will be subject to legal and other restrictions on resale or will otherwise be less liquid than more broadly traded public securities. The illiquidity of these investments may make it difficult for us to sell such investments when desired. In addition, if we are required to liquidate all or a portion of our portfolio quickly, we may realize significantly less than the value at which we have previously recorded these investments. As a result, we do not expect to achieve liquidity in our investments in the near-term. However, to maintain the elections to be regulated as a BDC and as a RIC, we may have to dispose of investments if they do not satisfy one or more of the applicable criteria under the respective regulatory frameworks. We may also face other restrictions on our ability to liquidate an investment in a portfolio company to the extent that we or our investment advisor have material nonpublic information regarding such portfolio company.

We may not have the funds to make additional investments in our portfolio companies which could impair the value of our portfolio.

After our initial investment in a portfolio company, we may be called upon from time to time to provide additional funds to such company or have the opportunity to increase our investment through the exercise of a warrant to purchase common stock. There is no assurance that we will make, or will have sufficient funds to make, follow-on investments. Any decisions not to make a follow-on investment or any inability on our part to make such an investment may have a negative impact on a portfolio company in need of such an investment, may result in a missed opportunity for us to increase our participation in a successful operation or may reduce the expected yield on the investment. Even if we have sufficient capital to make a desired follow-on investment, we may elect not to make a follow-on investment because we may not want to increase our level of risk, because we prefer other opportunities or because we are inhibited by compliance with BDC requirements or the desire to maintain our RIC status. Our ability to make follow-on investments may also be limited by our investment advisor's allocation policy.

Portfolio companies may incur debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, our investments in such companies.

We will invest primarily in mezzanine debt as well as equity issued by lower middle-market companies. The portfolio companies may have, or may be permitted to incur, other debt that ranks equally with, or senior to, the debt in which we invest. By their terms, such senior debt instruments may entitle the holders to receive payment of interest or principal on or before the dates on which we are entitled to receive payments with respect to the mezzanine debt instruments in which we invest. Also, in the event of insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of a portfolio company, holders of debt instruments ranking senior to our investment in that portfolio company would typically be entitled to receive payment in full before we receive any distribution. After repaying such senior creditors, such portfolio company may not have any remaining assets to use for repaying its obligation to us. In the case of debt ranking equally with debt instruments in which we invest, we would have to share on an equal basis any distributions with other creditors holding such debt in the event of an insolvency, liquidation, dissolution, reorganization or bankruptcy of the relevant portfolio company.

There may be circumstances where our debt investments could be subordinated to claims of other creditors or could be subject to lender liability claims.

Even though we may have structured certain of our investments as senior loans, if one of our portfolio companies were to go bankrupt, depending on the facts and circumstances, including the extent to which we actually provided managerial assistance to that portfolio company, a bankruptcy court might recharacterize our

Table of Contents

debt investment and subordinate all or a portion of our claim to that of other creditors. We may also be subject to lender liability claims for actions taken by us with respect to a borrower's business or instances where we exercise control over the borrower. It is possible that we could become subject to a lender's liability claim, including as a result of actions taken in rendering significant managerial assistance.

Second priority liens on collateral securing loans that we make to our portfolio companies may be subject to control by senior creditors with first priority liens. If there is a default, the value of the collateral may not be sufficient to repay in full both the first priority creditors and us.

Certain loans we make to portfolio companies are and will be secured on a second priority basis by the same collateral securing senior secured debt of such companies. The first priority liens on the collateral secure the portfolio company's obligations under any outstanding senior debt and may secure certain other future debt that may be permitted to be incurred by the company under the agreements governing the loans. The holders of obligations secured by the first priority liens on the collateral will generally control the liquidation of and be entitled to receive proceeds from any realization of the collateral to repay their obligations in full before us. In addition, the value of the collateral in the event of liquidation will depend on market and economic conditions, the availability of buyers and other factors. There can be no assurance that the proceeds, if any, from the sale or sales of all of the collateral would be sufficient to satisfy the loan obligations secured by the second priority liens after payment in full of all obligations secured by the first priority liens on the collateral. If such proceeds are not sufficient to repay amounts outstanding under the loan obligations secured by the second priority liens, then we, to the extent not repaid from the proceeds of the sale of the collateral, will only have an unsecured claim against the company's remaining assets, if any.

The rights we may have with respect to the collateral securing the loans we make to portfolio companies with senior debt outstanding may also be limited pursuant to the terms of one or more intercreditor agreements entered into with the holders of senior debt. Under an intercreditor agreement, at any time that obligations having the benefit of the first priority liens are outstanding, any of the following actions that may be taken in respect to the collateral will be at the direction of the holders of the obligations secured by the first priority liens:

the ability to cause the commencement of enforcement proceedings against the collateral;

the ability to control the conduct of such proceedings;

the approval of amendments to collateral documents;

releases of liens on the collateral; and

waivers of past defaults under collateral documents.

We may not have the ability to control or direct such actions, even if our rights are adversely affected.

We may hold the debt securities of leveraged companies that may, due to the significant volatility of such companies, enter into bankruptcy proceedings.

Leveraged companies may experience bankruptcy or similar financial distress. The bankruptcy process has a number of significant inherent risks. Many events in a bankruptcy proceeding are the product of contested matters and adversary proceedings and are beyond the control of the creditors. A bankruptcy filing by an issuer may adversely and permanently affect the issuer. If the proceeding is converted to a liquidation, the value of the issuer may not equal the liquidation value that was believed to exist at the time of the investment. The duration of a bankruptcy proceeding is also difficult to predict, and a creditor's return on investment can be adversely affected by delays until the plan of reorganization or liquidation ultimately becomes effective. The administrative costs in connection with a bankruptcy proceeding are frequently high and would be paid out of the debtor's estate prior to any return to creditors. Because the standards for classification of claims under bankruptcy law are vague, our influence with respect to the class of securities or other obligations we own may be lost by increases in the number and amount of claims in the same class or by different classification and treatment. In the early

Table of Contents

stages of the bankruptcy process, it is often difficult to estimate the extent of, or even to identify, any contingent claims that might be made. In addition, certain claims that have priority by law (for example, claims for taxes) may be substantial.

Defaults by our portfolio companies will harm our operating results.

A portfolio company's failure to satisfy financial or operating covenants imposed by us or other lenders could lead to defaults and, potentially, termination of its loans and foreclosure on its assets. This could trigger cross-defaults under other agreements and jeopardize the portfolio company's ability to meet its obligations under the debt or equity securities that we hold. We may incur expenses to the extent necessary to seek recovery upon default or to negotiate new terms, which may include the waiver of certain financial covenants, with a defaulting portfolio company.

We do not expect to control many of our portfolio companies.

We do not expect to control many of our portfolio companies, even though we may have board representation or board observation rights, and the debt agreements may contain certain restrictive covenants. As a result, we are subject to the risk that a portfolio company in which we invest may make business decisions with which we disagree and the management of such company, as representatives of the holders of the company's common equity, may take risks or otherwise act in ways that do not serve our interests as debt investors. Due to the lack of liquidity for our investments in private companies in the lower middle-market, we may not be able to dispose of our interests in our portfolio companies as readily as we would like or at an appropriate valuation. As a result, a portfolio company may make decisions that could decrease the value of our portfolio holdings.

We are a non-diversified investment company within the meaning of the 1940 Act; therefore we are not limited with respect to the proportion of our assets that may be invested in securities of a single issuer.

We are classified as a non-diversified investment company within the meaning of the 1940 Act, which means that we are not limited by the 1940 Act with respect to the proportion of our assets that we may invest in securities of a single issuer. To the extent that we assume large positions in the securities of a small number of issuers, our net asset value may fluctuate to a greater extent than that of a diversified investment company as a result of changes in the financial condition or the market's assessment of the issuer and the aggregate returns we realize may be significantly adversely affected if a small number of investments perform poorly or if we need to write down the value of any one investment. Additionally, while we are not targeting any specific industries, our investments may be concentrated in relatively few industries. As a result, a downturn in any particular industry in which we are invested could also significantly impact the aggregate returns we realize. We may also be more susceptible to any single economic or regulatory occurrence than a diversified investment company. Beyond the asset diversification requirements applicable to RICs, we do not have fixed guidelines for diversification, and our investments could be concentrated in relatively few portfolio companies.

Prepayments of our debt investments by our portfolio companies could adversely impact our results of operations and reduce our return on equity.

We are subject to the risk that the investments we make in our portfolio companies may be repaid prior to maturity. When this occurs, we will generally reinvest these proceeds in temporary investments, pending their future investment in new portfolio companies. These temporary investments will typically have substantially lower yields than the debt being repaid, and we could experience significant delays in reinvesting these amounts. In addition, any future investment of such amounts in a new portfolio company may also be at lower yields than the investment that was repaid. As a result, our results of operations could be materially adversely affected if one or more of our portfolio companies elects to prepay amounts owed to us. Additionally, prepayments could negatively impact our return on equity, which could result in a decline in the market price of our common stock.

Table of Contents

We may not realize gains from our equity investments.

Certain investments that we have made in the past and may make in the future include warrants or other equity or equity-related securities. In addition, we may from time to time make non-control, equity co-investments in companies. Our goal is to realize gains upon our disposition of such equity interests. However, the equity interests we receive may not appreciate in value and, in fact, may decline in value. We also may be unable to realize any value if a portfolio company does not have a liquidity event, such as a sale of the business, recapitalization or public offering, which would allow us to sell the underlying equity interests. We often seek puts or similar rights to give us the right to sell our equity securities back to the portfolio company issuer. We may be unable to exercise these put rights for the consideration provided in our investment documents if the issuer is in financial distress. Accordingly, we may not be able to realize gains from our equity interests, and any gains that we do realize on the disposition of any equity interests may not be sufficient to offset any other losses we experience.

If our primary investments are deemed not to be qualifying assets, we could be precluded from investing in our desired manner or deemed to be in violation of the 1940 Act.

In order to maintain our status as a BDC, we will need to not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets unless, at the time of and after giving effect to such acquisition, at least 70.0% of our total assets are qualifying assets. We believe that most of the investments that we may acquire in the future will constitute qualifying assets. However, we may be precluded from investing in what we believe are attractive investments if such investments are not qualifying assets for purposes of the 1940 Act. If we do not invest a sufficient portion of our assets in qualifying assets, we could violate the 1940 Act provisions applicable to BDCs. As a result of such violation, specific rules under the 1940 Act could prevent us, for example, from making follow-on investments in existing portfolio companies (which could result in the dilution of our position) or could require us to dispose of investments at inappropriate times in order to come into compliance with the 1940 Act. If we need to dispose of such investments quickly, it could be difficult to dispose of such investments on favorable terms. We may not be able to find a buyer for such investments and, even if we do find a buyer, we may have to sell the investments at a substantial loss. Any such outcomes would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

The disposition of our investments may result in contingent liabilities.

A significant portion of our investments involve private securities and we expect that a significant portion of our investments will continue to involve private securities. In connection with the disposition of an investment in private securities, we may be required to make representations about the business and financial affairs of the portfolio company typical of those made in connection with the sale of a business. We may also be required to indemnify the purchasers of such investment to the extent that any such representations turn out to be inaccurate or with respect to potential liabilities. These arrangements may result in contingent liabilities that ultimately result in funding obligations that we must satisfy through its return of distributions previously made to it.

Our investment advisor's liability is limited under the Investment Advisory Agreement, and we have agreed to indemnify our investment advisor against certain liabilities, which may lead our investment advisor to act in a riskier manner on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor does not assume any responsibility to us other than to render the services called for under that agreement, and it is not be responsible for any action of our board of directors in following or declining to follow our investment advisor's advice or recommendations. Our investment advisor maintains a contractual relationship, as opposed to a fiduciary relationship except to the extent specified in section 36(b) of the Investment Advisory Act concerning loss from a breach of fiduciary duty with respect to the receipt of compensation for services, with us. Under the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor and its officers, directors, members, managers, partners, stockholders and employees are not liable to us, any subsidiary of ours, our directors, our stockholders or any subsidiary's

Table of Contents

stockholders or partners for acts or omissions performed in accordance with and pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement, except those resulting from acts constituting gross negligence, willful misconduct, bad faith or reckless disregard of our investment advisor's duties under the Investment Advisory Agreement. In addition, we have agreed to indemnify our investment advisor and its officers, directors, members, managers, partners, stockholders and employees from and against any claims or liabilities, including reasonable legal fees and other expenses reasonably incurred, arising out of or in connection with our business and operations or any action taken or omitted on our behalf pursuant to authority granted by the Investment Advisory Agreement, except where attributable to gross negligence, willful misconduct, bad faith or reckless disregard of such person's duties under the Investment Advisory Agreement. These protections may lead our investment advisor to act in a riskier manner when acting on our behalf than it would when acting for its own account.

Risks Relating to an Offering of Our Securities

We may be unable to invest a significant portion of the net proceeds raised from our offerings on acceptable terms, which would harm our financial condition and operating results.

Delays in investing the net proceeds raised in our offerings may cause our performance to be worse than that of other fully invested BDCs or other lenders or investors pursuing comparable investment strategies. We cannot assure you that we will be able to identify any investments that meet our investment objective or that any investment that we make will produce a positive return. We may be unable to invest the net proceeds from any offering on acceptable terms within the time period that we anticipate or at all, which could harm our financial condition and operating results. We anticipate that, depending on market conditions, it may take a substantial period of time to invest substantially all of the net proceeds of any offering in securities meeting our investment objective. During such a period, we will continue to invest the net proceeds of any offering primarily in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities, repurchase agreements and high-quality debt instruments maturing in one year or less from the time of investment, which may produce returns that are significantly lower than the returns which we expect to achieve when our portfolio is fully invested in securities meeting our investment objective, and given our expense ratio and the prevailing interest rate climate, there is a possible risk of losing money on the offering proceeds of certain securities, such as debt securities during this interval. As a result, any distributions that we pay during such period may be substantially lower than the distributions that we may be able to pay when our portfolio is fully invested in securities meeting our investment objective. In addition, until such time as the net proceeds of any offering are invested in securities meeting our investment objective, the market price for our securities may decline. Thus, the return on your investment may be lower than when, if ever, our portfolio is fully invested in securities meeting our investment objective.

In addition, the SBA limits the Fund to investing idle funds in the following types of securities:

direct obligations of, or obligations guaranteed as to principal and interest by, the United States government, which mature within 15 months from the date of the investment;

repurchase agreements with federally insured institutions with a maturity of seven days or less (and the securities underlying the repurchase obligations must be direct obligations of, or guaranteed by, the federal government);

certificates of deposit with a maturity of one year or less, issued by a federally insured institution; or

a deposit account in a federally insured institution that is subject to withdrawal restriction of one year or less.

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including business development companies, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value.

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including BDCs, frequently trade at a discount from net asset value. This characteristic of closed-end investment companies and BDCs is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our common stock will trade at, above

Table of Contents

or below net asset value. In addition, if our common stock trades below net asset value, we will generally not be able to issue additional common stock at the market price without first obtaining the approval of our stockholders and our independent directors. On June 6, 2012 our stockholders voted to allow us to sell or otherwise issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Selling or otherwise issuing shares of the Company's common stock below its then current net asset value per share would result in a dilution of the Company's existing common stockholders. The maximum number of shares issuable below net asset value pursuant to the authority granted by our stockholders that could result in such dilution is limited to 25.0% of the Company's then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale. We do not intend to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock below net asset value unless our board of directors determines that it would be in our stockholders' best interests to do so.

Stockholders may experience dilution in their ownership percentage if they do not participate in our dividend reinvestment plan.

All distributions declared in cash payable to stockholders that are participants in our dividend reinvestment plan are generally automatically reinvested in shares of our common stock. As a result, stockholders that do not participate in the dividend reinvestment plan may experience dilution over time. Stockholders who receive distributions in shares of common stock may experience accretion to the net asset value of their shares if our shares are trading at a premium and dilution if our shares are trading at a discount. The level of accretion or discount would depend on various factors, including the proportion of our stockholders who participate in the plan, the level of premium or discount at which our shares are trading and the amount of the distribution payable to a stockholder.

Recent market conditions may increase the risks associated with our business and an investment in us.

Beginning in the third quarter of 2007, the U.S. economy and financial markets began experiencing a high level of volatility, disruption and stress, which was exacerbated by the failure of several major financial institutions in the last few months of 2008. In addition, the U.S. economy entered a recession, which was severe and prolonged. Similar conditions occurred in the financial markets and economies of numerous other countries and could worsen, both in the U.S. and globally. These conditions raised the level of many of the risks described herein and, if repeated or continued, could have an adverse effect on our portfolio companies and on their results of operations, financial conditions, access to credit and capital. The stress in the credit market and upon banks has led other creditors to tighten credit and the terms of credit. In certain cases, senior lenders to our customers can block payments by our customers in respect of our loans to such customers. In turn, these could have adverse effects on our business, financial condition, results of operations, distributions to our stockholders, access to capital, valuation of our assets and our stock price. Notwithstanding recent gains across both the equity and debt markets, these conditions may continue for a prolonged period of time or worsen in the future.

If, in the future, we sell common stock at a discount to our net asset value per share, stockholders who do not participate in such sale will experience immediate dilution in an amount that may be material.

On June 6, 2012, our stockholders approved our ability to sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock at a discount from net asset value per share, as long as the cumulative number of shares sold pursuant to such authority does not exceed 25.0% of our then outstanding common stock immediately prior to each such sale, for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. If we sell or otherwise issue shares of our common stock at a discount to net asset value, it will pose a risk of dilution to our stockholders. In particular, stockholders who do not purchase additional shares at or below the discounted price in proportion to their current ownership will experience an immediate decrease in net asset value per share (as well as in the aggregate net asset value of their shares if they do not participate at all). These stockholders will also experience a disproportionately greater decrease in their participation in our earnings and assets and their voting power than the increase we experience in our assets, potential earning power

Table of Contents

and voting interests from such issuances or sale. In addition, such issuances or sales may adversely affect the price at which our common stock trades. For additional information and hypothetical examples of these risks, see Sales of Common Stock Below Net Asset Value, and for actual dilution illustrations specific to an offering, see the prospectus supplement pursuant to which such sale is made.

Our net asset value may have changed significantly since our last valuation.

Our board of directors determines the fair value of our portfolio investments on a quarterly basis based on input from our investment advisor, our audit committee and, as to certain of our investments, a third party independent valuation firm. While the board of directors will review our net asset value per share in connection with any offering, it will not always have the benefit of input from the independent valuation firm when it does so. Moreover, our financial statements have not been audited by our independent registered public accounting firm for any periods since December 31, 2011. The fair value of various individual investments in our portfolio and/or the aggregate fair value of our investments may change significantly over time. If the fair value of our investment portfolio at December 31, 2012 is less than the fair value at the time of an offering during 2012, then we may record an unrealized loss on our investment portfolio and may report a lower net asset value per share than will be reflected in the Selected Financial Data and the financial statements included in the prospectus supplement of that offering. If the fair value of our investment portfolio at December 31, 2012 is greater than the fair value at the time of an offering during 2012, we may record an unrealized gain on our investment portfolio and may report a greater net asset value per share than so reflected in the prospectus supplement of that offering. Upon publication of this information in connection with our announcement of operating results for our fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, the market price of our common stock may fluctuate materially, and may be substantially less than the price per share you pay for our common stock in an offering.

The market price of our securities may fluctuate significantly.

The market price and liquidity of the market for shares of our common stock may be significantly affected by numerous factors, some of which are beyond our control and may not be directly related to our operating performance. These factors include:

significant volatility in the market price and trading volume of securities of BDCs or other companies in our sector, which is not necessarily related to the operating performance of these companies;

changes in regulatory policies or tax guidelines, particularly with respect to RICs, BDCs or SBICs;

loss of RIC or BDC status;

loss of status as an SBIC for the Fund, or any other SBIC subsidiary we may form;

changes or perceived changes in earnings or variations in operating results;

changes or perceived changes in the value of our portfolio of investments;

changes in accounting guidelines governing valuation of our investments;

any shortfall in revenue or net income or any increase in losses from levels expected by investors or securities analysts;

departure of our investment advisor's key personnel;

operating performance of companies comparable to us;

general economic trends and other external factors; and

loss of a major funding source.

Table of Contents

Investing in our securities may involve an above average degree of risk.

The investments we make in accordance with our investment objective may result in a higher amount of risk than alternative investment options and a higher risk of volatility or loss of principal. Our investments in portfolio companies may be highly speculative; therefore, an investment in our securities may not be suitable for someone with lower risk tolerance.

Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock may have an adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

As of August 17, 2012, we had 9,427,021 shares of common stock outstanding. Sales of substantial amounts of our common stock, or the availability of shares for sale, including those offered hereby, could adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common stock. If this occurs and continues, it could impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of equity securities should we desire to do so.

Provisions of the Maryland General Corporation Law and our charter and bylaws could deter takeover attempts and have an adverse effect on the price of our common stock.

The Maryland General Corporation Law contains provisions that may discourage, delay or make more difficult a change in control of us or the removal of our directors. In addition, our board of directors may, without stockholder action, authorize the issuance of shares of stock in one or more classes or series, including preferred stock. Our charter and bylaws contain provisions that limit liability and provide for indemnification of our directors and officers. These provisions and others also may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control or management. We are generally prohibited from engaging in mergers and other business combinations with stockholders that beneficially own 10.0% or more of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock, or with their affiliates, for five years after the most recent date on which such stockholders became the beneficial owners of 10.0% or more of the voting power of our outstanding voting stock and thereafter unless our directors and stockholders approve the business combination in the prescribed manner. See Description of Our Capital Stock - Business Combinations. Maryland law may discourage third parties from trying to acquire control of us and increase the difficulty of consummating such an offer.

We have also adopted measures that may make it difficult for a third party to obtain control of us, including provisions of our charter authorizing our board of directors to classify or reclassify shares of our stock in one or more classes or series and to cause the issuance of additional shares of our stock, including preferred stock. In addition, we have adopted a classified board of directors. A classified board may render a change in control of us or removal of our incumbent management more difficult. These provisions, as well as other provisions of our charter and bylaws, may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders.

If we issue preferred stock and/or debt securities, the net asset value and market value of our common stock may become more volatile.

We cannot assure you that the issuance of preferred stock and/or debt securities would result in a higher yield or return to the holders of our common stock. The issuance of preferred stock and/or debt securities would likely cause the net asset value and market value of our common stock to become more volatile. If the distribution rate on the preferred stock, or the interest rate on the debt securities, were to approach the net rate of return on our investment portfolio, the benefit of leverage to the holders of our common stock would be reduced. If the distribution rate on the preferred stock, or the interest rate on the debt securities, were to exceed the net rate of return on our portfolio, the use of leverage would result in a lower rate of return to the holders of common stock than if we had not issued the preferred stock and/or debt securities. Any decline in the net asset value of our investment would be borne entirely by the holders of our common stock. Therefore, if the market value of our portfolio were to decline, the leverage would result in a greater decrease in net asset value to the holders of our common stock than if we were not leveraged through the issuance of preferred stock and/or debt securities. This decline in net asset value would also tend to cause a greater decline in the market price for our common stock.

Table of Contents

There is also a risk that, in the event of a sharp decline in the value of our net assets, we would be in danger of failing to maintain required asset coverage ratios which may be required by the preferred stock and/or debt securities or of a downgrade in the ratings of the preferred stock and/or debt securities or our current investment income might not be sufficient to meet the distribution requirements on the preferred stock or the interest payments on the debt securities. In order to counteract such an event, we might need to liquidate investments in order to fund redemption of some or all of the preferred stock and/or debt securities. In addition, we would pay (and the holders of our common stock would bear) all costs and expenses relating to the issuance and ongoing maintenance of the preferred stock and/or debt securities. Holders of preferred stock and/or debt securities may have different interests than holders of common stock and may at times have disproportionate influence over our affairs.

If we issue auction rate preferred stock and you purchase such auction rate preferred stock, you may not be able to sell your auction rate preferred stock at an auction if the auction fails.

If we issue auction rate preferred stock and you purchase such auction rate preferred stock, you may not be able to sell your auction rate preferred stock at an auction if the auction fails, i.e., if more shares of auction rate preferred stock are offered for sale than there are buyers for those shares. Also, if you place an order (a hold order) at an auction to retain auction rate preferred stock only at a specified rate that exceeds the rate set at the auction, you will not retain your auction rate preferred stock. Additionally, if you place a hold order without specifying a rate below which you would not wish to continue to hold your shares and the auction sets a below-market rate, you will receive a lower rate of return on your shares than any market rate of those securities. Finally, the distribution period of these securities may be changed, subject to certain conditions and with notice to the holders of the auction rate preferred stock, which could also affect the liquidity of your investment.

If you try to sell your auction rate preferred stock between auctions, you may not receive full value on your investment.

If you try to sell your auction rate preferred stock between auctions, you may not be able to sell your shares for their liquidation preference per share or such amount per share plus accumulated distributions. If we have designated a special distribution period of more than seven days, changes in interest rates could affect the price you would receive if you sold your shares in the secondary market. Broker-dealers that maintain a secondary trading market for the auction rate preferred stock are not required to maintain this market, and we will not be required to redeem auction rate preferred stock if either an auction or an attempted secondary market sale fails because of a lack of buyers. The auction rate preferred stock will likely not be registered on a stock exchange. If you sell your auction rate preferred stock to a broker-dealer between auctions, you may receive less than the price you paid for your shares, especially when market interest rates have risen since the last auction or during a special distribution period. Due to recent market disruption most auction-rate preferred stock have been unable to hold successful auctions and holders of such shares have suffered reduced liquidity, including the inability to sell such shares in a secondary market.

The trading market or market value of our debt securities or any convertible debt securities, if issued to the public, may be volatile.

Our debt securities or any convertible debt securities, if issued to the public, may or may not have an established trading market. We cannot assure investors that a trading market for our debt securities or any convertible debt securities, if issued to the public, would develop or be maintained if developed. In addition to our creditworthiness, many factors may materially adversely affect the trading market for, and market value of, our publicly issued debt securities or any convertible debt securities. These factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

the time remaining to the maturity of these debt securities;

the outstanding principal amount of debt securities with terms identical to these debt securities;

Table of Contents

the general economic environment;

the supply of debt securities trading in the secondary market, if any;

the redemption, repayment or convertible features, if any, of these debt securities;

the level, direction and volatility of market interest rates generally; and

market rates of interest higher or lower than rates borne by the debt securities.

There also may be a limited number of buyers for our debt securities. This too may materially adversely affect the market value of the debt securities or the trading market for the debt securities. Our debt securities may include convertible features that cause them to more closely bear risks associated with an investment in our common stock.

Our credit ratings, if any, may not reflect all risks of an investment in our debt securities or any convertible debt securities.

Our credit ratings, if any, will be an assessment by third parties of our ability to pay our obligations. Consequently, real or anticipated changes in our credit ratings will generally affect the market value of any publicly issued debt securities. Our credit ratings, however, may not reflect the potential impact of risks related to market conditions generally or other factors discussed herein about the market value of, or trading market for, any publicly issued debt securities.

Terms relating to redemption may materially adversely affect the return on any debt securities.

If we issue any debt securities or any convertible debt securities that are redeemable at our option, we may choose to redeem the debt securities at times when prevailing interest rates are lower than the interest rate paid on the debt securities. In addition, if the debt securities are subject to mandatory redemption, we may be required to redeem the debt securities at times when prevailing interest rates are lower than the interest rate paid on the debt securities. In this circumstance, a holder of our debt securities may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as the debt securities being redeemed.

The issuance of subscription rights, warrants or convertible debt that are exchangeable for our common stock, will cause your interest in us to be diluted as a result of any such rights, warrants or convertible debt offering.

Stockholders who do not fully exercise rights, warrants or convertible debt issued to them in any offering of subscription rights, warrants or convertible debt to purchase our common stock should expect that they will, at the completion of the offering, own a smaller proportional interest in us than would otherwise be the case if they fully exercised their rights, warrants or convertible debt. We cannot state precisely the amount of any such dilution in share ownership because we do not know what proportion of the common stock would be purchased as a result of any such offering.

In addition, if the subscription price, warrant price or convertible debt price is less than our net asset value per share of common stock at the time of such offering, then our stockholders would experience an immediate dilution of the aggregate net asset value of their shares as a result of the offering. The amount of any such decrease in net asset value is not predictable because it is not known at this time what the subscription price, warrant price, convertible debt price or net asset value per share will be on the expiration date of such offering or what proportion of our common stock will be purchased as a result of any such offering. The risk of dilution is greater if there are multiple rights offerings. However, our board of directors will make a good faith determination that any offering of subscription rights, warrants or convertible debt would result in a net benefit to existing stockholders.

Table of Contents

Future offerings of debt securities, which would be senior to our common stock upon liquidation, or equity securities, which could dilute our existing stockholders and may be senior to our common stock for the purposes of distributions, may harm the value of our common stock.

In the future, we may attempt to increase our capital resources by making offerings of debt or equity securities, including commercial paper, medium-term notes, senior or subordinated notes and classes of preferred stock or common stock, subject to the restrictions of the 1940 Act. Upon a liquidation of our company, holders of our debt securities and shares of preferred stock and lenders with respect to other borrowings would receive a distribution of our available assets prior to the holders of our common stock. Additional equity offerings by us may dilute the holdings of our existing stockholders or reduce the value of our common stock, or both. Any preferred stock we may issue would have a preference on distributions that could limit our ability to make distributions to the holders of our common stock. Because our decision to issue securities in any future offering will depend on market conditions and other factors beyond our control, we cannot predict or estimate the amount, timing or nature of our future offerings. Thus, our stockholders bear the risk of our future offerings reducing the market price of our common stock and diluting their stock holdings in us. In addition, proceeds from a sale of common stock will likely be used to increase our total assets or to pay down our borrowings, among other uses. This would increase our asset coverage ratio and permit us to incur additional leverage under rules pertaining to BDCs by increasing our borrowings or issuing senior securities such as preferred stock or additional debt securities.

Terrorist attacks, acts of war or national disasters may affect any market for our securities, impact the businesses in which we invest and harm our business, operating results and financial condition.

Terrorist acts, acts of war or national disasters may disrupt our operations, as well as the operations of the businesses in which we invest. Such acts have created, and continue to create, economic and political uncertainties and have contributed to global economic instability. Future terrorist activities, military or security operations, or natural disasters could further weaken the domestic/global economies and create additional uncertainties, which may negatively impact the businesses in which we invest directly or indirectly and, in turn, could have a material adverse impact on our business, operating results and financial condition. Losses from terrorist attacks and natural disasters are generally uninsurable.

Table of Contents

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus contains forward-looking statements that involve substantial risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about us, our current and prospective portfolio investments, our industry, our beliefs, and our assumptions. Words such as anticipates, expects, intends, plans, believes, seeks, estimates, should, targets, projects and variations of these words and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond our control and difficult to predict and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements, including without limitation:

our inexperience operating a BDC;

our dependence on key personnel of our investment advisor and our executive officers;

our ability to maintain or develop referral relationships;

our ability to manage our business effectively;

our use of leverage;

uncertain valuations of our portfolio investments;

competition for investment opportunities;

actual and potential conflicts of interest with our investment advisor;

potential divergent interests of our investment advisor and our stockholders arising from our management and incentive fee structure;

constraint on investment due to access to material nonpublic information;

other potential conflicts of interest;

SBA regulations affecting our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary;

changes in interest rates;

the impact of a protracted decline in the liquidity of credit markets on our business and portfolio investments;

fluctuations in our quarterly operating results;

our ability to maintain our status as a RIC and as a BDC;

the timing, form and amount of any distributions from our portfolio companies;

changes in laws or regulations applicable to us;

possible resignation of our investment advisor or administrator;

the general economy and its impact on the industries in which we invest;

risks associated with investing in lower middle-market companies;

the ability of our investment advisor to identify, invest in and monitor companies that meet our investment criteria;

our ability to invest in qualifying assets; and

our ability to identify and timely close on investment opportunities.

Table of Contents

Although we believe that the assumptions on which these forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, any of those assumptions could prove to be inaccurate, and as a result, the forward-looking statements based on those assumptions also could be inaccurate. In light of these and other uncertainties, the inclusion of a projection or forward-looking statement in this prospectus should not be regarded as a representation by us that our plans and objectives will be achieved. These risks and uncertainties include those described or identified in **Risk Factors** and elsewhere in this prospectus. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which apply only as of the date of this prospectus. The forward-looking statements and projections contained in this prospectus are excluded from the safe harbor protection provided by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise specified in any prospectus supplement accompanying this prospectus, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of our securities to invest in lower middle-market companies in accordance with our investment objective and strategies and for working capital and general corporate purposes. We will also pay operating expenses, including management, incentive and administrative fees, and may pay other expenses, from the net proceeds of any offering. We plan to raise new equity when we have attractive investment opportunities available. Pending such use, we will invest the net proceeds of any offering primarily in short-term securities consistent with our BDC election and our election to be taxed as a RIC. See Regulation Temporary Investments for additional information about temporary investments we may make while waiting to make longer-term investments in pursuit of our investment objective.

Our ability to achieve our investment objective may be limited to the extent that the net proceeds from an offering, pending full investment, are held in interest-bearing deposits or other short-term instruments. The supplement to this prospectus relating to an offering will more fully identify the use of proceeds from such an offering.

Table of Contents

FORMATION TRANSACTIONS

Fidus Investment Corporation was formed on February 14, 2011, for the purpose of acquiring 100.0% of the equity interests in the Fund and Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, the former general partner of the Fund, raising capital in its IPO, which was completed in June 2011 and thereafter operating as an externally managed BDC under the 1940 Act.

On June 20, 2011, prior to the pricing of the IPO, we consummated the following formation transactions (Formation Transactions):

We acquired 100.0% of the limited partnership interests in the Fund through a merger of our wholly-owned subsidiary with and into the Fund, in which the limited partnership interests were exchanged for 3,702,778 shares of our common stock. The Fund became our wholly-owned subsidiary, retained its license by the SBA to operate as an SBIC, continued to hold its existing investments and made new investments with a portion of the net proceeds from the IPO.

We acquired 100.0% of the equity interests in Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, the former general partner of the Fund, through the merger of Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC with and into Fidus Investment GP, LLC, our wholly-owned subsidiary, in exchange for 353,743 shares of our common stock.

As a result of the IPO and the Formation Transactions described above, we and the Fund are externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified investment companies that have elected to be treated as BDCs under the 1940 Act. In addition, we have elected to be treated as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code, commencing with our taxable year ended December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

Our common stock began trading on June 21, 2011 on The Nasdaq Global Market under the symbol FDUS. Effective January 3, 2012, our common stock is included in the Nasdaq Global Select Market. Prior to June 21, 2011, there was no established public trading market for our common stock. The following table lists the high and low closing sale price for our common stock, and the closing sale price as a percentage of net asset value, or NAV, since shares of our common stock began being regularly quoted on Nasdaq.

Period	NAV (1)	Closing Sales Price		Premium/Discount of High Sales Price to NAV (2)	Premium/Discount of Low Sales Price to NAV (2)	Cash Distributions Per Share (3)
		High	Low			
Year ended December 31, 2011						
Second Quarter ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 14.82	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.81	101.2%	99.9%	\$
Third Quarter	14.77	15.00	11.33	101.6	76.7	0.32
Fourth Quarter	14.90	13.52	11.73	90.7	78.7	0.32
Year ended December 31, 2012						
First Quarter	14.94	14.38	12.85	96.3	86.0	0.34
Second Quarter	15.02	15.17	13.22	101.0	88.0	0.36
Third Quarter (to August 17, 2012)	*	16.10	14.89	*	*	*

- (1) Net asset value per share is determined as of the last day in the relevant quarter and therefore may not reflect the net asset value per share on the date of the high and low sales prices. The net asset values shown are based on outstanding shares at the end of the each period.
 - (2) Calculated as of the respective high or low closing sales price divided by net asset value.
 - (3) Represents the distribution declared in the specified quarter. We have adopted an opt out dividend reinvestment plan for our common stockholders. As a result, if we declare a distribution, then stockholders cash distributions will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of our common stock, unless they specifically opt out of the dividend reinvestment plan so as to receive cash distributions. See Dividend Reinvestment Plan.
 - (4) From June 21, 2011 (commencement of trading) to June 30, 2011.
- * Not determinable at the time of filing.

Shares of BDCs may trade at a market price that is less than the value of the net assets attributable to those shares. The possibilities that our shares of common stock will trade at a discount from net asset value or at premiums that are unsustainable over the long term are separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value will decrease. It is not possible to predict whether any common stock that may be offered pursuant to any prospectus supplement will trade at, above, or below net asset value.

We intend to continue to pay quarterly distributions to our stockholders. Our quarterly distributions, if any, are determined by our board of directors. We have elected to be taxed as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. As long as we qualify as a RIC, we will not be taxed on our investment company taxable income or net capital gain, to the extent that such income or gain is distributed, or deemed to be distributed, to stockholders on a timely basis.

To maintain our RIC tax treatment, we must, among other things, distribute at least 90.0% of our net ordinary income and realized net short-term capital gain in excess of realized net long-term capital loss, if any. In order to avoid certain excise taxes imposed on RICs, we currently intend to distribute during each calendar year an amount at least equal to the sum of (1) 98.0% of our net ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of our capital gain net income for the calendar year and (3) any net ordinary income and capital gain net income for

Table of Contents

the preceding calendar year that were not distributed during such year and on which we paid no U.S. federal income tax. We may retain for investment some or all of our net capital gain (i.e., realized net long-term capital gains in excess of realized net short-term capital losses) and treat such amounts as deemed distributions to our stockholders. If we do this, you will be treated as if you received an actual distribution of the capital gain we retain and then reinvested the net after-tax proceeds in our common stock. You also may be eligible to claim a tax credit (or, in certain circumstances, a tax refund) equal to your allocable share of the tax we paid on the capital gain deemed distributed to you. Please refer to

Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations for further information regarding the consequences of our retention of net capital gain. We may, in the future, make actual distributions to our stockholders of our net capital gain. We can offer no assurance that we will achieve results that will permit the payment of any cash distributions and, if we issue senior securities, we will be prohibited from making distributions if doing so causes us to fail to maintain the asset coverage ratios stipulated by the 1940 Act or if distributions are limited by the terms of any of our borrowings. See Regulation and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations.

We may make distributions that are payable in cash or shares of our common stock at the election of each stockholder. Under certain applicable provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations, distributions payable in cash or in shares of stock at the election of stockholders are treated as taxable dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits. The Internal Revenue Service has issued private rulings indicating that this rule will apply even where the total amount of cash that may be distributed is limited to no more than 20.0% of the total distribution. Under these rulings, if too many stockholders elect to receive their distributions in cash, each such stockholder would receive a pro rata share of the total cash to be distributed and would receive the remainder of their distribution in shares of stock. If we decide to make any distributions consistent with these rulings that are payable in part in our stock, taxable stockholders receiving such distributions will be required to include the full amount of such distributions (whether received in cash, our stock, or a combination thereof) as ordinary income (or as long-term capital gain to the extent such distributions are properly reported as a capital gain dividend) to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, a U.S. stockholder may be required to pay tax with respect to such distributions in excess of any cash received. If a U.S. stockholder sells the stock it receives in order to pay this tax, the sales proceeds may be less than the amount included in income with respect to the distribution, depending on the market price of our stock at the time of the sale. Furthermore, with respect to non-U.S. stockholders, we may be required to withhold U.S. tax with respect to such distributions, including in respect of all or a portion of such distribution that is payable in stock. In addition, if a significant number of our stockholders determine to sell shares of our stock in order to pay taxes owed on distributions, it may put downward pressure on the trading price of our stock.

We will report the U.S. federal income tax characteristics of all distributions to our stockholders, as appropriate, on IRS Form 1099-DIV after the end of the year. Our ability to pay distributions could be affected by future business performance, liquidity, capital needs, alternative investment opportunities and loan covenants.

Table of Contents**SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The selected consolidated financial data below reflects the consolidated operations of Fidus Investment Corporation and its subsidiaries, including the Fund. The selected financial information as of December 31, 2009, 2010 and 2011 and for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, is derived from the consolidated financial statements that have been audited by McGladrey LLP, independent auditors. Financial information prior to our IPO in June 2011 is that of the Fund. The selected financial data for the period from May 1, 2007 (inception) through December 31, 2007, statement of assets and liabilities data as of December 31, 2008, and the six months ended June 30, 2012 is unaudited. However, in our opinion, all adjustments, consisting of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair presentation have been made. This financial data should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this prospectus and with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

	Period from May 1 (inception) through December 31, 2007 (unaudited)	Year Ended December 31,				Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011	2012	
	(dollars in thousands)						(unaudited)
Statement of operations data:							
Total investment income	\$ 1,312	\$ 7,504	\$ 14,184	\$ 17,985	\$ 23,387	\$ 10,113	\$ 15,225
Interest expense	272	1,994	3,688	4,962	5,488	2,719	3,012
Management fees, net	1,787	3,087	2,969	3,436	3,182	1,605	1,945
Incentive fees					1,609		1,923
All other expenses	496	179	431	627	1,551	299	1,368
Net investment income (loss) before income taxes	(1,243)	2,244	7,096	8,960	11,557	5,490	6,977
Income tax expense					24		5
Net investment income (loss)	(1,243)	2,244	7,096	8,960	11,533	5,490	6,972
Net realized (loss) on investments			(5,551)	(3,858)	(12,318)	(7,935)	
Net unrealized (depreciation) on investments		(750)	(3,137)	(78)	16,170	10,385	746
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	(1,243)	1,494	(1,592)	5,024	15,385	7,940	7,718
Per Share Data⁽¹⁾:							
Net asset value (at end of period)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 14.90	\$ 14.75	\$ 15.02
Net investment income	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.22	0.58	0.74
Net gain (loss) on investments	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.40	0.26	0.08
Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.63	0.84	0.82
Dividends (post IPO)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.64		0.70
Other data:							
Weighted average annual yield on debt investments ⁽²⁾	15.7%	15.0%	15.6%	15.0%	15.3%	15.1%	15.5%
Number of portfolio companies at period end	4	9	15	17	23	19	27
Expense ratios (as percentage of average net assets) ⁽¹⁾ :							
Operating expenses	23.7%	12.4%	7.5%	8.6%	4.7%	1.4%	3.7%
Interest expense	2.8%	7.6%	8.0%	10.5%	4.0%	2.0%	2.1%

(1) Per share data and average net assets are presented as if the Formation Transaction and IPO had occurred on January 1, 2011.

Table of Contents

- (2) Yields are computed using the effective interest rates, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments, but excluding any debt investments on non-accrual status.

	As of December 31,					As of
	2007 (unaudited)	2008	2009	2010	2011	June 30, 2012 (unaudited)
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>					
Statement of assets and liabilities data:						
Total investments at fair value	\$ 33,151	\$ 75,849	\$ 122,900	\$ 141,341	\$ 204,745	\$ 234,055
Total assets	34,905	79,786	129,650	147,377	248,643	267,505
Borrowings	15,250	46,450	79,450	93,500	104,000	121,250
Total net assets	19,591	32,573	48,481	52,005	140,482	141,601

Table of Contents**SELECTED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA**

The following tables set forth certain quarterly financial information for each of the ten quarters ending with the quarter ended June 30, 2012. This information was derived from our unaudited consolidated financial statements. Results for any quarter are not necessarily indicative of results for the past fiscal year or for any future quarter.

	March 31, 2010	Quarter Ended		December 31, 2010
		June 30, 2010	September 30, 2010	
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>			
Total investment income	\$ 4,222	\$ 4,616	\$ 4,332	\$ 4,815
Net investment income	2,325	1,970	2,020	2,644
Net increase in net assets from operations	(3,421)	(1,739)	3,671	6,513
Net investment income per share	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Net increase in net assets from operations per share	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Net asset value per share at end of period	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	March 31, 2011	June 30, 2011	Quarter Ended		March 31, 2012	June 30, 2012
			September 30, 2011	December 31, 2011		
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>					
Total investment income	\$ 4,794	\$ 5,319	\$ 5,950	\$ 7,323	\$ 7,596	\$ 7,629
Net investment income	2,330	3,160	2,655	3,388	3,621	3,351
Net increase in net assets from operations	3,343	4,597	3,146	4,300	3,519	4,199
Net investment income per share ⁽¹⁾	0.25	0.33	0.28	0.36	0.38	0.36
Net increase in net assets from operations per share ⁽¹⁾	0.35	0.49	0.33	0.46	0.37	0.45
Net asset value per share at end of period ⁽¹⁾	14.42	14.75	14.77	14.90	14.94	15.02

(1) Per share amounts are presented as if the Formation Transactions and IPO had occurred on January 1, 2011.

Table of Contents

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF
FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with Selected Financial Data, Fidus Investment Corporation's consolidated financial statements and related notes appearing elsewhere in this prospectus. The information in this section contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please see Risk Factors and Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements for a discussion of the uncertainties, risks and assumptions associated with these statements.

Overview

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies, which we define as U.S. based companies having revenues between \$10.0 million and \$150.0 million. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. Our investment strategy includes partnering with business owners, management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives. We seek to maintain a diversified portfolio of investments in order to help mitigate the potential effects of adverse economic events related to particular companies, regions or industries.

Fidus Investment Corporation was formed as a Maryland corporation on February 14, 2011. On June 20, 2011, Fidus Investment Corporation acquired all of the limited partnership interests of Fidus Mezzanine Capital, L.P., or the Fund, and membership interests of Fidus Mezzanine Capital GP, LLC, its general partner, through the Formation Transactions (as defined in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements), resulting in the Fund becoming our wholly-owned SBIC subsidiary. Immediately following the Formation Transactions, we and the Fund elected to be treated as business development companies, or BDCs, under the 1940 Act and our investment activities have been managed by Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, our investment advisor, and supervised by our board of directors, a majority of whom are independent of us.

In June 2011, we closed our initial public offering, or IPO, issuing a total of 5,370,500 shares of common stock at a price of \$15.00 per share resulting in net proceeds of \$73.6 million, after deducting underwriting fees totaling \$5.3 million and transaction costs associated with the offering totaling \$1.7 million. Our shares are listed on The Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol FDUS.

The Fund is licensed by the United States Small Business Administration, or the SBA, as a Small Business Investment Company, or SBIC, and we plan to continue to operate the Fund as an SBIC, subject to SBA approval, and to utilize the proceeds of the sale of SBA debentures to enhance returns to our stockholders. We have also made, and continue to make, investments directly through Fidus Investment Corporation. We believe that utilizing both entities as investment vehicles provides us with access to a broader array of investment opportunities. Given our access to lower cost capital through the SBA's SBIC debenture program, we expect that the majority of our investments will continue to be made through the Fund. As of June 30, 2012, we had investments in 27 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$234.1 million and cost of \$221.1 million.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions affecting amounts reported in the financial statements. We have identified investment valuation and revenue recognition as our most critical accounting estimates. We continuously evaluate our estimates, including those related to the matters described below. These estimates are based on the information that is currently available to us and on various other assumptions that we believe to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates under different assumptions or conditions. A discussion of our critical accounting policies follows.

Table of Contents

Valuation of Portfolio Investments

We conduct the valuation of our investments, pursuant to which our net asset value is determined, at all times consistent with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States, or GAAP, and the 1940 Act.

Our investments generally consist of illiquid securities including debt and equity investments in lower middle-market companies. Investments for which market quotations are readily available are valued at such market quotations. Because we expect that there will not be a readily available market for substantially all of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our Board using a documented valuation policy and consistently applied valuation process. Due to the inherent uncertainty of determining the fair value of investments that do not have a readily available market value, the fair value of our investments may differ significantly from the values that would have been used had a readily available market value existed for such investments, and the difference could be material.

With respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available, our Board undertakes a multi-step valuation process each quarter, as described below:

our quarterly valuation process begins with each portfolio company or investment being initially evaluated and rated by the investment professionals of our investment advisor responsible for the portfolio investment;

preliminary valuation conclusions are then documented and discussed with the investment committee of our investment advisor;

our board of directors also engages one or more independent valuation firms to provide an independent appraisal for each of our investments at least once in every calendar year, and for new portfolio companies, at least once in the twelve-month period subsequent to the initial investment;

the audit committee of our Board reviews the preliminary valuations of our investment advisor and of the independent valuation firm(s) and responds and supplements the valuation recommendations to reflect any comments; and

the board of directors discusses the valuations and determines the fair value of each investment in our portfolio in good faith, based on the input of our investment advisor, the independent valuation firm(s) and the audit committee.

In making the good faith determination of the value of portfolio investments, we start with the cost basis of the security, which includes the amortized original issue discount and payment-in-kind income, if any. The transaction price is typically the best estimate of fair value at inception. When evidence supports a subsequent change to the carrying value from the original transaction price, adjustments are made to reflect the expected exit values.

We perform detailed valuations of our debt and equity investments, using both the market and income approaches as appropriate. Under the market approach, we typically use the enterprise value methodology to determine the fair value of an investment. There is no one methodology to estimate enterprise value and, in fact, for any one portfolio company, enterprise value is generally best expressed as a range of values, from which we derive a single estimate of enterprise value. Under the income approach, we typically prepare and analyze discounted cash flow models to estimate the present value of future cash flows of either an individual debt investment or of the underlying portfolio company itself.

We evaluate investments in portfolio companies using the most recent portfolio company financial statements and forecasts. We also consult with the portfolio company's senior management to obtain further updates on the portfolio company's performance, including information such as industry trends, new product development and other operational issues.

Table of Contents

For our debt investments, including senior secured loans and subordinated notes, the primary valuation technique used to estimate the fair value is the discounted cash flow method. However, if there is deterioration in credit quality or a debt investment is in workout status, we may consider other methods in determining the fair value, including the value attributable to the debt investment from the enterprise value of the portfolio company or the proceeds that would be received in a liquidation analysis. Our discounted cash flow models estimate a range of fair values by applying an appropriate discount rate to the future cash flow streams of our debt investments, based on future interest and principal payments as set forth in the associated loan agreements. We prepare a weighted average cost of capital for use in the discounted cash flow model for each investment, based on factors including, but not limited to: current pricing and credit metrics for similar proposed or executed investment transactions of private companies; the portfolio company's historical financial results and outlook; and the portfolio company's current leverage and credit quality as compared to leverage and credit quality as of the date the investment was made. We may also consider the following factors when determining the fair value of debt investments: the portfolio company's ability to make future scheduled payments; prepayment penalties; estimated remaining life; the nature and realizable value of any collateral; and changes in the interest rate environment and the credit markets that generally may affect the price at which similar investments may be made. We estimate the remaining life of our debt investments to generally be the legal maturity date of the instrument, as we generally intend to hold loans to maturity. However, if we have information available to us that the loan is expected to be repaid in the near term, we would use an estimated remaining life based on the expected repayment date.

For our equity investments, including equity and warrants, we generally use a market approach, including valuation methodologies consistent with industry practice, to estimate the enterprise value of portfolio companies. Typically, the enterprise value of a private company is based on multiples of EBITDA, cash flows, net income, revenues, or in limited cases, book value. In estimating the enterprise value of a portfolio company, we analyze various factors consistent with industry practice, including but not limited to original transaction multiples, the portfolio company's historical and projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the nature and realizable value of any collateral, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public. Where applicable, we consider our ability to influence the capital structure of the portfolio company, as well as the timing of a potential exit.

We may also utilize an income approach when estimating the fair value of our equity securities, either as a primary methodology if consistent with industry practice or if the market approach is otherwise not applicable, or as a supporting methodology to corroborate the fair value ranges determined by the market approach. We typically prepare and analyze discounted cash flow models based on projections of the future free cash flows (or earnings) of the portfolio company. We consider various factors, including but not limited to the portfolio company's projected financial results, applicable market trading and transaction comparables, applicable market yields and leverage levels, the markets in which the portfolio company does business, and comparisons of financial ratios of peer companies that are public.

Determination of fair value involves subjective judgments and estimates. Accordingly, the notes to our financial statements express the uncertainties with respect to the possible effect of such valuations, and any changes in such valuations, on the financial statements.

Revenue Recognition

The Company's revenue recognition policies are as follows:

Investments and related investment income. Realized gains or losses on portfolio investments are calculated based upon the difference between the net proceeds from the disposition and the cost basis of the investment. Changes in the fair value of investments from the prior period, as determined by our Board through the application of our valuation policy, are included as changes in unrealized appreciation or depreciation of investments in the consolidated statement of operations.

Table of Contents

Interest and dividend income. Interest and dividend income is recorded on the accrual basis to the extent that we expect to collect such amounts. Interest and dividend income is accrued based upon the outstanding principal amount and contractual terms of debt and preferred equity investments. Interest is accrued on a daily basis. Dividend income is recorded as dividends when declared or at the point an obligation exists for the portfolio company to make a distribution. Distributions of earnings from portfolio companies are evaluated to determine if the distribution is income or a return of capital.

Payment-in-kind interest. We have investments in our portfolio that contain a payment-in-kind income provision, which represents contractual interest or dividends that are added to the principal balance and are recorded as income. We stop accruing payment-in-kind income when it is determined that payment-in-kind income is no longer collectible. In addition, to maintain RIC tax treatment, substantially all of this income must be paid out to stockholders in the form of distributions, even though we have not yet collected the cash. We may have difficulty paying our required distributions if we recognize income before, or without, receiving cash representing such income.

Warrants. In connection with our debt investments, we will sometimes receive warrants or other equity-related securities, or Warrants. We determine the cost basis of Warrants based upon their respective fair values on the date of receipt in proportion to the total fair value of the debt and Warrants received. Any resulting difference between the face amount of the debt and its recorded fair value resulting from the assignment of value to the Warrants are treated as original issue discount, or OID, and accreted into interest income based on the effective interest method over the life of the debt security.

Fee income. All transaction fees received in connection with our investments are recognized as income. Such fees typically include fees for services, including structuring and advisory services, provided to portfolio companies. We recognize income from fees for providing such structuring and advisory services when the services are rendered or the transactions are completed. Upon the prepayment of a loan or debt security, any prepayment penalties are recorded as fee income when received. Prior to the Formation Transactions, and in accordance with the prior limited partnership agreement, we historically recorded transaction fees provided in connection with our investments as a direct offset to management fee expense.

We also typically receive upfront origination or closing fees in connection with investments. Such upfront origination and closing fees are capitalized as unearned income offset against investments on our statement of assets and liabilities and amortized as additional income over the life of the investment.

Non-accrual. Loans or preferred equity securities are placed on non-accrual status when principal, interest or dividend payments become materially past due, or when there is reasonable doubt that principal, interest or dividends will be collected. Interest payments received on non-accrual loans may be recognized as income or applied to principal depending upon management's judgment. Non-accrual loans are restored to accrual status when past due principal, interest or dividends are paid and, in management's judgment, are likely to remain current.

Portfolio Composition, Investment Activity and Yield

During the six months ended June 30, 2012, we invested \$33.4 million in four new and five existing portfolio companies. The additional investments consisted primarily of subordinated notes (\$13.0 million, or 39.0%), senior secured loans (\$17.1 million, or 51.2%), warrants (\$1.4 million, or 4.1%) and equity securities (\$1.9 million, or 5.7%). During the six months ended June 30, 2012 we received proceeds from repayments of principal of \$7.4 million. During the year ended December 31, 2011, we invested \$78.0 million in nine new and five existing portfolio companies. The new investments consisted primarily of subordinated notes (\$64.2 million, or 82.4%), senior secured loans (\$4.8 million, or 6.2%), warrants (\$2.4 million, or 3.0%) and equity securities (\$6.6 million, or 8.4%). During the year ended December 31, 2011 we received proceeds from repayments of principal of \$23.3 million. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we invested \$31.7 million in three new

Table of Contents

and five existing portfolio companies. The new investments consisted primarily of subordinated notes (\$25.4 million, or 80.4%), senior secured loans (\$4.0 million, or 12.5%), warrants (\$0.8 million, or 2.4%) and equity securities (\$1.5 million, or 4.7%). Additionally, we received proceeds from repayments of principal of \$14.3 million during the year ended December 31, 2010.

As of June 30, 2012, our investment portfolio totaled \$234.1 million and consisted of 27 portfolio companies. As of June 30, 2012, our debt portfolio was comprised entirely of fixed rate investments. Overall, the portfolio had a net unrealized appreciation of \$12.9 million as of June 30, 2012. Our average portfolio company investment at amortized cost was \$8.2 million as of June 30, 2012.

As of December 31, 2011, our investment portfolio totaled \$204.7 million and consisted of 23 portfolio companies. As of December 31, 2011, our debt portfolio was comprised entirely of fixed rate investments. Overall, the portfolio had a net unrealized appreciation of \$12.2 million as of December 31, 2011. Our average portfolio company investment at amortized cost was \$8.4 million as of December 31, 2011.

As of December 31, 2010, our investment portfolio totaled \$141.3 million and consisted of 17 portfolio companies. As of December 31, 2010, our debt portfolio was comprised entirely of fixed rate investments. Overall, the portfolio had a net unrealized depreciation of \$4.0 million as of December 31, 2010. Our average portfolio company investment at amortized cost was \$8.5 million as of December 31, 2010.

The weighted average yield on debt investments at their cost basis at June 30, 2012, December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 was 15.5%, 15.3% and 15.0%, respectively. Yields are computed using interest rates as of the balance sheet date and include amortization of original issue discount. Yields do not include debt investments that were on non-accrual status as of the balance sheet date.

The following table shows the portfolio composition by investment type at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments:

	As of June 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011 2010	
Cost			
Senior secured loans	14.2%	7.7%	13.4%
Subordinated notes	74.0	80.6	72.2
Equity	9.1	9.3	12.0
Warrants	2.7	2.4	2.4
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Fair Value			
Senior secured loans	13.5%	7.3%	11.6%
Subordinated notes	70.4	76.7	75.2
Equity	8.6	9.3	9.6
Warrants	7.5	6.7	3.6
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table of Contents

The following table shows the portfolio composition by geographic region at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments. The geographic composition is determined by the location of the corporate headquarters of the portfolio company.

	As of June 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011 2010	
Cost			
Midwest	30.2%	34.5%	28.1%
Southwest	20.0	16.8	20.8
Northeast	10.7	14.8	20.3
Southeast	21.7	18.8	18.2
West	17.4	15.1	12.6
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Fair value			
Midwest	28.8%	33.4%	30.7%
Southwest	23.0	20.3	24.7
Northeast	9.6	13.6	15.4
Southeast	20.6	17.7	19.0
West	18.0	15.0	10.2
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The following tables show the detailed industry composition of our portfolio at cost and fair value as a percentage of total investments:

	As of June 30, 2012	As of December 31, 2011 2010	
Cost			
Transportation services	9.2%	10.3%	12.4%
Aerospace & defense manufacturing	12.8	10.4	3.4
Healthcare services	13.6	9.7	7.6
Movie theaters	5.8	6.6	8.7
Industrial cleaning & coatings	6.0	6.8	5.5
Utility equipment manufacturing	4.4	5.0	
Specialty distribution	4.3	4.9	6.2
Printing services	4.0	4.5	5.6
Electronic components supplier	4.5	5.0	6.3
Retail cleaning	3.6	4.0	5.1
Commercial cleaning	3.8	4.2	5.6
Furniture rental	3.5	4.0	
Specialty cracker manufacturer	3.8	4.3	5.4
Restaurants	3.4	3.8	
Healthcare products	2.9	3.3	
Apparel distribution	2.6	3.0	
Information technology services	3.7	3.0	3.8
Laundry services	1.4	2.4	6.3
Oil & gas services	2.2	2.5	3.2
Restoration & mitigation services	2.1	2.3	
Debt collection services	2.5		
Industrial products			6.3

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Niche manufacturing			3.1
Environmental services			5.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

-52-

Table of Contents

	As of June 30, 2012	As of December 31,	
		2011	2010
Fair Value			
Transportation services	12.8%	14.0%	14.5%
Aerospace & defense manufacturing	12.8	10.2	3.0
Healthcare services	13.8	10.1	8.1
Movie theaters	6.3	7.1	10.3
Industrial cleaning & coatings	5.6	6.4	5.8
Utility equipment manufacturing	4.3	4.8	
Specialty distribution	4.3	4.6	6.4
Printing services	3.9	4.4	6.0
Electronic components supplier	3.1	4.1	6.5
Retail cleaning	3.0	3.9	7.0
Commercial cleaning	3.4	3.8	5.7
Furniture rental	3.5	3.7	
Specialty cracker manufacturer	3.1	3.6	5.5
Restaurants	3.2	3.6	
Healthcare products	2.7	3.1	
Apparel distribution	2.5	2.8	
Information technology services	3.4	2.7	3.9
Laundry services	1.5	2.5	6.8
Oil & gas services	2.5	2.5	3.2
Restoration & mitigation services	2.0	2.1	
Debt collection services	2.3		
Industrial products			6.5
Niche manufacturing			0.8
Environmental services			
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Portfolio Asset Quality

We utilize an internally developed investment rating system for our portfolio of investments. Investment Rating 1 is used for investments that involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio and the portfolio company is performing above expectations. Investment Rating 2 is used for investments that are performing substantially within our expectations and the portfolio company's risk factors are neutral or favorable. Each new portfolio investment enters our portfolio with Investment Rating 2. Investment Rating 3 is used for investments performing below expectations and requires closer monitoring, but with respect to which we expect a full return of original capital invested and collection of all interest. Investment Rating 4 is used for investments performing materially below expectations, and have the potential for some loss of investment return. Investment Rating 5 is used for investments performing substantially below our expectations and where we expect a loss of principal.

Table of Contents

The following table shows the distribution of our investments on the 1 to 5 investment rating scale at fair value as of June 30, 2012, December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010:

Investment Rating	June 30, 2012		December 31, 2011 Percent		December 31, 2010 Percent	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percent of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value <i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>	of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	of Total Portfolio
1	\$ 9,513	4.1%	\$ 8,715	4.3%	\$ 27,330	19.3%
2	215,311	92.0	180,751	88.2	97,739	69.2
3	9,231	3.9	15,279	7.5	15,108	10.7
4						
5					1,164	0.8
Totals	\$ 234,055	100.0%	\$ 204,745	100.0%	\$ 141,341	100.0%

Based upon our investment rating system, the weighted average rating of our portfolio as of June 30, 2012, December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010 was 2.0, 2.0 and 1.9, respectively. As of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, we had no investments on non-accrual status. As of December 31, 2010, the fair value of our non-accrual investments comprised 0.0% of the total fair value of our portfolio, and the cost of our non-accrual investments comprised 5.5% of the total cost of our portfolio.

Discussion and Analysis of Results of Operations**Comparison of three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011***Investment Income*

For the three months ended June 30, 2012, total investment income was \$7.6 million, an increase of \$2.3 million, or 43.4%, over the \$5.3 million of total investment income for the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$2.2 million increase in interest and fee income from investments. The increase in interest and fee income is primarily due to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments in the three months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the prior year period.

Expenses

For the three months ended June 30, 2012, total expenses were \$4.3 million, an increase of \$2.1 million or 98.5%, over the \$2.2 million of total expenses for the three months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in total expenses was attributable to an increase in all expense categories. The base management fee increased \$0.4 million, the incentive fee increased \$1.0 million and administrative service expenses increased \$0.2 million due to the new Investment Advisory and Administration Agreements. The Investment Advisor voluntarily waived the incentive fee of \$0.1 million for the period June 21, 2011 through June 30, 2011. Interest expense increased \$0.2 million as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the three months ended June 30, 2012 than the comparable period in 2011. Professional fees increased \$0.1 million primarily due to increased legal and accounting costs associated with being a publicly-traded company. Other general and administrative expenses increased \$0.2 million primarily due to increased director fees, insurance costs and other corporate expenses related to being a publicly-traded company.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$2.3 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$2.1 million increase in total expenses, net investment income increased \$0.2 million, or 6.0% for the three months ended June 30, 2012 to \$3.4 million compared to net investment income of \$3.2 million during the three months ended June 30, 2011.

Table of Contents

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting From Operations

For the three months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011, the total realized loss on investments was zero.

During the three months ended June 30, 2012, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$0.8 million comprised of \$1.4 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments, partially offset by \$0.6 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments. During the three months ended June 30, 2011, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$1.4 million. This consisted of \$2.1 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments, partially offset by \$0.6 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments.

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the three months ended June 30, 2012, was \$4.2 million, or a decrease of \$0.4 million compared to a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$4.6 million during the three months ended June 30, 2011.

Comparison of six months ended June 30, 2012 and 2011

Investment Income

For the six months ended June 30, 2012, total investment income was \$15.2 million, an increase of \$5.1 million, or 50.5%, over the \$10.1 million of total investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$5.0 million increase in interest and fee income from investments. The increase in interest and fee income is primarily due to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments and higher fee income of \$0.5 million in the six months ended June 30, 2012 compared to the prior year period.

Expenses

For the six months ended June 30, 2012, total expenses were \$8.2 million, an increase of \$3.6 million or 78.4%, over the \$4.6 million of total expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2011. The increase in total expenses was attributable to an increase in all expense categories. The base management fee increased \$0.3 million, the incentive fees increased \$1.9 million and administrative service expenses increased \$0.4 million due to the new Investment Advisory and Administration Agreements. The Investment Advisor voluntarily waived the incentive fee of \$0.1 million for the period June 21, 2011 through June 30, 2011. Interest expense increased \$0.3 million as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the six months ended June 30, 2012 than the comparable period in 2011. Professional fees increased \$0.2 million primarily due to increased legal and accounting costs associated with being a publicly-traded company. Other general and administrative expenses increased \$0.4 million primarily due to increased director fees, insurance costs and other corporate expenses related to being a publicly-traded company.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$5.1 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$3.6 million increase in total expenses, net investment income increased \$1.5 million, or 27.0% for the six months ended June 30, 2012 to \$7.0 million compared to net investment income of \$5.5 million during the six months ended June 30, 2011.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting From Operations

For the six months ended June 30, 2012, the total realized loss on investments was zero. For the six months ended June 30, 2011, the total realized loss on investments was \$7.9 million, resulting from one non-control/non-affiliate investment.

During the six months ended June 30, 2012, we recorded net unrealized appreciation of \$0.7 million comprised of \$1.5 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments, partially offset by \$0.7 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments. During the six months ended June 30, 2011, we recorded net

Table of Contents

unrealized appreciation of \$10.4 million. This consisted of \$3.5 million of net unrealized appreciation on equity investments and \$7.9 million of reclassifications to realized loss on investments (resulting in unrealized appreciation), partially offset by \$1.0 million of net unrealized depreciation on debt investments.

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the six months ended June 30, 2012, was \$7.7 million, or a decrease of \$0.2 million compared to a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$7.9 million during the six months ended June 30, 2011.

Comparison of fiscal years ended December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010

Investment Income

For the year ended December 31, 2011, total investment income was \$23.4 million, an increase of \$5.4 million, or 30.0%, over the \$18.0 million of total investment income for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase was primarily attributable to a \$5.6 million increase in interest and fee income from investments, partially offset by a \$0.3 million decrease in dividend income. The increase in interest and fee income is primarily due to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments and higher fee income of \$1.3 million in the year ended December 31, 2011 compared to the prior year period. The decrease in dividend income is primarily attributable to lower levels of dividend producing investments in 2011 compared to 2010.

Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2011, total expenses were \$11.8 million, an increase of \$2.8 million or 31.1%, over the \$9.0 million of total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2010. The increase in total expenses was primarily attributable to an increase in incentive and administrative service fees as well as higher interest expense and professional fees partially offset by a decrease in the base management fee after offset (transaction fees received in connection with the Fund's investments prior to the Formation Transactions). Incentive fees increased \$1.6 million and administrative fees increased \$0.4 million due to the new Investment Advisory and Administration Agreements. Interest expense increased \$0.5 million as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2011 than the comparable period in 2010. Professional fees increased \$0.4 million primarily due to increased legal and accounting costs associated with being a publicly-traded company. The base management fee after offset decreased \$0.3 million primarily due to lower management fees in the year ended December 31, 2011 as a result of the new Investment Advisory Agreement compared with the prior year period.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$5.4 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$2.8 million increase in total expenses, net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2011 was \$11.5 million, which was an increase of \$2.6 million, or 28.7%, compared to net investment income of \$9.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2010.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting From Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2011, the total realized loss on investments was \$12.3 million, which consisted of realized losses on two non-control/non-affiliate investments. For the year ended December 31, 2010, the total realized loss on investments was \$3.9 million, all of such realized loss was on non-control/non-affiliate investments, which was primarily the result of the restructuring of one debt investment.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we recorded net unrealized appreciation on investments of \$16.2 million comprised of net unrealized appreciation on investments in five portfolio companies totaling \$10.2 million and net unrealized depreciation on investments in ten portfolio companies totaling \$5.3 million. In

Table of Contents

addition, we recorded net unrealized depreciation reclassification adjustments of \$11.3 million related to realized losses on the two non-control/non-affiliate investment noted above. For the year ended December 31, 2010, we recorded \$0.1 million in net unrealized depreciation.

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the year ended December 31, 2011, was \$15.4 million, or an increase of \$10.4 million compared to a net increase in net assets resulting from operations of \$5.0 million during the year ended December 31, 2010.

Comparison of fiscal years ended December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2009

Investment Income

For the year ended December 31, 2010, total investment income was \$18.0 million, an increase of \$3.8 million, or 26.8%, over the \$14.2 million of total investment income for the year ended December 31, 2009. The increase was attributable to a \$4.6 million increase in interest and fee income from investments, partially offset by a \$0.8 million decrease in dividend income. The increase in interest and fee income is primarily attributable to higher average levels of outstanding debt investments, which was principally due to the closing of seven new debt investments totaling \$29.4 million during 2010, partially offset by the repayment of \$14.3 million of debt securities. The decrease in dividend income is primarily attributable to one equity investment in a portfolio company that was placed on non-accrual status during 2010.

Expenses

For the year ended December 31, 2010, total expenses were \$9.0 million, an increase of \$1.9 million, or 27.3%, over the \$7.1 million of total expenses for the year ended December 31, 2009. The increase in total expenses was primarily attributable to a \$1.3 million increase in interest expense as a result of higher average balances of SBA debentures outstanding during the year ended December 31, 2010 than the comparable period in 2009. The management fees paid to Fidus Capital, LLC, our investment advisor's predecessor, after management fee offset increased \$0.5 million, or 15.7%, primarily attributable to a decrease in management fee offset due to lower new investment activity during the year ended December 31, 2010 than the comparable period in 2009. Other expenses increased \$0.3 million, or 179.9%, primarily attributable to a loss on dividend receivable of \$0.3 million related to one portfolio investment that was placed on non-accrual status during 2010.

Net Investment Income

As a result of the \$3.8 million increase in total investment income as compared to the \$1.9 million increase in total expenses, net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2010, was \$9.0 million, or a 26.3% increase, compared to net investment income of \$7.1 million during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2010, the total realized loss on investments was \$3.9 million, all of such realized loss was on non-control/non-affiliate investments, which was primarily the result of the restructuring of one debt investment. For the year ended December 31, 2009, total realized losses on investments totaled \$5.6 million. Realized losses on control investments for 2009 was \$3.8 million, which primarily consisted of realized losses on two investments. Realized losses on affiliate investments for 2009 was \$1.8 million, which primarily consisted of realized losses on two investments.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, we recorded net unrealized depreciation on investments in the amount of \$0.1 million, comprised primarily of unrealized depreciation on 11 investments totaling \$10.2 million and unrealized appreciation on 13 other investments totaling \$6.3 million. In addition, we recorded net unrealized depreciation reclassification adjustments of \$3.9 million related to a realized loss on the non-control/non-affiliate investment noted above.

Table of Contents

As a result of these events, our net increase in net assets resulting from operations during the year ended December 31, 2010, was \$5.0 million, or an increase of \$6.6 million compared to a net decrease in net assets resulting from operations of \$1.6 million during the year ended December 31, 2009.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

As of June 30, 2012, we had \$27.6 million in cash and cash equivalents, and our net assets totaled \$141.6 million. We believe that our current cash and cash equivalents on hand, our available SBA leverage and our anticipated cash flows from operations will be adequate to meet our cash needs for our daily operations for at least the next 12 months. We intend to generate additional cash primarily from future offerings of securities, future borrowings as well as cash flows from operations, including income earned from investments in our portfolio companies. On both a short-term and long-term basis, our primary use of funds will be investments in portfolio companies and cash distributions to our stockholders.

Cash Flows

For the six months ended June 30, 2012, we experienced a net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$11.4 million. During that period, we used \$21.5 million in cash in operating activities, primarily for the funding of \$33.4 million of investments, partially offset by \$7.4 million of principal repayments received and \$7.0 million of net investment income. During the same period, we generated \$10.0 million from financing activities, consisting primarily of proceeds from SBA debentures of \$17.3 million. These increases were partially offset by cash dividends paid to stockholders in the amount of \$6.6 million and payment of deferred financing fees totaling \$0.6 million.

For the six months ended June 30, 2011, we experienced a net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$60.5 million. During that period, we used \$12.1 million in cash in operating activities, primarily due to new investments in portfolio companies of \$19.6 million, partially offset by \$5.0 million in portfolio company investment repayments. During the same period, we generated \$72.6 million from financing activities, consisting primarily of proceeds from the IPO of \$63.9 million, net of expenses, net borrowings under our credit facility totaling \$3.3 million and capital contributions from the Fund's partners prior to the Formation Transactions of \$7.0 million, partially offset by capital distributions to the Fund's partners prior to the Formation Transactions of \$1.5 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2011, we experienced a net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$37.3 million. During that period, we used \$46.0 million in cash in operating activities, primarily for the funding of \$78.0 million of investments, partially offset by \$23.3 million of principal repayments received and \$11.5 million of net investment income. During the same period, we generated \$83.3 million from financing activities, consisting primarily of proceeds from the IPO (including the over-allotment) of \$73.6 million, net of expenses, capital contributions from partners totaling \$7.0 million and proceeds from SBA debentures of \$10.5 million. These increases were partially offset by cash dividends paid to stockholders in the amount of \$6.0 million, capital distributions to the Fund's partners prior to the Formation Transactions in the amount of \$1.5 million and financing fees paid in the amount of \$0.3 million.

For the year ended December 31, 2010, we experienced a net decrease in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$0.9 million. During that period, we used \$12.8 million in cash in operating activities, primarily for the funding of \$31.7 million of investments, partially offset by \$14.3 million of principal payments received and \$9.0 million of net investment income. During the same period, we generated \$11.9 million from financing activities, consisting of borrowings under SBA debentures in the amount of \$14.0 million, partially offset by deferred financing costs paid by us in the amount of \$0.6 million and a capital distribution in the amount of \$1.5 million.

Table of Contents

For the year ended December 31, 2009, we experienced a net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the amount of \$1.3 million. During that period, we used \$48.4 million in cash in operating activities, primarily for the funding of \$50.8 million of investments, partially offset by \$7.1 million of net investment income. During the same period, we generated \$49.7 million from financing activities, consisting of borrowings under SBA debentures in the amount of \$33.0 million and partners' capital contributions in the amount of \$17.5 million. These amounts were partially offset by financing fees paid by us in the amount of \$0.8 million.

Capital Resources

We anticipate that we will continue to fund our investment activities on a long-term basis through a combination of debt and additional equity capital. The Fund is a licensed SBIC, and has the ability to issue debentures guaranteed by the SBA at favorable interest rates. Under the Small Business Investment Act and the SBA rules applicable to SBICs, an SBIC can have outstanding at any time debentures guaranteed by the SBA in an amount up to twice its regulatory capital. The maximum statutory limit on the dollar amount of outstanding debentures guaranteed by the SBA issued by a single SBIC as of June 30, 2012 was \$150.0 million. Debentures guaranteed by the SBA have fixed interest rates that approximate prevailing 10-year Treasury Note rates plus a spread and have a maturity of ten years with interest payable semi-annually. The principal amount of the SBA debentures is not required to be paid before maturity but may be pre-paid at any time. As of June 30, 2012, the Fund had \$121.3 million of outstanding SBA debentures, which had a weighted average interest rate of 4.8%. Based on its \$75.0 million of regulatory capital as of June 30, 2012, the Fund has the current capacity to issue up to an additional \$28.8 million of SBA debentures. For more information on the SBA debentures the Fund has issued, please see Note 6 to our consolidated financial statements.

We are in the process of applying for a second SBIC license through which we may issue more SBA debentures to fund additional investments; however, we can make no assurances that the application process will be completed successfully or that the SBA will approve such application. If we apply and are approved by the SBA for a second SBIC license, the maximum amount of outstanding SBA debentures for two or more SBICs under common control cannot exceed \$225.0 million. However, as a BDC, we are generally required to meet a coverage ratio of total assets to total senior securities, which include borrowings and any preferred stock we may issue in the future, of at least 200.0%. This requirement limits the amount that we may borrow. We have received exemptive relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, to allow us to exclude any indebtedness guaranteed by the SBA and issued by the Fund from the 200.0% asset coverage requirements, which, in turn, will enable us to fund more investments with debt capital.

As a BDC, we are generally not permitted to issue and sell our common stock at a price below net asset value per share. We may, however, sell our common stock, or warrants, options or rights to acquire our common stock, at a price below the then-current net asset value per share of our common stock if our board of directors, including independent directors, determines that such sale is in the best interests of us and our stockholders, and if our stockholders approve such sale. On June 6, 2012, our stockholders voted to allow us to sell or otherwise issue common stock at a price below net asset value per share for a period of one year ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. Our stockholders specified that the cumulative number of shares sold in each offering during the one-year period ending on the earlier of June 6, 2013 or the date of our 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders may not exceed 25.0% of our outstanding common stock immediately prior to such sale.

Recently Issued Accounting Standards

In May 2011 the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB, issued Accounting Standards Update, or ASU, 2011-04, *Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards*, or *IFRSs*, which we refer to as ASU 2011-04. ASU 2011-04 represents the converged guidance of the FASB and the

Table of Contents

International Accounting Standards Board, or IASB, (collectively, the Standards Boards) on fair value measurement. The collective efforts of the Standards Boards and their staffs, reflected in ASU 2011-04, have resulted in common requirements for measuring fair value and for disclosing information about fair value measurements, including a consistent meaning of the term fair value and enhanced disclosure requirements for investments that do not have readily determinable fair values. The Standards Boards have concluded the common requirements will result in greater comparability of fair value measurements presented and disclosed in financial statements prepared in accordance with GAAP and IFRSs. The amendments to the FASB Codification in ASU 2011-04 are to be applied prospectively. For public entities, the amendments are effective during interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2011. We adopted the amendments of ASU 2011-04 as of January 1, 2012. See Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements for the related disclosures. The adoption of ASU 2011-04 did not have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In November 2011, the FASB issued ASU 2011-11, *Balance Sheet (Topic 210)* containing new guidance that requires an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position. This guidance is effective for annual and interim periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013. An entity should provide the disclosures required by those amendments retrospectively for all comparative periods presented. Our effective date is January 1, 2013. The adoption of this guidance is not expected to have a material impact on our consolidated financial position.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We may be a party to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financial needs of our portfolio companies. As of June 30, 2012, we had one off-balance sheet arrangement with a portfolio company consisting of a \$1.0 million commitment of which \$0.8 million was unfunded. As of December 31, 2011 we had no off-balance sheet arrangements. As of December 31, 2010, our only off-balance sheet arrangements consisted of an unfunded commitment to provide debt financing to one of our portfolio companies.

Contractual Obligations

As of June 30, 2012 our future fixed commitments for cash payments are as follows:

	Total	2012	2013 to 2014	2015 to 2016	2017 and Thereafter
			<i>(Dollars in thousands)</i>		
SBA debentures	\$ 121,250	\$	\$	\$	\$ 121,250
Interest due on SBA debentures	43,185	2,918	11,707	11,723	16,837
Total	\$ 164,435	\$ 2,918	\$ 11,707	\$ 11,723	\$ 138,087

We have certain contracts under which we have material future commitments. We entered into the Investment Advisory Agreement with our investment advisor in accordance with the 1940 Act. Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor provides us with investment advisory and management services. We pay the following amounts for these services (a) a management fee equal to a percentage of the average of our total assets (excluding cash and cash equivalents) and (b) an incentive fee based on our performance. See Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement Management Fee.

Under the Administration Agreement, our investment advisor furnishes us with office facilities and equipment, provide us clerical, bookkeeping and record keeping services at such facilities and provide us with other administrative services necessary to conduct our day-to-day operations. See Management and Other Agreements Administration Agreement.

Table of Contents

If any of our contractual obligations discussed above are terminated, our costs under any new agreements that we enter into may increase. In addition, we would likely incur significant time and expense in locating alternative parties to provide the services we expect to receive under our Investment Advisory Agreement and our Administration Agreement. Any new investment advisory agreement would also be subject to approval by our independent board members and our stockholders.

Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk

We are subject to financial market risks, including changes in interest rates. Changes in interest rates affect both our cost of funding and the valuation of our investment portfolio. Our risk management systems and procedures are designed to identify and analyze our risk, to set appropriate policies and limits and to continually monitor these risks and limits by means of reliable administrative and information systems and other policies and programs. In the future, our investment income may also be affected by changes in various interest rates, including LIBOR and prime rates, to the extent of any debt investments that include floating interest rates. As of June 30, 2012, all of our debt investments bore interest at fixed rates and all of our pooled SBA debentures bore interest at fixed rates. As of June 30, 2012, we also had \$2.3 million in SBA debentures that carry a fixed rate through September 2012 when we expect they will pool at a higher fixed rate. Assuming that the consolidated statements of assets and liabilities as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011 were to remain constant, a hypothetical 100 basis point change in interest rates would not have a material effect on our level of interest income from debt investments or interest expense.

Because we currently borrow, and plan to borrow in the future, money to make investments, our net investment income is dependent upon the difference between the rate at which we borrow funds and the rate at which we invest the funds borrowed. Accordingly, there can be no assurance that a significant change in market interest rates will not have a material adverse effect on our net investment income. In periods of rising interest rates, our cost of funds would increase, which could reduce our net investment income if there is not a corresponding increase in interest income generated by our investment portfolio.

Table of Contents**SENIOR SECURITIES**

Information about our senior securities is shown in the following table as of December 31 for the years indicated in the table, unless otherwise noted. We have derived the information as of December 31, 2007, December 31, 2008 and June 30, 2012 from unaudited financial data. The information as of December 31, 2009, December 31, 2010 and December 31, 2011 has been derived from our consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by our independent registered public accounting firm and are included elsewhere in this prospectus.

Class and Year	Total Amount Outstanding Exclusive of Treasury Securities (1)	Asset Coverage per Unit (2)	Involuntary Liquidation Preference per Unit (3)	Average Market Value per Unit (4)
	<i>(dollars in thousands)</i>			
SBA debentures				
2007	\$	\$		N/A
2008	46,450	1,701		N/A
2009	79,450	1,610		N/A
2010	93,500	1,556		N/A
2011	104,000	2,351		N/A
2012 (as of June 30, unaudited)	121,250	2,168		N/A
Credit facility				
2007	\$ 15,250	\$ 2,285		N/A
2008				N/A
2009				N/A
2010				N/A
2011				N/A
2012 (as of June 30, unaudited)				N/A

- (1) Total amount of each class of senior securities outstanding at the end of the period presented.
- (2) Asset coverage per unit is the ratio of the carrying value of our total consolidated assets, less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by senior securities, to the aggregate amount of senior securities representing indebtedness. Asset coverage per unit is expressed in terms of dollar amounts per \$1,000 of indebtedness.
- (3) The amount to which such class of senior security would be entitled upon the involuntary liquidation of the issuer in preference to any security junior to it. The indicates information which the SEC expressly does not require to be disclosed for certain types of senior securities.
- (4) Not applicable because senior securities are not registered for public trading.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

General

We provide customized debt and equity financing solutions to lower middle-market companies, which we define as U.S. based companies having revenues between \$10.0 million and \$150.0 million. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. Our investment strategy includes partnering with business owners, management teams and financial sponsors by providing customized financing for change of ownership transactions, recapitalizations, strategic acquisitions, business expansion and other growth initiatives. We seek to maintain a diversified portfolio of investments in order to help mitigate the potential effects of adverse economic events related to particular companies, regions or industries.

We invest in companies that possess some or all of the following attributes: predictable revenues; positive cash flows; defensible and/or leading market positions; diversified customer and supplier bases; and proven management teams with strong operating discipline. We target companies in the lower middle-market with annual EBITDA between \$3.0 million and \$20.0 million; however, we may from time to time opportunistically make investments in larger or smaller companies. Our investments typically range between \$5.0 million and \$15.0 million per portfolio company.

As of June 30, 2012, we had debt and equity investments in 27 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair value of \$234.1 million. The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of June 30, 2012 was 15.5%. Yields are computed using the effective interest rates as of June 30, 2012, including accretion of original issue discount, divided by the weighted average cost of debt investments. There can be no assurance that the weighted average yield will remain at its current level.

Market Opportunity

We believe that the limited amount of capital available to lower middle-market companies, coupled with the desire of these companies for flexible and partnership-oriented sources of capital, creates an attractive investment environment for us. We believe the following factors will continue to provide us with opportunities to grow and deliver attractive returns to stockholders.

The lower middle-market represents a large, underserved market. We believe that lower middle-market companies, most of which are privately-held, are relatively underserved by traditional capital providers such as commercial banks, finance companies, hedge funds and collateralized loan obligation funds. Further, we believe that companies of this size generally possess conservative capital structures with significant enterprise value cushions, as compared to larger companies with more financing options.

Recent credit market dislocation for lower middle-market companies has created an opportunity for attractive risk-adjusted returns. We believe the credit crisis that began in 2007 and the subsequent exit of traditional capital sources, such as commercial banks, finance companies, hedge funds and collateralized loan obligation funds, has resulted in an increase in opportunities for alternative funding sources. In addition, we believe that there continues to be less competition in our market and an increased opportunity for attractive risk-adjusted returns. The remaining lenders and investors in the current environment are requiring lower amounts of senior and total leverage, increased equity commitments and more comprehensive covenant packages than was customary in the years leading up to the credit crisis.

Large pools of uninvested private equity capital should drive future transaction velocity. We believe there is a large pool of uninvested private equity capital, and we expect that private equity firms will remain active investors in lower middle-market companies. Private equity funds generally seek to leverage their investments by combining their equity capital with senior secured loans and/or mezzanine debt provided by other sources, and our relationships with private equity firms position us to partner with private equity investors.

Table of Contents

Future refinancing activity is expected to create additional investment opportunities. A high volume of financings completed between the years 2005 and 2008 is expected to mature in the coming years. We believe this supply of opportunities coupled with limited financing providers focused on lower middle-market companies will continue to offer investment opportunities with attractive risk-adjusted returns.

Business Strategy

We intend to accomplish our goal of becoming the premier provider of capital to and value-added partner of lower middle-market companies by:

Leveraging the Experience of Our Investment Advisor. Our investment advisor's investment professionals have significant experience investing in, lending to and advising companies across changing market cycles. These professionals have diverse backgrounds with prior experience in senior management positions at investment banks, specialty finance companies, commercial banks and privately and publicly held companies and have extensive experience investing across all levels of the capital structure of lower middle-market companies. We believe this experience provides our investment advisor with an in-depth understanding of the strategic, financial and operational challenges and opportunities of lower middle-market companies. Further, we believe this understanding positions our investment advisor to effectively identify, assess, structure and monitor our investments.

Capitalizing on Our Strong Transaction Sourcing Network. Our investment advisor's investment professionals possess an extensive network of long-standing relationships with private equity firms, middle-market senior lenders, junior capital partners, financial intermediaries and management teams of privately owned businesses. We believe that the combination of our relationships and our reputation as a reliable, responsive and value-added financing partner helps generate a steady stream of new investment opportunities and proprietary deal flow.

Serving as a Value-Added Partner with Customized Financing Solutions. We follow a partnership-oriented approach in our investments and focus on opportunities where we believe we can add value to a portfolio company. We primarily concentrate on industries or market niches in which the investment professionals of our investment advisor have prior experience. The investment professionals of our investment advisor also have expertise in structuring securities at all levels of the capital structure, which we believe positions us well to meet the needs of our portfolio companies. We invest primarily in mezzanine debt securities, typically coupled with an equity interest; however, on a selective basis we may invest in senior secured or unitranche loans. Further, as a publicly-traded BDC, we have a longer investment horizon without the capital return requirements of traditional private investment vehicles. We believe this flexibility enables us to generate attractive risk-adjusted returns on invested capital and enables us to be a better long-term partner for our portfolio companies. We believe that by leveraging the industry and structuring expertise of our investment advisor coupled with our long-term investment horizon, we are well positioned to be a value-added partner for our portfolio companies.

Employing Rigorous Due Diligence and Underwriting Processes Focused on Capital Preservation. Our investment advisor follows a disciplined and credit-oriented approach to evaluating and investing in companies. We focus on companies with proven business models, significant free cash flow, defensible market positions and significant enterprise value cushion for our debt investments. In making investment decisions, we seek to minimize the risk of capital loss without foregoing the opportunity for capital appreciation. Our investment advisor's investment professionals have developed extensive due diligence and underwriting processes designed to better assess a portfolio company's prospects and to determine the appropriate investment structure. Our investment advisor thoroughly analyzes each potential portfolio company's competitive position, financial performance, management team, growth potential and industry attractiveness. As part of this process, our investment advisor also participates in meetings with management, tours of facilities, discussions with industry professionals and third-party reviews. We believe this approach enables us to build and maintain an attractive investment portfolio that meets our return and value criteria over the long term.

Table of Contents

Actively Managing our Portfolio. We believe that our investment advisor's initial and ongoing portfolio review process allows us to effectively monitor the performance and prospects of our portfolio companies. We seek to obtain board observation rights or board seats with respect to our portfolio companies and we conduct monthly financial reviews and regular discussions with portfolio company management. We structure our investments with a comprehensive set of financial maintenance, affirmative and negative covenants. We believe that active monitoring of our portfolio companies' compliance with covenants provides us with an early warning of any financial difficulty and enhances our ability to protect our invested capital.

Maintaining Portfolio Diversification. We seek to maintain a portfolio of investments that is appropriately diversified among companies, industries, geographic regions and end markets. We have made investments in portfolio companies in the following industries: business services, industrial products and services, value-added distribution, healthcare products and services, consumer products and services (including retail, food and beverage), defense and aerospace, transportation and logistics, information technology services and niche manufacturing. We believe that investing across various industries helps mitigate the potential effects of negative economic events for particular companies, regions and industries.

Benefiting from Lower Cost of Capital. The Fund's SBIC license allows us to issue SBA debentures. These SBA debentures carry long-term fixed rates that are generally lower than rates on comparable bank and public debt. Because lower-cost SBA leverage is, and will continue to be, a significant part of our funding strategy, our relative cost of debt capital should be lower than many of our competitors. We also intend to apply for a second SBIC license through which we may issue more SBA debentures to fund additional investments; however, we can make no assurances that, if we do apply, the SBA will approve such application. The SBA regulations currently limit the amount that is available to be borrowed by the Fund to \$150.0 million. If we apply and are approved by the SBA for a second SBIC license, the maximum amount of outstanding SBA debentures for two or more SBICs under common control cannot exceed \$225.0 million.

About Our Advisor

Our investment activities are managed by Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC, our investment advisor. Pursuant to the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement, our investment advisor is responsible for determining the composition of our portfolio, including sourcing potential investments, conducting research and diligence on potential investments and equity sponsors, analyzing investment opportunities, structuring our investments and monitoring our investments and portfolio companies on an ongoing basis. Our investment advisor's investment professionals seek to capitalize on their significant deal origination and sourcing, credit underwriting, due diligence, investment structuring, execution, portfolio management and monitoring experience. These professionals have developed a broad network of contacts within the investment community, have gained extensive experience investing in assets that constitute our primary focus and have expertise in investing across all levels of the capital structure of lower middle-market companies. For information regarding the people who control our investment advisor and their affiliations with the Company, see *Certain Relationships and Related Transactions* Investment Advisory Agreement.

Our relationship with our investment advisor is governed by and dependent on the Investment Advisory Agreement and may be subject to conflicts of interest. We pay our investment advisor a fee for its services under the Investment Advisory Agreement consisting of two components—a base management fee and an incentive fee. The base management fee is calculated at an annual rate of 1.75% of the average value of our total assets (other than cash or cash equivalents but including assets purchased with borrowed amounts). The incentive fee consists of two parts. The first part is calculated and payable quarterly in arrears and equals 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the immediately preceding quarter, subject to a 2.0% preferred return, or hurdle, and a catch up feature. The second part is determined and payable in arrears as of the end of each fiscal year in an amount equal to 20.0% of our realized capital gains and unrealized capital appreciation, if any, on a cumulative basis from inception through the end of the year, computed net of all realized capital losses and unrealized capital depreciation on a cumulative basis, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital

Table of Contents

gain incentive fees. For more information about how we compensate our investment advisor and the related conflicts of interest, see Management and Other Agreements Investment Advisory Agreement and Certain Relationships and Related Transactions Conflicts of Interest.

Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how our investment advisor addresses conflicts of interest associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors periodically review our investment advisor's services and fees as well as its portfolio management decisions and portfolio performance. In connection with these reviews, our independent directors consider whether the fees and expenses (including those related to leverage) that we pay to our investment advisor remain appropriate.

Fidus Investment Advisors, LLC also serves as our administrator and provides us with office space, equipment and clerical, book-keeping and record-keeping services. The responsibilities of our administrator include overseeing our financial records, preparing reports to our stockholders and reports filed with the SEC and the SBA. Our administrator oversees the determination and publication of our net asset value, oversees the preparation and filing of our tax returns and monitors the payment of our expenses as well as the performance of administrative and professional services rendered to us by others. Furthermore, our administrator provides, on our behalf, managerial assistance to those portfolio companies to which we are required to offer such assistance.

Investments

We seek to create a diversified investment portfolio that primarily includes mezzanine loans and equity securities. Our investments typically range between \$5 million to \$15 million per portfolio company, although this investment size may vary proportionately with the size of our capital base. Our investment objective is to provide attractive risk-adjusted returns by generating both current income from our debt investments and capital appreciation from our equity related investments. We may invest in the equity securities of our portfolio companies, such as preferred stock, common stock, warrants and other equity interests, either directly or in conjunction with our debt investments.

Mezzanine Debt Investments. We typically invest in mezzanine debt, which includes senior subordinated notes and junior secured loans. These loans typically have relatively high, fixed interest rates (often representing a combination of cash pay and payment-in-kind interest), prepayment penalties and amortization of principal deferred to maturity. Subordinated loans generally allow the borrower to make a large lump sum payment of principal at the end of the loan term, and there is a risk of loss if the borrower is unable to pay the lump sum or refinance the amount owed at maturity. Subordinated investments are generally more volatile than secured loans and may involve a greater risk of loss of principal. In certain situations where we are able to structure an investment as a junior, secured loan, we will obtain a junior security interest in the assets of these portfolio companies that will serve as collateral in support of the repayment of such loan. This collateral may take the form of second-priority liens on the assets of a portfolio company.

Senior Secured Loans. We will also opportunistically structure some of our future debt investments as senior secured or unitranche loans. Senior secured loans will typically provide for a fixed interest rate and may contain some minimum principal amortization, excess cash flow sweep features and prepayment penalties. Senior secured loans are secured by a first or second priority lien in all existing and future assets of the borrower and may take the form of term loans or revolving lines of credit. Unitranche debt financing involves issuing one debt security that blends the risk and return profiles of both secured and subordinated debt. We believe that unitranche debt can be attractive for many lower middle-market companies given their size in order to reduce structural complexity and potential conflicts among creditors.

Equity Securities. Our equity securities typically consist of either a direct minority equity investment in common or preferred stock of a portfolio company, or we may receive warrants to buy a minority equity interest

Table of Contents

in a portfolio company in connection with a debt investment. Warrants we receive with our debt investments typically require only a nominal cost to exercise, and thus, as a portfolio company appreciates in value, we may achieve additional investment return from this equity interest. Our equity investments are typically not control-oriented investments, and in many cases, we acquire equity securities as part of a group of private equity investors in which we are not the lead investor. We may structure such equity investments to include provisions protecting our rights as a minority-interest holder, as well as a put, or right to sell such securities back to the issuer, upon the occurrence of specified events. In many cases, we may also seek to obtain registration rights in connection with these equity interests, which may include demand and piggyback registration rights. Our equity investments typically are made in connection with debt investments to the same portfolio companies.

We generally seek to invest in companies from the broad range of industries in which our investment advisor has direct experience. The following is a representative list of the broad industry segments in which we have invested; however, we may invest in other industries if we are presented with attractive opportunities:

business services;	niche manufacturing;
industrial products and services;	defense and aerospace;
value-added distribution;	transportation and logistics; and
healthcare products and services;	information technology services.

consumer products and services (including retail, food and beverage);

As of June 30, 2012, we had debt and equity investments in 27 portfolio companies with an aggregate fair market value of \$234.1 million.

Investment Criteria/Guidelines

We use the following criteria and guidelines in evaluating investment opportunities and constructing our portfolio. However, not all of these criteria and guidelines have been, or will be, met in connection with each of our investments.

Value Orientation / Positive Cash Flow. Our investment advisor places a premium on analysis of business fundamentals from an investor's perspective and has a distinct value orientation. We focus on companies with proven business models in which we can invest at relatively low multiples of operating cash flow. We also typically invest in companies with a history of profitability and minimum trailing twelve month EBITDA of \$3.0 million. We do not invest in start-up companies, turn-around situations or companies that we believe have unproven business plans.

Experienced Management Teams with Meaningful Equity Ownership. We target portfolio companies that have management teams with significant experience and/or relevant industry experience coupled with meaningful equity ownership. We believe management teams with these attributes are more likely to manage the companies in a manner that protects our debt investment and enhances the value of our equity investment.

Niche Market Leaders with Defensible Market Positions. We invest in companies that have developed defensible and/or leading positions within their respective markets or market niches and are well positioned to capitalize on growth opportunities. We favor companies that demonstrate significant competitive advantages, which we believe helps to protect their market position and profitability.

Diversified Customer and Supplier Base. We prefer to invest in companies that have a diversified customer and supplier base. Companies with a diversified customer and supplier base are generally better able to endure economic downturns, industry consolidation and shifting customer preferences.

Table of Contents

Significant Invested Capital. We believe the existence of significant underlying equity value provides important support to our debt investments. With respect to our debt investments, we look for portfolio companies where we believe aggregate enterprise value significantly exceeds aggregate indebtedness, after consideration of our investment.

Viable Exit Strategy. We invest in companies that we believe will provide a steady stream of cash flow to repay our loans and reinvest in their respective businesses. In addition, we also seek to invest in companies whose business models and expected future cash flows offer attractive exit possibilities for our equity investments. We expect to exit our investments typically through one of three scenarios: (a) the sale of the company resulting in repayment of all outstanding debt and equity; (b) the recapitalization of the company through which our investments are replaced with debt or equity from a third party or parties; or (c) the repayment of the initial or remaining principal amount of our debt investment from cash flow generated by the company. In some investments, there may be scheduled amortization of some portion of our debt investment which would result in a partial exit of our investment prior to the maturity of the debt investment.

Investment Committees

Our investment advisor has formed an investment committee to evaluate and approve all of the investments for Fidus Investment Corporation, or FIC, and an investment committee to evaluate and approve all of the Fund's investments. The investment committee process is intended to bring the diverse experience and perspectives of the committee's members to the analysis and consideration of each investment. The investment committees also serve to provide investment consistency and adherence to our investment advisor's core investment philosophy and policies. The investment committees also determine appropriate investment sizing and suggest ongoing monitoring requirements.

The members of the investment committees that advise FIC and the Fund are the same and include Edward H. Ross, Thomas C. Lauer, John J. Ross, II, Paul E. Tierney, Jr., John H. Grigg and W. Andrew Worth. For purposes of discussion herein, any reference to investment committee refers to both the investment committee that advises FIC and the investment committee that advises the Fund.

Investment Process Overview

Our investment advisor has developed the following investment process based on the experience of its investment professionals to identify investment opportunities and to structure investments quickly and effectively. Furthermore, our investment advisor seeks to identify those companies exhibiting superior fundamental risk-reward profiles and strong defensible business franchises while focusing on the relative value of the security in the portfolio company's capital structure. The investment process consists of five distinct phases:

Investment Generation/Origination;

Initial Evaluation;

Due Diligence and Underwriting;

Documentation and Closing; and

Active Portfolio Management.

Each of the phases is described in more detail below.

Investment Generation/Origination. Our investment originating efforts are focused on leveraging our investment advisor's extensive network of long-standing relationships with private equity firms, middle-market senior lenders, junior-capital partners, financial intermediaries and management teams of privately owned businesses. We believe that our investment advisor's investment professionals have reputations as reliable,

Table of Contents

responsive and value-added partners for lower middle-market companies. Our investment advisor's focus and reputation as a valued added partner generates a balanced mix of proprietary deal flow and a steady stream of new deal opportunities.

Initial Evaluation. After a potential transaction is received by our investment advisor, at least one of its investment professionals will conduct an initial review of the transaction materials to determine whether it meets our investment criteria and complies with SBA and other regulatory compliance requirements.

If the potential transaction initially meets our investment criteria, at least two members of the investment committee, referred to as the deal team, will conduct a preliminary due diligence review, taking into consideration some or all of the following factors:

A comprehensive financial model based on quantitative analysis of historical financial performance, projections and pro forma adjustments to determine a range of estimated internal rates of return.

An initial call or meeting with the management team, owner, private equity sponsor or other deal partner.

A brief industry and market analysis, leveraging direct industry expertise from other investment professionals of our investment advisor.

Preliminary qualitative analysis of the management team's competencies and backgrounds.

Potential investment structures and pricing terms.

Upon successful completion of the screening process, the deal team prepares a screening memorandum and make a recommendation to the investment committee. At this time, the investment committee will also consider whether the investment would be made by us or through our SBIC subsidiary. If the investment committee supports the deal team's recommendation, the deal team issues a non-binding term sheet to the company. Such a term sheet will typically include the key economic terms based on our analysis conducted during the screening process as well as a proposed timeline. Upon agreement on a term sheet with the company, our investment advisor will begin a formal diligence and underwriting process.

Due Diligence and Underwriting. Our investment advisor has developed a rigorous and disciplined due diligence process that includes a comprehensive understanding of a borrower's industry, market, operational, financial, organizational and legal positions and prospects. Our investment advisor continues to use the same systematic, consistent approach historically employed by Fidus Capital, LLC, our investment advisor's predecessor. The due diligence review will take into account information that the deal team deems necessary to make an informed decision about the creditworthiness of the borrower and the risks of the investment, which includes some or all of the following:

Initial or additional site visits and facility tours with management and key personnel.

Review of the business history, operations and strategy.

In depth review of industry and competition.

Analysis of key customers and suppliers, including review of any concentrations and key contracts.

Edgar Filing: FIDUS INVESTMENT Corp - Form 497

Detailed review of historical and projected financial statements, including a review of at least three years of performance (annual and monthly), key financial ratios, revenue, expense and profitability drivers and sensitivities to management's financial projections.

Detailed evaluation of company management, including background checks.

Third party reviews of accounting, environmental, legal, insurance, interviews with customers and suppliers, material contracts, competition, industry and market studies (each as appropriate).

Financial sponsor diligence, if applicable, including portfolio company and other reference checks.

Table of Contents

During the due diligence process, significant attention is given to sensitivity analyses and how the company might be expected to perform given various scenarios, including downside, base case and upside. Upon satisfactory completion of the due diligence review process, the deal team will present their findings and a recommendation to the investment committee. If the investment committee supports the deal team's recommendation, the deal team will proceed with negotiating and documenting the investment.

Documentation and Closing. Our investment advisor works with the management of the company and its other capital providers, including as applicable, senior, junior and equity capital providers to structure an investment. Our investment advisor structures each investment with an acute focus on capital preservation and will tailor the terms of each investment to the facts and circumstances of the transaction and the prospective portfolio company. We seek to limit the downside potential of our investments by:

Targeting an optimal total return on our investments (including a combination of current and deferred interest, prepayment penalties and equity participation) that compensates us for credit risk.

Negotiating covenants in connection with our investments that afford our portfolio companies as much flexibility in managing their businesses as possible, yet consistent with preservation of our capital. Such restrictions may include affirmative and negative covenants, default penalties, lien protection, change of control provisions and board rights, including either board observation or rights to a seat on the board under some circumstances.

Structuring financial covenants and terms in our debt investments that require the portfolio company to reduce leverage over time, thereby enhancing the investment's credit quality. These methods may include, among others: maintenance leverage covenants requiring a decreasing ratio of debt to cash flow; maintenance cash flow covenants requiring an increasing ratio of cash flow to interest expense and possibly other cash expenses such as capital expenditures, cash taxes and mandatory principal payments; and debt incurrence prohibitions, limiting a company's ability to relevel its balance sheet. In addition, limitations on asset sales and capital expenditures prevent a company from changing the nature of its business or capitalization without our consent.

We expect to hold most of our investments to maturity or repayment, but may exit our investments earlier if a liquidity event takes place, such as a sale or recapitalization of a portfolio company or if we determine that a sale of one or more of our investments is in our best interest.

Active Portfolio Management. We view active portfolio monitoring as a vital part of the investment process and continuously monitor the status and progress of the portfolio companies. The same deal team that was involved in the investment process will continue its involvement in the portfolio company post-investment. This provides for continuity of knowledge and allows the deal team to maintain a strong business relationship with key management of its portfolio companies for post-investment assistance and monitoring purposes.

As part of the monitoring process, the deal team conducts a comprehensive review of the financial and operating results of each portfolio company that includes a review of the monthly/quarterly financials relative to prior year and budget, review financial projections including cash flow and liquidity needs, meet with management, attend board meetings and review compliance certificates and covenants. We will maintain an on-going dialogue with the management and any controlling equity holders of a portfolio company that will include discussions about the company's business plans and growth opportunities and any changes industry and competitive dynamics. While we maintain limited involvement in the ordinary course operations of our portfolio companies, we may maintain a higher level of involvement in non-ordinary course financing or strategic activities and any non-performing scenarios. Our investment advisor's portfolio management will also include quarterly portfolio reviews with all investment professionals and investment committee members.

Table of Contents**Investment Rating System**

In addition to various risk management and monitoring tools, our investment advisor uses an internally developed investment rating system to characterize and monitor the credit profile and our expected level of returns on each investment in our portfolio. We use a five-level numeric rating scale. The following is a description of the conditions associated with each investment rating:

Investment Rating 1: Investments that involve the least amount of risk in our portfolio. The company is performing above expectations and the trends and risk factors are favorable, and may include an expected capital gain.

Investment Rating 2: Investments that involve a level of risk similar to the risk at the time of origination. The company is performing substantially within our expectations, and the risks factors are neutral or favorable. All new investments are initially rated 2.

Investment Rating 3: Investments that are performing below our expectations and indicates the investment's risk has increased somewhat since origination. The company requires closer monitoring, but where we expect no loss of investment return (interest and/or dividends) or principal. Companies with a rating of 3 may be out of compliance with financial covenants, but payments are generally not past due.

Investment Rating 4: Investments that are performing materially below our expectations and the risk has increased materially since origination. We expect some loss of investment return, but no loss of principal.

Investment Rating 5: Investments that are performing substantially below our expectations and whose risks have increased substantially since origination. Investments with a rating of 5 are those for which some loss of principal is expected.

As of both June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011, the weighted average investment rating of the investments in our portfolio was 2.0. The following table shows the distribution of our investments on the 1 to 5 investment rating scale at fair value as of June 30, 2012 and December 31, 2011.

Investment Rating	June 30, 2012		December 31, 2011	
	Investments at Fair Value	Percent of Total Portfolio	Investments at Fair Value	Percent of Total Portfolio
1	\$ 9,513	4.1%	\$ 8,715	4.3%
2	215,311	92.0	180,751	88.2
3	9,231	3.9	15,279	7.5
4				
5				
Totals	\$ 234,055	100.0%	\$ 204,745	100.0%

Determination of Net Asset Value and Valuation Process

We determine the net asset value per share of our common stock on at least a quarterly basis, and more frequently if we are required to do so pursuant to an equity offering or pursuant to federal laws and regulations. The net asset value per share is equal to the fair value of our total assets minus liabilities and any preferred stock outstanding divided by the total number of shares of common stock outstanding. Our business plan calls for us to invest primarily in illiquid securities issued by private companies. These portfolio investments may be subject to restrictions on resale and will generally have no established trading market. Because there is not a readily available market for substantially all of the investments in our portfolio, we value substantially all of our portfolio investments at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of

directors using a documented

Table of Contents

valuation policy and consistently applied valuation process in accordance with authoritative accounting guidelines. See Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Critical Accounting Policies Valuation of Portfolio Investments.

Managerial Assistance

As a BDC, we offer, and must provide upon request, managerial assistance to certain of our portfolio companies. This assistance typically involves, among other things, the monitoring of the operations of our portfolio companies, participating in board and management meetings, consulting with and advising officers of portfolio companies and providing other organizational and financial guidance. Our investment advisor, acting as our administrator, provides such managerial assistance on our behalf to portfolio companies that request this assistance. We may receive fees for these services and will reimburse our investment advisor, acting as our administrator, for its allocated costs in providing such assistance, subject to the review and approval by our board of directors, including our independent directors.

Competition

Our primary competitors in providing financing to lower middle-market companies include public and private funds, other BDCs, small business investment companies, commercial and investment banks, commercial financing companies and, to the extent they provide an alternative form of financing, private equity and hedge funds. Many of our competitors are substantially larger and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. For example, we believe some competitors may have access to funding sources that are not available to us. In addition, some of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could allow them to consider a wider variety of investments and establish more relationships than us. Furthermore, many of our competitors are not subject to the regulatory restrictions that the 1940 Act imposes on us as a BDC or to the distribution and other requirements we must satisfy to maintain our RIC status.

We use the expertise of the investment professionals of our investment advisor to assess investment risks and determine appropriate pricing for our investments in portfolio companies. In addition, the relationships of the investment professionals of our investment advisor enable us to learn about, and compete effectively for, financing opportunities with attractive lower middle-market companies in the industries in which we seek to invest. For additional information concerning the competitive risks we face, see Risk Factors Risks Relating to Our Business and Structure We operate in a highly competitive market for investment opportunities, which could reduce returns and result in losses.

Employees

We do not have any direct employees, and our day-to-day investment operations are managed by our investment advisor, which is also acting as our administrator. We have a chief executive officer, chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and, to the extent necessary, our board of directors may elect to hire additional personnel going forward. Our officers are employees of our investment advisor, and our allocable portion of the cost of our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer and their respective staffs are paid by us pursuant to the Administration Agreement. Some of our executive officers are also officers of our investment advisor. See Management and Other Agreements Administration Agreement.

Properties

We do not own any real estate or other physical properties materially important to our operation; however, our investment advisor leases office space for our executive office at 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 820, Evanston, Illinois 60201. Our investment advisor also maintains additional office space at 121 West Trade Street Suite 1800 Charlotte, NC 28202 and 70 East 55th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10022. We believe that our current office facilities are adequate for our business as we intend to conduct it.

Table of Contents

Legal Proceedings

We may, from time to time, be involved in litigation arising out of our operations in the normal course of business or otherwise. Furthermore, third parties may try to seek to impose liability on us in connection with the activities of our portfolio companies. While the outcome of any current legal proceedings cannot at this time be predicted with certainty, we do not expect any current matters will materially affect our financial condition or results of operations; however, there can be no assurance whether any pending legal proceedings will have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations in any future reporting period.

Table of Contents**PORTFOLIO COMPANIES**

The following table sets forth certain unaudited information as of June 30, 2012, for the portfolio companies in which we had a debt or equity investment. Other than these investments, our only formal relationships with our portfolio companies are the managerial assistance ancillary to our investments and the board observer or participation rights we may receive.

Name and Address of Portfolio Company	Nature of Its Principal Business	Type of Investment	Percentage of Class Held	Cost of Investment <i>(dollars in thousands)</i>	Fair Value of Investment
Acentia, LLC 3130 Corporate Park D Suite 800 Falls Church, VA 22042	Government IT service provider	Common Units	0.4%	\$ 500	\$ 323
ACFP Management, Inc. 1660 NW 19th Ave. Pompano Beach, FL 33069	Restaurants	Subordinated Notes		7,442	7,476
Avrio Technology Group, LLC 8840 N. Greenview Drive Middleton, WI 53562	Provider of electronic components and software	Subordinated Notes Common Units	7.4%	8,883 1,000	7,345
Brook & Whittle Limited P.O. Box 409 260 Branford Road North Branford, CT 06471	Specialty label printer	Subordinated Notes Subordinated Notes Warrants Common Equity	1.3% 0.2%	6,469 2,044 285 110	6,469 2,003 478 67
Brook Furniture Rental, Inc. 100 North Field Drive Suite 220 Lake Forest, IL 60045	Furniture rental	Subordinated Notes Warrants	2.5%	7,241 485	7,687 503
Caldwell & Gregory, LLC 129 Broad Street Road Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103	Laundry room operator	Subordinated Notes Preferred Units Common Units	4.0%	1,876 1,163 4	1,876 1,473 229
Connect-Air International, Inc. 4240 B Street N.W. Auburn, WA 98001	Distributor of wire and cable assemblies	Subordinated Notes Preferred Units	31.0%	4,214 5,363	4,214 5,741
Continental Anesthesia Management, LLC 1770 1st Street, Suite 703 Highland Park, IL 60035	Physician management company	Senior Secured Loan Warrants	2.6%	10,068 276	10,200 161
Convergent Resources, Inc. Six Concourse Pkwy, Suite 2920 Atlanta, GA 30328	Debt collection service provider	Subordinated Notes		5,447	5,447
FutureTech Holding Company 5655 Peachtree Parkway Norcross, GA 30092	IT service provider	Subordinated Notes		7,590	7,590

Table of Contents

Name and Address of Portfolio		Nature of Its Principal Business	Type of Investment	Percentage of Class Held	Cost of Investment <i>(dollars in thousands)</i>	Fair Value of Investment
Company						
Goodrich Quality Theaters, Inc. 4417 Broadmoor Ave. S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49512	Movie theater operator	Subordinated Notes Warrants	4.5%	\$ 12,082 750	\$ 12,500 2,294	
Innovative Product Achievement, LLC 2775 Premiere Parkway Suite 100 Duluth, GA 30097	Healthcare product manufacturer	Subordinated Notes		6,309	6,334	
Jacob Ash Holdings, Inc. 301 Munson Avenue McKees Rocks, PA 15136	Apparel distributor	Subordinated Notes Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity Warrants	8.2%	3,486 1,716 539 67	3,500 1,750 568 67	
Jan-Pro International, LLC 11605 Haynes Bridge Road, Suite 425 Alpharetta, GA 30004	Franchisor of commercial cleaning services	Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity	1.8%	7,480 832	7,480 416	
K2 Industrial Services, Inc. 5233 Hohman Avenue Hammond, IN 46320	Industrial cleaning and coatings	Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity	3.2%	12,094 1,200	12,148 1,024	
Lightning Diversion Systems, LLC 16572 Burke LN Huntington Beach, CA 92647	Aircraft component manufacturer	Revolving Loan Senior Secured Loan Common Units		195 7,376 600	195 7,376 600	
Malabar International 220 W. Los Angeles Avenue Simi Valley, CA 93065	Aerospace & defense manufacturing	Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity	18.5%	4,892 1,987	4,925 2,638	
Medsurant Holdings, LLC 777 East Girard Suite 250 Englewood, CO 80113	Healthcare service provider	Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity Warrants	3.6% 12.9%	5,841 699 2,182	7,250 793 2,872	
Nobles Manufacturing, Inc. 1105 East Pine Street St. Croix Falls, WI 54024	Aerospace & defense manufacturing	Subordinated Notes Preferred Equity Common Equity	6.7% 6.7%	6,825 1,300	6,825 1,929	
Paramount Building Solutions LLC 401 W. Baseline Road, #209 Tempe, AZ 85283	Janitorial services provider	Subordinated Notes Common Units	5.7%	6,368 1,500	6,368 632	

Table of Contents

Name and Address of Portfolio Company	Nature of Its Principal Business	Type of Investment	Percentage of Class Held	Cost of Investment <i>(dollars in thousands)</i>	Fair Value of Investment
Restoration Holdco, LLC 850 W. Adams Street Chicago, IL 60607	Restoration & remediation services	Senior Secured Loan Warrants	11.0%	\$ 4,607 142	\$ 4,601 40
Simplex Manufacturing Co. 13340 NE Whitaker Way Portland, OR 97230	Provider of helicopter systems	Subordinated Notes Warrants	23.7%	4,372 710	4,550 992
Trantech Radiator Products, Inc. 1 Tranter Drive Edgefield, SC 29824	Utility equipment manufacturer	Subordinated Notes Common Equity	6.7%	9,065 688	9,105 850
Tulsa Inspection Resources, Inc. 4111 S. Darlington Ave., Suite 1000 Tulsa, OK 74135	Pipeline inspection services	Subordinated Notes Subordinated Notes Warrants Common Equity	4.5% 0.3%	3,933 648 193 95	4,000 648 1,187 95
United Biologics, LLC 100 NE Loop 410 Suite 200 San Antonio, TX 78216	Healthcare services	Senior Secured Loan Warrants Common Equity	1.0% 1.1%	9,185 838 1,000	9,185 838 1,000
Westminster Cracker Company, Inc. 1 Scale Avenue, Suite 81, Building 14 Rutland, VT 05701	Specialty cracker manufacturer	Subordinated Notes Common Units	11.9%	7,219 1,208	7,000 354
Worldwide Express Operations,	Franchisor of	Subordinated Notes		8,813	&n