

# FT VEST RISING DIVIDEND ACHIEVERS TOTAL RETURN FUND

Class I Shares

**Annual Report**

December 31, 2024



## FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund

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*This report and the financial statements contained herein are provided for the general information of the shareholders of the FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund (the "Fund"). This report is not authorized for distribution to prospective investors in the Fund unless preceded or accompanied by the Fund's Private Placement Memorandum.*



## **FT VEST RISING DIVIDEND ACHIEVERS FUND MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF FUND PERFORMANCE**

### **Executive-Level Overview**

We begin our Management Discussion of Fund Performance with an Executive-Level Overview to reinforce our investment philosophy and current perspective on prevailing market conditions.

The past calendar year was defined by aggressive monetary policy responses to rapid inflation, escalating geopolitical tensions, and a resilient economy despite recessionary concerns. Inflation remained a nuanced challenge in the back half of 2024, and central banks had to navigate the delicate balance between sustaining economic expansion and curbing economic pressure. In addition, geopolitical risks and trade uncertainties, including the potential for broader trade conflicts, were key considerations in the year.

Overall, the consensus outlook for risk assets remains positive despite stretched valuations. Recession fears have receded, inflation continues to trend downward, labor markets are softening but remain robust, and pro-growth policies from the new administration could provide further support.

As a firm, we remain highly attuned to macroeconomic conditions and capital market trends, but our investment strategies do not rely on predicting market directionality. Our primary focus remains providing investors with the tools to navigate the always evolving macroeconomic landscape. First Trust Capital Management's alternatives business follows a thesis-driven investment approach — our thesis is that prioritizing strategies that are resilient and uncorrelated provides investors benefits irrespective of market cycles. In particular, the FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Fund (the "Fund") executes on a systematic, research-driven approach designed to provide income and downside equity risk mitigation.

As is customary, we will review the key performance drivers and investment opportunities that shaped the Fund's results over the past fiscal year.

### **FT VEST RISING DIVIDEND ACHIEVERS FUND**

From inception on November 22, 2024 through the end of 2024, the Fund posted a net return of -5.90%, compared to the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index, which returned -1.33% over that same period.

The Fund's investment objective is to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns through a combination of high level of current income and potential (although limited) long-term, capital appreciation, while attempting to mitigate the risk of loss of principal. The Fund's investment strategy is systematically executed by selling weekly calls to collect option premiums to provide income, investing primarily in U.S. exchange-traded equity securities contained in the NASDAQ US Rising Dividend Achievers Index, and mitigating the risk of loss of principal via the purchase of a long-term put against the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index.

Since inception, the Fund's total returns were influenced by those strategies. First, the long equity portfolio detracted -6.74% of net attribution for 2024, underperforming the Fund's benchmark over the same period. Second, the income received from the call options component generated a 0.54% net return. Third, an increase in the mark-to-market value of the long-term S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index put option contributed 0.59% of the Fund's net returns due to the decrease in value of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index over the fiscal period.



Over the fiscal period, the Fund made monthly distributions of 1.25% (or 15% annualized) to investors, meeting its defined income objective with no return of capital, primarily due to its systematic call selling with contributions from the dividends of the underlying stock portfolio and interest.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and intend to work hard to maintain it. We truly appreciate your trust and confidence in First Trust Capital Management.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. D. Peck'.

**Michael D. Peck, CFA**

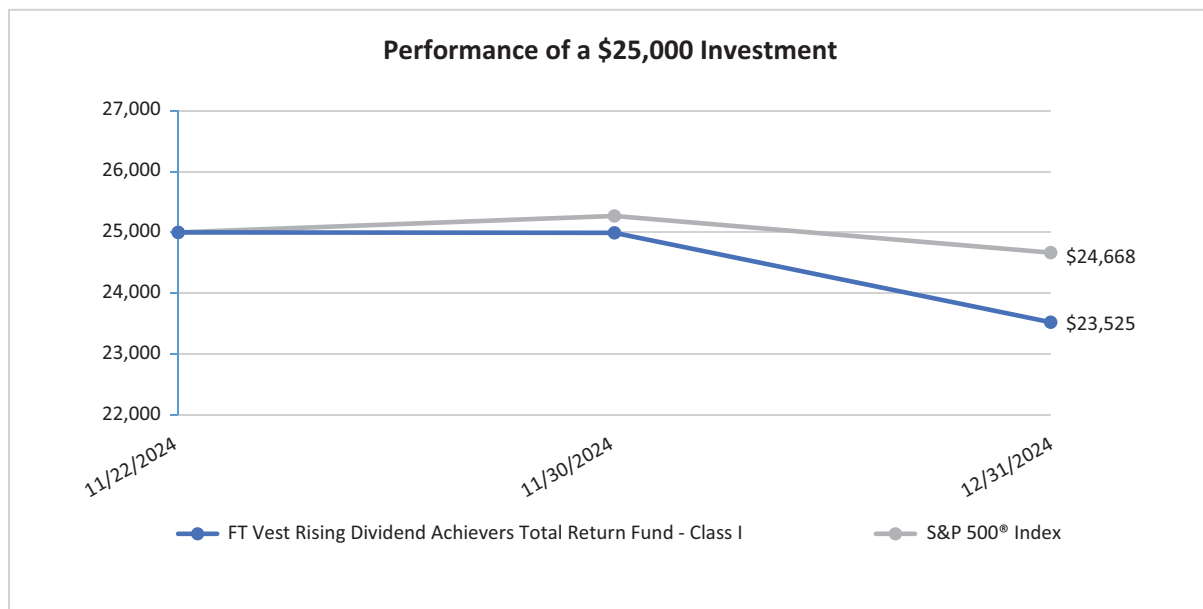
Chief Executive Officer, Co-Chief Investment Officer  
[mpeck@firsttrustcapital.com](mailto:mpeck@firsttrustcapital.com)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. R. Murphy'.

**Brian R. Murphy**

Co-Chief Investment Officer  
[bmurphy@firsttrustcapital.com](mailto:bmurphy@firsttrustcapital.com)

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND PERFORMANCE**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**



This graph compares a hypothetical \$25,000 investment in the Fund's Class I Shares with a similar investment in the S&P 500® Index. Results include the reinvestment of all dividends and capital gains. The index does not reflect expenses, fees, or sales charges, which would lower performance.

The S&P 500® Index includes 500 leading companies and covers approximately 80% of available market capitalization.

Cumulative Total Returns as of December 31, 2024		Since Inception
FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund – Class I (Inception Date November 22, 2024)		-5.90%
S&P 500® Index		-1.33%

Performance of a \$25,000 Investment and Cumulative Total Returns are from the date of the commencement of operations on November 22, 2024.

***The performance data quoted here represents past performance and past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance information quoted. The most recent quarter end performance may be obtained by calling 1-877-779-1999.***

Fund performance is shown net of fees. For the Fund's current expense ratios, please refer to the Financial Highlights Section of this report.

Returns reflect the reinvestment of distributions made by the Fund, if any. The graph and the performance table above do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Board of Trustees and Shareholders  
FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund

### Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund (the "Fund"), including the schedule of investments, as of December 31, 2024, the related statements of operations and changes in net assets for the period from November 22, 2024 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2024, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements") and the financial highlights for the period from November 22, 2024 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2024. In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of December 31, 2024, the results of its operations and changes in net assets for the period from November 22, 2024 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2024, and the financial highlights for the period from November 22, 2024 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2024, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for opinion

These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements and financial highlights based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audit we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and financial highlights, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31 2024, by correspondence with the custodians. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements and financial highlights. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

We have served as the auditor of one or more funds in the Fund's investment company group since 2016.

Newport Beach, California  
February 28, 2025

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS**  
**As of December 31, 2024**

<b>Number of Shares</b>		<b>Value</b>
	<b>COMMON STOCKS – 99.5%</b>	
	<b>ADVERTISING AGENCIES – 1.9%</b>	
11,743	Omnicom Group, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$ 1,010,368</b>
	<b>ADVERTISING SERVICES – 1.9%</b>	
35,896	Interpublic Group of Cos., Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,005,806</b>
	<b>AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS – 2.0%</b>	
12,279	CF Industries Holdings, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,047,644</b>
	<b>APPLICATIONS SOFTWARE – 1.9%</b>	
2,390	Microsoft Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,007,385</b>
	<b>ATHLETIC FOOTWEAR – 2.0%</b>	
13,563	NIKE, Inc. – Class B <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,026,312</b>
	<b>AUTO-MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS – 2.0%</b>	
9,908	PACCAR, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,030,630</b>
	<b>BUILDING-RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL – 4.0%</b>	
7,474	DR Horton, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,045,015
7,557	Lennar Corp. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	1,030,548
		<b>2,075,563</b>
	<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS NON-US – 2.0%</b>	
10,880	East West Bancorp, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,041,869</b>
	<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS-EASTERN US – 2.0%</b>	
5,507	M&T Bank Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,035,371</b>
	<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS-SOUTHERN US – 2.0%</b>	
43,900	Regions Financial Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,032,528</b>
	<b>COMPUTER SERVICES – 3.8%</b>	
2,848	Accenture PLC <sup>1,2</sup>	1,001,898
13,171	Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	1,012,850
		<b>2,014,748</b>
	<b>COMPUTERS – 2.0%</b>	
4,100	Apple, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,026,722</b>
	<b>ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS-MISCELLANEOUS – 2.0%</b>	
4,993	Garmin Ltd. <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>1,029,856</b>
	<b>FINANCE-CONSUMER LOANS – 2.0%</b>	
37,550	SLM Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,035,629</b>
	<b>FINANCE-CREDIT CARD – 11.9%</b>	
3,494	American Express Co. <sup>1</sup>	1,036,984
5,841	Capital One Financial Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,041,567
6,026	Discover Financial Services <sup>1</sup>	1,043,884
1,976	Mastercard, Inc. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	1,040,502
15,943	Synchrony Financial <sup>1</sup>	1,036,295
3,284	Visa, Inc. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	1,037,876
		<b>6,237,108</b>
	<b>FINANCE-MORTGAGE LOAN/BANKERS – 2.0%</b>	
32,559	Radian Group, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,032,771</b>
	<b>FINANCIAL GUARANTEE INSURANCE – 2.0%</b>	
44,104	MGIC Investment Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,045,706</b>
	<b>LIFE/HEALTH INSURANCE – 6.0%</b>	
10,162	Aflac, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,051,157
22,431	Equitable Holdings, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,058,070

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS — Continued**  
**As of December 31, 2024**

<b>Number of Shares</b>		<b>Value</b>
	<b>COMMON STOCKS (Continued)</b>	
	<b>LIFE/HEALTH INSURANCE (Continued)</b>	
11,820	Jackson Financial, Inc. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	\$ 1,029,286
		<b>3,138,513</b>
	<b>MEDICAL-HM – 2.0%</b>	
2,851	Elevance Health, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,051,734</b>
	<b>METAL PROCESSORS &amp; FABRIC – 2.0%</b>	
13,014	Mueller Industries, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,032,791</b>
	<b>MULTI-LINE INSURANCE – 4.0%</b>	
3,820	Chubb Ltd. <sup>1,2</sup>	1,055,466
9,532	Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,042,801
		<b>2,098,267</b>
	<b>NETWORKING PRODUCTS – 2.0%</b>	
17,832	Cisco Systems, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,055,654</b>
	<b>OIL COMP-EXPLORATION &amp; PRODUCTION – 8.2%</b>	
20,639	California Resources Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,070,958
8,766	EOG Resources, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,074,536
10,999	Expand Energy Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,094,951
45,588	Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp. – Class A <sup>1</sup>	1,065,847
		<b>4,306,292</b>
	<b>OIL COMP-INTEGRATED – 2.0%</b>	
9,856	Exxon Mobil Corp. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,060,210</b>
	<b>RETAIL-HOME FURNISHINGS – 2.0%</b>	
5,681	Williams-Sonoma, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,052,008</b>
	<b>SEMICON COMPONENTS-INTEGRATED CIRCUITS – 2.0%</b>	
6,825	QUALCOMM, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,048,457</b>
	<b>SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT – 6.0%</b>	
6,379	Applied Materials, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,037,417
1,658	KLA Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,044,739
14,535	Lam Research Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,049,863
		<b>3,132,019</b>
	<b>STEEL-PRODUCERS – 6.0%</b>	
8,951	Nucor Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,044,671
3,879	Reliance, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,044,460
9,020	Steel Dynamics, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	1,028,911
		<b>3,118,042</b>
	<b>SUPER-REGIONAL BANKS-US – 6.0%</b>	
23,625	Bank of America Corp. <sup>1</sup>	1,038,319
24,307	Fifth Third Bancorp <sup>1</sup>	1,027,700
4,392	JPMorgan Chase & Co. <sup>1</sup>	1,052,806
		<b>3,118,825</b>
	<b>TOOLS-HAND HELD – 2.0%</b>	
3,037	Snap-on, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,031,001</b>
	<b>TRANSPORT-TRUCK – 1.9%</b>	
5,753	Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc. <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,014,829</b>
	<b>TOTAL COMMON STOCKS</b>	
	(Cost \$55,892,145)	<b>51,994,658</b>



**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS — Continued**  
**As of December 31, 2024**

<u>Number of Contracts</u>		<u>Value</u>
	<b>PURCHASED OPTIONS CONTRACTS – 13.2%</b>	
	<b>CALL OPTIONS – 4.8%</b>	
	S&P 500 Index	
	Exercise Price: \$6,000.01, Notional Amount: \$22,200,037, Expiration	
37	Date: November 13, 2026*	\$ 2,521,735
	<b>TOTAL CALL OPTIONS</b>	
	(Cost \$2,863,865)	<u>2,521,735</u>
	<b>PUT OPTIONS – 8.4%</b>	
	iShares Core S&P 500 Index ETF	
	Exercise Price: \$596.93, Notional Amount: \$1,014,781,	
17	Expiration Date: November 13, 2026*	64,258
	S&P 500 Index	
	Exercise Price: \$5,000.01, Notional Amount: \$18,500,037,	
37	Expiration Date: November 13, 2026*	674,039
	Exercise Price: \$5,969.34, Notional Amount: \$55,514,862,	
93	Expiration Date: November 13, 2026*	3,667,005
	<b>TOTAL PUT OPTIONS</b>	
	(Cost \$3,989,291)	<u>4,405,302</u>
	<b>TOTAL PURCHASED OPTIONS CONTRACTS</b>	
	(Cost \$6,853,156)	<u>6,927,037</u>
	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS – 112.7%</b>	
	(Cost \$62,745,301)	<b>58,921,695</b>
	Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets – (12.7)%	<u>(6,643,597)</u>
	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS – 100.0%</b>	<u><b>52,278,098</b></u>
	<b>WRITTEN OPTIONS CONTRACTS – (12.7)%</b>	
	<b>CALL OPTIONS – (9.8)%</b>	
	S&P 500 Index	
	Exercise Price: \$5,975.00, Notional Amount: \$(29,875,000), Expiration	
(50)	Date: January 3, 2025*	(17,000)
	Exercise Price: \$5,000.01, Notional Amount: \$(18,500,037), Expiration	
(37)	Date: November 13, 2026*	<u>(5,107,136)</u>
	<b>TOTAL CALL OPTIONS</b>	
	(Proceeds \$5,668,076)	<u><b>(5,124,136)</b></u>
	<b>PUT OPTIONS – (2.9)%</b>	
	S&P 500 Index	
	Exercise Price: \$5,000.01, Notional Amount: \$(18,500,037), Expiration	
(37)	Date: November 13, 2026*	<u>(1,492,938)</u>
	<b>TOTAL PUT OPTIONS</b>	
	(Proceeds \$1,368,935)	<u><b>(1,492,938)</b></u>
	<b>TOTAL WRITTEN OPTIONS CONTRACTS</b>	
	(Proceeds \$7,037,011)	<u><b>\$ (6,617,074)</b></u>

ETF – Exchange-Traded Fund

PLC – Public Limited Company

\* Non-income producing security.

<sup>1</sup> All or a portion of this security is segregated as collateral for purchased and written options contracts. The market value of the securities pledged as collateral is \$11,389,804, which represents 21.79% of the total net assets of the Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Foreign security denominated in U.S. Dollars.

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION**  
**As of December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

<b>Country of Investment</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Percent of Total Net Assets</b>
Ireland . . . . .	\$ 1,001,898	1.9%
Switzerland . . . . .	2,085,322	4.0%
United States . . . . .	55,834,475	106.8%
<b>Total Investments</b> . . . . .	<b>58,921,695</b>	<b>112.7%</b>
Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets . . . . .	(6,643,597)	(12.7)%
<b>Total Net Assets</b> . . . . .	<b>\$52,278,098</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS**  
**As of December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

<b>Security Type/Sector</b>	<b>Percent of Total Net Assets</b>
<b>Common Stocks</b>	
Finance-Credit Card . . . . .	11.9%
Oil Comp-Exploration & Production . . . . .	8.2%
Life/Health Insurance . . . . .	6.0%
Semiconductor Equipment . . . . .	6.0%
Super-Regional Banks-US . . . . .	6.0%
Steel-Producers . . . . .	6.0%
Building-Residential/Commercial . . . . .	4.0%
Multi-line Insurance . . . . .	4.0%
Computer Services . . . . .	3.8%
Computers . . . . .	2.0%
Networking Products . . . . .	2.0%
Commercial Banks Non-US . . . . .	2.0%
Semicon Components-Integrated Circuits . . . . .	2.0%
Commercial Banks-Southern US . . . . .	2.0%
Oil Comp-Integrated . . . . .	2.0%
Agricultural Chemicals . . . . .	2.0%
Tools-Hand Held . . . . .	2.0%
Metal Processors & Fabric . . . . .	2.0%
Commercial Banks-Eastern US . . . . .	2.0%
Financial Guarantee Insurance . . . . .	2.0%
Athletic Footwear . . . . .	2.0%
Auto-Medium & Heavy Duty Trucks . . . . .	2.0%
Finance-Mortgage Loan/Bankers . . . . .	2.0%
Finance-Consumer Loans . . . . .	2.0%
Retail-Home Furnishings . . . . .	2.0%
Electronic Components-Miscellaneous . . . . .	2.0%
Medical-HM . . . . .	2.0%
Applications Software . . . . .	1.9%
Transport-Truck . . . . .	1.9%
Advertising Services . . . . .	1.9%
Advertising Agencies . . . . .	1.9%
<b>Total Common Stocks</b> . . . . .	<b>99.5%</b>
Purchased Options Contracts . . . . .	13.2%
<b>Total Investments</b> . . . . .	<b>112.7%</b>
Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets . . . . .	(12.7)%
<b>Total Net Assets</b> . . . . .	<b>100.0%</b>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
**As of December 31, 2024**

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**Assets:**

Investments in securities, at value (cost \$55,892,145) . . . . .	\$51,994,658
Purchased options contracts, at value (cost \$6,853,156) . . . . .	6,927,037
Cash . . . . .	621,017
Cash deposited with brokers for options contracts . . . . .	1,017
Receivables:	
Investment securities sold . . . . .	55,515
Dividends and interest . . . . .	84,389
Deferred organizational and offering costs (Note 2) . . . . .	221
Total assets . . . . .	<u>59,683,854</u>

**Liabilities:**

Written options contracts, at value (proceeds \$7,037,011) . . . . .	6,617,074
Payables:	
Investment Adviser fees . . . . .	116,785
Dividend payable . . . . .	671,897
Total liabilities . . . . .	<u>7,405,756</u>

**Net Assets** . . . . . \$52,278,098

**Components of Net Assets:**

Paid-in Capital (par value of \$0.001 per share with an unlimited number of shares authorized) . . . . .	\$56,483,434
Total accumulated earnings (accumulated deficit) . . . . .	<u>(4,205,336)</u>

**Net Assets** . . . . . \$52,278,098

**Maximum Offering Price per Share:**

Class I Shares:	
Net assets applicable to shares outstanding . . . . .	\$52,278,098
Shares of beneficial interest issued and outstanding . . . . .	<u>2,259,615</u>
Net asset value, offering and redemption price per share . . . . .	<u><u>\$ 23.14</u></u>

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**For the Period November 22, 2024\* through December 31, 2024**

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**Investment Income:**

Dividends . . . . .	\$ 161,692
Interest . . . . .	176
Total investment income . . . . .	<u>161,868</u>

**Expenses:**

Investment Adviser fees . . . . .	153,525
Organizational expenses . . . . .	6,914
Offering costs (Note 2) . . . . .	27
Total expenses . . . . .	<u>160,466</u>
<b>Net investment income (loss) . . . . .</b>	<u><b>1,402</b></u>

**Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss):**

Net realized gain (loss) on:	
Investments . . . . .	(71,251)
Written options contracts . . . . .	142,491
<b>Net realized gain (loss) . . . . .</b>	<u><b>71,240</b></u>
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on:	
Investments . . . . .	(3,897,487)
Purchased options contracts . . . . .	73,881
Written options contracts . . . . .	419,937
<b>Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation . . . . .</b>	<u><b>(3,403,669)</b></u>
<b>Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) . . . . .</b>	<u><b>(3,332,429)</b></u>

<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Operations . . . . .</b>	<u><b>\$(3,331,027)</b></u>
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\* Commencement of Operations.

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	For the Period November 22, 2024* through December 31, 2024
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from:</b>	
<b>Operations:</b>	
Net investment income (loss) . . . . .	\$ 1,402
Net realized gain (loss) on investments, purchased options contracts and written options contracts . . . . .	71,240
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation on investments, purchased options contracts and written options contracts . . . . .	(3,403,669)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets resulting from operations . . . . .</b>	<b>(3,331,027)</b>
<b>Distributions to Shareholders:</b>	
Distributions:	
Class I . . . . .	(881,250)
<b>Total distributions to shareholders . . . . .</b>	<b>(881,250)</b>
<b>Capital Transactions:</b>	
Net proceeds from shares sold:	
Class I . . . . .	56,490,375
<b>Net increase (decrease) in net assets from capital transactions . . . . .</b>	<b>56,490,375</b>
<b>Total increase (decrease) in net assets . . . . .</b>	<b>52,278,098</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Beginning of period . . . . .	—
End of period . . . . .	<u>\$52,278,098</u>
<b>Capital Share Transactions:</b>	
Shares sold:	
Class I . . . . .	2,259,615
<b>Net increase (decrease) in capital share transactions . . . . .</b>	<b>2,259,615</b>

\* Commencement of Operations.

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
**Class I**

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*Per share operating performance.*

*For a capital share outstanding throughout the period.*

	For the Period November 22, 2024* through December 31, 2024
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b> . . . . .	\$ 25.00
<b>Income from Investment Operations:</b>	
Net investment income (loss) <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	— <sup>2</sup>
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) . . . . .	(1.47)
Total from investment operations . . . . .	<u>(1.47)</u>
<b>Less Distributions:</b>	
From net investment income . . . . .	(0.22)
From net realized gain . . . . .	<u>(0.17)</u>
Total distributions . . . . .	<u>(0.39)</u>
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b> . . . . .	<u>\$ 23.14</u>
<b>Total return</b> <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	(5.90)% <sup>4</sup>
<b>Ratios and Supplemental Data:</b>	
Net assets, end of period (in thousands) . . . . .	\$ 52,278
Ratio of expenses to average net assets . . . . .	2.71% <sup>5</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets . . . . .	0.02% <sup>5</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate . . . . .	7% <sup>4</sup>

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\* Commencement of Operations.

<sup>1</sup> Based on average monthly shares outstanding for the period.

<sup>2</sup> Amounts represents less than \$0.01 per share.

<sup>3</sup> Returns shown do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption of Fund shares.

<sup>4</sup> Not annualized.

<sup>5</sup> Annualized.

*See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.*

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**December 31, 2024**

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**Note 1 — Organization**

FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund (the “Fund”) is a Delaware statutory trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”), as a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund operates under an Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated August 20, 2024 (the “Declaration of Trust”). First Trust Capital Management L.P. (the “Investment Adviser”) serves as the investment adviser of the Fund. Vest Financial LLC serves as sub-adviser to the Fund (the “Sub-Adviser” and together with the Investment Adviser, the “Advisers”). Each of the Advisers is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Fund has elected to be treated as a regulated investment company (a “RIC”) under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). The Fund currently offers shares of beneficial interest (the “Shares”) in Class A Shares and Class I Shares. Only Class I Shares have been issued as of December 31, 2024.

The Fund’s investment objective is to achieve attractive risk-adjusted returns through a combination of high level of current income and potential (although limited) long-term capital appreciation, while attempting to mitigate the risk of loss of principal. In seeking to achieve this investment objective, the Fund intends to pursue a hedged equity investment strategy by (i) investing primarily in U.S. exchange-traded equity securities contained in the NASDAQ US Rising Dividend Achievers™ Index (the “Reference Index”), (ii) mitigating some of the risk of loss of principal by purchasing a hedge against the S&P 500® Index (“Market Hedge”), and (iii) producing income with a target net income objective of 15.0% on an annual basis. The Market Hedge is designed to mitigate the risk of loss for those investors that buy Shares at the beginning of a two-year period (the “Designated Period”) and hold Shares until the end of the Designated Period. The Fund does not seek to provide a specific level of protection.

The Fund is an investment company and accordingly follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standard Codification Topic 946 “Financial Services — Investment Companies.”

**Note 2 — Accounting Policies**

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (“GAAP”) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

**(a) Valuation of Investments**

UMB Fund Services, Inc., the Fund’s Administrator, calculates the Fund’s net asset value (“NAV”) as of the close of business on the last day of each month and at such other times as the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) may determine, including in connection with repurchases of Shares, in accordance with the procedures described below or as may be determined from time to time in accordance with policies established by the Board.

For purposes of calculating NAV, portfolio securities and other assets for which market quotations are readily available are valued at market value. A market quotation is readily available only when that quotation is a quoted price (unadjusted) in active markets for identical investments that the Fund can access at the measurement date, provided that a quotation will not be readily available if it is not reliable.



**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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Investments for which market quotations are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act. As a general principle, the fair value of a security or other asset is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Pursuant to Rule 2a-5, the Board has designated the Investment Adviser as the valuation designee (“Valuation Designee”) for the Fund to perform in good faith the fair value determination relating to all Fund investments, under the Board’s oversight. The Investment Adviser carries out its designated responsibilities as Valuation Designee through its Valuation Committee. The fair values of one or more assets may not be the prices at which those assets are ultimately sold, and the differences may be significant.

The Valuation Designee may value put and call options by taking the mid price between the bid and ask price. Certain exchange-traded options, such as FLEX Options, are typically valued using a model-based price provided by a third-party pricing service provider. For FLEX Options held by the Fund, on days when a trade occurs, the trade price will be used to value such FLEX Option contracts in lieu of the model price.

The Valuation Designee may value Fund portfolio securities for which market quotations are not readily available and other Fund assets utilizing inputs from pricing services, quotation reporting systems, valuation agents and other third-party sources.

Assets and liabilities initially expressed in foreign currencies will be converted into U.S. dollars using foreign exchange rates provided by a pricing service. Trading in foreign securities generally is completed, and the values of such securities are determined, prior to the close of securities markets in the United States. Foreign exchange rates are also determined prior to such close. On occasion, the values of securities and exchange rates may be affected by events occurring between the time as of which determination of such values or exchange rates are made and the time as of which the NAV of the Fund is determined. When such events materially affect the values of securities held by the Fund or its liabilities, such securities and liabilities will be valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Valuation Designee.

First Trust Portfolios L.P., the Fund’s placement agent, is under no duty to verify any valuations of the Fund’s investments.

**(b) Options**

The Fund writes and purchases options contracts. The Fund intends to trade Flexible Exchange<sup>®</sup> Options (“FLEX Options”). FLEX Options are customized equity or index option contracts that trade on an exchange, but provide investors with the ability to customize key contract terms like exercise prices, styles and expiration dates. FLEX Options are required to be centrally cleared. When the Fund writes or purchases an option, an amount equal to the premium received or paid by the Fund is recorded as an asset or a liability and is subsequently adjusted to the current market value of the option written or purchased. Premiums received or paid from writing or purchasing options that expire unexercised are treated by the Fund on the expiration date as realized gains or losses. The difference between the premium and the amount paid or received on effecting a closing purchase or sale transaction, including brokerage commissions, is also treated as a realized gain or loss. If an option is exercised, the premium paid or received is added to the cost of the purchase or proceeds from the sale in determining whether the Fund has realized a gain or a loss on investment transactions. The Fund, as a writer of an option, may have no control over whether the underlying securities may be sold (call) or purchased (put) and as a result bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the security underlying the written option.

**(c) Investment Transactions, Investment Income and Expenses**

Investment transactions are accounted for on the trade date. Realized gains and losses on investments are determined on the identified cost basis. Dividend income and expense is recorded net of applicable

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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withholding taxes on the ex-dividend date and interest income and expense, including where applicable, accretion of discount and amortization of premium on investments, is recorded on an accrual basis.

**(d) Federal Income Taxes**

The Fund intends to comply with the requirements of Subchapter M of the Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute substantially all of its net investment income and any net realized gains to its shareholders. Therefore, no provision is made for federal income or excise taxes. Due to the timing of dividend distributions and the differences in accounting for income and realized gains and losses for financial statement and federal income tax purposes, the fiscal year in which amounts are distributed may differ from the year in which the income and realized gains and losses are recorded by the Fund. For financial reporting purposes, dividends and distributions to Shareholders are recorded on the ex-date.

*ASC 740 — Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes* (the “Income Tax Statement”) requires an evaluation of tax positions taken (or expected to be taken) in the course of preparing a Fund’s tax returns to determine whether these positions meet a “more-likely-than-not” standard that, based on the technical merits, have a more than fifty percent likelihood of being sustained by a taxing authority upon examination. A tax position that meets the “more-likely-than-not” recognition threshold is measured to determine the amount of benefit to recognize in the financial statements. The Fund recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to unrecognized tax benefits as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations.

The Income Tax Statement requires management of the Fund to analyze tax positions taken in the prior three open tax years, if any, and tax positions expected to be taken in the Fund’s current tax year, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service statute of limitations for all major jurisdictions, including federal tax authorities and certain state tax authorities. As of December 31, 2024, the Fund did not have a liability for any unrecognized tax benefits. The Fund has no examination in progress and is not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next twelve months.

**(e) Distributions to Shareholders**

The Fund makes monthly distributions to its shareholders equal to 15% annually of the Fund’s net asset value per Share (the “Distribution Policy”). This predetermined dividend rate may be modified by the Board from time to time and may be increased to the extent of the Fund’s investment company taxable income that it is required to distribute in order to maintain its status as a RIC. The amount and timing of distributions are determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from GAAP. The character of distributions made during the year from net investment income or net realized gains may differ from the characterization for federal income tax purposes due to differences in the recognition of income expense and gain (loss) items for financial statement and tax purposes.

For financial reporting purposes, dividends and distributions to Shareholders are recorded on the ex-date. If, for any distribution, available cash is less than the amount of this predetermined dividend rate, then assets of the Fund will be sold, and such disposition may generate additional taxable income. The Fund’s final distribution for each calendar year will include any remaining investment company taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any) undistributed during the year, as well as the remaining net capital gain realized during the year. If the total distributions made in any calendar year exceed investment company taxable income, net tax-exempt interest income (if any) and net capital gain, such excess distributed amount would be treated as ordinary dividend income to the extent of the Fund’s current and accumulated earnings and profits. Payments in excess of the earnings and profits would first be a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the adjusted tax basis in

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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each Share. After such adjusted tax basis is reduced to zero, the payment would constitute capital gain (assuming the Shares are held as capital assets). This Distribution Policy may, under certain circumstances, have certain adverse consequences to the Fund and its shareholders because it may result in a return of capital resulting in less of a shareholder's assets being invested in the Fund and, over time, increase the Fund's expense ratio. The Distribution Policy also may cause the Fund to sell a security at a time it would not otherwise do so in order to manage the distribution of income and gain.

**(f) Organizational and Offering Costs**

Organizational costs consist of the costs of forming the Fund, drafting of bylaws, administration, custody and transfer agency agreements and legal services in connection with the initial meeting of the Board. Offering costs consist of the costs of preparation, review and filing with the SEC the Fund's registration statement, the costs of preparation, review and filing of any associated marketing or similar materials, the costs associated with the printing, mailing or other distribution of the Private Placement Memorandum, Statement of Additional Information and/or marketing materials, and the amounts of associated filing fees and legal fees associated with the offering. The aggregate amount of the organizational costs and offering costs reflected in the Statement of Operations are \$6,914 and \$27, respectively, and \$221 of the offering costs remain as deferred on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Organizational costs are expensed as they are incurred. Offering costs are amortized to expense over twelve months on a straight-line basis.

**(g) Segments**

In this reporting period, the Fund adopted FASB Accounting Standards Update 2023-07, Segment Reporting (Topic 280) — Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures ("ASU 2023-07"). Adoption of the new standard impacted financial statement disclosures only and did not affect the Fund's financial position or the results of its operations. An operating segment is defined in Topic 280 as a component of a public entity that engages in business activities from which it may recognize revenues and incur expenses, has operating results that are regularly reviewed by the public entity's chief operating decision maker ("CODM") to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance, and has discrete financial information available. The Fund's President acts as the Fund's CODM. The Fund represents a single operating segment, as the CODM monitors the operating results of the Fund as a whole and the Fund's long-term strategic asset allocation is pre-determined in accordance with the terms of the Fund's single investment objective which is executed by the Fund's portfolio managers as a team. The financial information in the form of the Fund's portfolio composition, total returns, expense ratios and changes in net assets, which are used by the CODM to assess the segment's performance versus the Fund's comparative benchmarks and to make resource allocation decisions for the Fund's single segment, is consistent with that presented within the Fund's financial statements. The total return and performance of each Fund is reflected within the accompanying Financial Highlights. Segment assets are reflected on the accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities as "total assets" and significant segment expenses are listed on the accompanying Statement of Operations.

**Note 3 — Investment Advisory and Other Agreements and Affiliates**

The Fund pays the Investment Adviser a unitary management fee (the "Unitary Management Fee") in consideration of the advisory services provided by the Investment Adviser to the Fund. In turn, the Investment Adviser will pay substantially all operating expenses of the Fund, except initial and ongoing offering expenses, organizational expenses, interest expenses, taxes, portfolio transaction-related fees and expenses, costs of borrowing, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, litigation and indemnification expenses, and any other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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ordinary course of the Fund's business. The Fund pays the Investment Adviser an annual rate of 2.65%, payable monthly in arrears, based upon the Fund's net assets as of each month-end. The Unitary Management Fee is paid to the Investment Adviser before giving effect to any repurchase of Shares in the Fund effective as of that date and will decrease the net profits or increase the net losses of the Fund.

The Investment Adviser pays the Sub-Adviser a management fee (the "Sub-Advisory Fee") in consideration of the advisory services provided by the Sub-Adviser to the Fund. The Sub-Adviser's fees are paid by the Investment Adviser out of the Unitary Management Fee. The Sub-Adviser receives a Sub-Advisory Fee equal to 50% of the monthly Unitary Management Fee paid to the Investment Adviser, which shall be reduced as follows. The Sub-Adviser has agreed with the Investment Adviser that it will pay one-half of all operating expenses of the Fund, excluding the Unitary Management Fee, initial and ongoing offering expenses and organizational expenses, interest expenses, taxes, portfolio transaction-related fees and expenses, costs of borrowing, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, and litigation and indemnification expenses and any other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business. The Sub-Advisory Fees shall be reduced by the Sub-Adviser's share of such expenses, and in the event the Sub-Adviser's share of the expenses exceeds the amount of the Sub-Advisory Fee in any month, the Sub-Adviser will pay the difference to the Investment Adviser.

First Trust Portfolios L.P. (the "Distributor"), an affiliate of both the Investment Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, currently serves as the Fund's placement agent. UMB Fund Services, Inc. ("UMBFS") serves as the Fund's fund accountant, transfer agent and administrator; and UMB Bank, N.A., an affiliate of UMBFS, serves as a custodian of the assets of the Fund.

A trustee and certain officers of the Fund are employees of UMBFS. The Fund does not compensate trustees and officers affiliated with UMBFS.

Vigilant Compliance, LLC provides Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") services to the Fund.

Ernst & Young LLP provides tax services to the Fund.

**Note 4 — Federal Income Taxes**

The Fund has elected to be treated and intends to qualify as a RIC for federal income tax purposes. As a RIC, the Fund will generally not be subject to federal corporate income tax, provided that when it is a RIC, it distributes substantially all of its income and gains each year.

At December 31, 2024, gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments owned by the Fund, based on cost for federal income tax purposes, were as follows:

Cost of investments . . . . .	\$63,259,036
Gross unrealized appreciation . . . . .	\$ 709,071
Gross unrealized depreciation . . . . .	(4,626,475)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments . . . . .	<u>\$ (3,917,404)</u>

The difference between cost amounts for financial statement and federal income tax purposes is due primarily to timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses in securities transactions.

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

GAAP requires that certain components of net assets be reclassified between financial and tax reporting. These reclassifications have no effect on net assets or net asset value per share. For the period ended December 31, 2024, permanent differences in book and tax accounting have been reclassified to paid-in capital, undistributed net investment income (loss) and accumulated realized gain (loss) as follows:

	Increase (Decrease)
	Total Distributable Earnings
Paid in Capital	(Accumulated Deficit)
\$(6,941)	\$6,941

As of December 31, 2024, the components of accumulated earnings (deficit) on a tax basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income . . . . .	\$ —
Undistributed long-term capital gains . . . . .	—
Tax accumulated earnings . . . . .	—
Accumulated capital and other losses . . . . .	—
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments . . . . .	(3,917,404)
Other temporary differences . . . . .	(287,932)
Total accumulated earnings (deficit) . . . . .	<u><u>\$(4,205,336)</u></u>

The tax character of distributions paid during the period ended December 31, 2024 were as follows:

Distribution paid from:	<u>2024</u>
Ordinary income . . . . .	\$500,606
Net long-term capital gains . . . . .	380,644
Total taxable distributions . . . . .	<u><u>\$881,250</u></u>

**Note 5 — Investment Transactions**

For the period ended December 31, 2024, purchases and sales of investments, excluding short-term investments, were \$59,942,027 and \$3,978,631, respectively.

**Note 6 — Indemnifications**

In the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of representations, which provide general indemnifications. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. However, the Fund expects the risk of loss to be remote.

**Note 7 — Repurchase of Shares**

At the discretion of the Board and provided that it is in the best interests of the Fund and Shareholders to do so, the Fund provides a limited degree of liquidity to the Shareholders by conducting tender offers at least annually every twelfth month after the closing of a Designated Period, as of a Friday (other than the 3rd Friday of the month). In each tender offer, the Fund may offer to repurchase its Shares at their net asset value as determined as of the relevant valuation date. Each tender offer in the first year of a Designated Period ordinarily will be limited to the repurchase of an amount up to 10% of the Shares outstanding, but if the number of Shares tendered for repurchase exceeds the number the Fund intended to repurchase, the Fund may determine to repurchase less than the full

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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number of Shares tendered. In such event, Shareholders will have their Shares repurchased on a pro rata basis, and tendering Shareholders will not have all of their tendered Shares repurchased by the Fund. In the second year of each Designated Period, subject to the Board's discretion, each tender offer that coincides with the expiration of the Designated Period shall be for up to 100% of the Shares outstanding. Shareholders who tender their Shares prior to the end of the Designated Period will not fully benefit from the Market Hedge, which is designed to be achieved at the end of the specified Designated Period. A 2.00% repurchase fee will be charged by the Fund with respect to any repurchase of Shares from a Shareholder in the first year of each Designated Period. Repurchases will be made at such times and on such terms as may be determined by the Board, in its sole discretion. However, no assurance can be given that repurchases will occur or that any Shares properly tendered will be repurchased by the Fund. The Fund may choose not to conduct a tender offer or may choose to conduct a tender offer for less than 10% (or 100% as applicable) of its outstanding Shares. Investors may not have access to the money invested in the Fund for an indefinite time. No share repurchases occurred during the period ended December 31, 2024.

**Note 8 — Fair Value Measurements and Disclosure**

ASC 820 — *Fair Value Measurements* defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in accordance with GAAP, and expands disclosure about fair value measurements. It also provides guidance on determining when there has been a significant decrease in the volume and level of activity for an asset or a liability, when a transaction is not orderly, and how that information must be incorporated into a fair value measurement.

Under *Fair Value Measurements*, various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized into three broad levels as described below:

- Level 1 — Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund has the ability to access.
- Level 2 — Observable inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. These inputs may include quoted prices for the identical instrument on an inactive market, prices for similar instruments, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, yield curves, default rates and similar data.
- Level 3 — Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, to the extent relevant observable inputs are not available, representing the Fund's own assumptions about the assumptions a market participant would use in valuing the asset or liability, and would be based on the best information available.

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, the liquidity of markets, and other characteristics particular to the security. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3.

The inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, for disclosure purposes, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement falls in its entirety is determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. The following table summarizes the Fund's investments that are measured at fair value by level within the fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2024:



**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3**	Total
<b>Assets</b>				
Investments				
Common Stocks* . . . . .	\$51,994,658	\$ —	\$ —	\$51,994,658
Total Investments . . . . .	51,994,658	—	—	51,994,658
Purchased Options Contracts . . . . .	—	6,927,037	—	6,927,037
Total Investments and Options . . . . .	<u>\$51,994,658</u>	<u>\$6,927,037</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$58,921,695</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Written Options Contracts . . . . .	\$ 17,000	\$6,600,074	\$ —	\$ 6,617,074
Total Written Options Contracts . . . . .	<u>\$ 17,000</u>	<u>\$6,600,074</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 6,617,074</u>

\* All common stocks held in the Fund are Level 1 securities. For a detailed break-out of common stocks by major industry classification, please refer to the Schedule of Investments.

\*\* The Fund did not hold any Level 3 securities at period end.

**Note 9 — Derivatives and Hedging Disclosures**

ASC 815 — *Derivatives and Hedging* requires enhanced disclosures about the Fund's derivative and hedging activities, including how such activities are accounted for and their effects on the Fund's financial position, performance and cash flows.

The effects of these derivative instruments on the Fund's financial position and financial performance as reflected in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Operations are presented in the tables below. The fair values of derivative instruments as of December 31, 2024 by risk category are as follows:

Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments	Asset Derivatives		Liability Derivatives	
	Statement of Asset and Liabilities Location	Value	Statement of Asset and Liabilities Location	Value
Equity contracts . . . . .	Purchased options contracts, at value	\$6,927,037	Written options contracts, at value	\$6,617,074

The effects of derivative instruments on the Statement of Operations for the period ended December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Amount of Realized Gain or (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income		
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments	Purchased Options Contracts	Written Options Contracts
Equity contracts . . . . .	\$ —	\$142,491

Change in Unrealized Appreciation/Depreciation on Derivatives Recognized in Income		
Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments	Purchased Options Contracts	Written Options Contracts
Equity contracts . . . . .	\$73,881	\$419,937

The number of contracts is included on the Schedule of Investments. The quarterly average volumes of derivative instruments as of December 31, 2024, are as follows:

Derivative	Quarterly Average	Amount
Options Contracts – Purchased . . . . .	Average Notional Value	\$ 97,229,717
Options Contracts – Written . . . . .	Average Notional Value	(66,875,074)

**Note 10 — Risk Factors**

An investment in the Fund involves various risks. The Fund invests in and actively trades equity securities and other financial instruments using a variety of strategies and investment techniques with

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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significant risk characteristics, including the risks arising from the volatility of the equity securities. No guarantee or representation is made that the investment program will be successful. Certain local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illnesses and/or other public health issues, financial institution instability or other events may have a significant impact on a security or instrument. These types of events and other like them are collectively referred to as “Market Disruptions and Geopolitical Risks” and they may have adverse impacts on the worldwide economy, as well as the economies of individual countries, the financial health of individual companies and the market in general in significant and unforeseen ways. Some of the impacts noted in recent times include but are not limited to embargos, political actions, supply chain disruptions, bank failures, restrictions to investment and/or monetary movement including the forced selling of securities or the inability to participate in impacted markets. The duration of these events could adversely affect the Fund’s performance, the performance of the securities in which the Fund invests and may lead to losses on your investment. The ultimate impact of “Market Disruptions and Geopolitical Risks” on the financial performance of the Fund’s investments is not reasonably estimable at this time. Management is actively monitoring these events.

*Sector Risk* — As of December 31, 2024, a significant portion of the Reference Index is comprised of financial companies although this may change from time to time. Financial companies, such as retail and commercial banks, insurance companies and financial services companies, are especially subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, extensive government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentrations in geographic markets, industries or products (such as commercial and residential real estate loans), competition from new entrants and blurred distinctions in their fields of business. The Fund will not be concentrated in a particular industry or group of industries within this sector. To the extent that the Fund invests a significant percentage of its assets in a sector, an adverse economic, business or political development may affect the value of the Fund’s investments more than if the Fund were more broadly diversified. A significant exposure makes the Fund more susceptible to any single occurrence and may subject the Fund to greater market risk than a fund that is more broadly diversified.

*Options Risk* — An option is a contract that gives the purchaser (holder) of the option, in return for a premium, the right to buy from (call) or sell to (put) the seller (writer) of the option the security or currency underlying the option at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option (normally not exceeding nine months). The writer of an option has the obligation upon exercise of the option to deliver the underlying security or currency upon payment of the exercise price or to pay the exercise price upon delivery of the underlying security or currency. The use of options involves investment strategies and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The prices of options are influenced by, among other things, actual and anticipated changes in the value of the underlying instrument, or in interest or currency exchange rates, including the anticipated volatility, which in turn are affected by fiscal and monetary policies and by national and international political and economic events. As a seller (writer) of a put option, the seller will tend to lose money if the value of the reference index or security falls below the strike price. As the seller (writer) of a call option, the seller will tend to lose money if the value of the reference index or security rises above the strike price. As the buyer of a put or call option, the buyer risks losing the entire premium invested in the option if the buyer does not exercise the option. The effective use of options also depends on the Fund’s ability to terminate option positions at times deemed desirable to do so. There is no assurance that the Fund will be able to effect closing transactions at any particular time or at an acceptable price. In addition, there may at times be an imperfect correlation between the movement in values of options and their underlying securities and there may at times not be a liquid secondary market for certain options. There may be times the Fund needs to sell securities in order to settle an option position, which could result in the distribution of premium from that option position being classified as a return of capital and make the Fund less tax-efficient. Options may also involve the use of leverage, which could result in greater price volatility than other securities.



**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024**

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**Note 11 — Events Subsequent to the Fiscal Period End**

In preparing these financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of issuance of the financial statements included herein. There have been no subsequent events that occurred during such period that would require disclosure or would be required to be recognized in the financial statements.

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

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**Approval of the Investment Management Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement**

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board” and the members thereof, “Trustees”) held on September 27, 2024 (the “Meeting”), the Board, including a majority of Trustees who are not “interested persons” within the meaning of Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Independent Trustees”), approved the investment management agreement (the “Investment Management Agreement”) between First Trust Capital Management L.P. (the “Investment Adviser”) and the FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund (the “Fund”) and the Fund’s sub-advisory agreement among the Investment Adviser, the Fund and Vest Financial LLC, the Fund’s sub-adviser (the “Sub-Adviser” and, together with the Investment Adviser, the “Advisers”) (the “Sub-Advisory Agreement” and, together with the Investment Management Agreement, the “Advisory Agreements”).

In advance of the Meeting, the Board requested and received materials from the Advisers to assist them in considering the approval of the Advisory Agreements. Among other things, the Board reviewed reports from third parties and management about the below factors. The Board did not consider any single factor as controlling in determining whether or not to approve the Advisory Agreements. Nor are the items described herein all-encompassing of the matters considered by the Board.

The Board engaged in a detailed discussion of the materials with management of the Advisers. The Independent Trustees then met separately with independent counsel to the Independent Trustees at the Meeting for a full review of the materials. Following these sessions, the full Board reconvened and after further discussion determined that the information presented provided a sufficient basis upon which to approve the Advisory Agreements.

**NATURE, EXTENT AND QUALITY OF SERVICES**

The Board reviewed and considered the nature, extent and quality of the investment advisory services proposed to be provided by the Advisers to the Fund under the Advisory Agreements, including the Sub-Adviser’s selection of Fund investments. The Board also reviewed and considered the nature and extent of the non-advisory, administrative services to be provided by the Advisers to the Fund, including, among other things providing office facilities, equipment and personnel. The Board also reviewed and considered the qualifications of the portfolio managers and other key personnel who would provide the investment advisory services and/or administrative services to the Fund. The Board determined that such portfolio managers and key personnel are well-qualified by education and/or training and experience to perform the services for the Fund in an efficient and professional manner. The Board also took into account the Advisers’ compliance policies and procedures, including those used by the Investment Adviser to determine the value of the Fund’s investments. Based on their review, the Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of services expected to be provided to the Fund under the Advisory Agreements was satisfactory.

**PERFORMANCE**

The Board considered the investment experience of the Advisers. The Board noted that the Investment Adviser manages other funds that have similar options-writing strategies, and that the Sub- Adviser acts as investment sub-adviser to recently launched investment products managed by the Investment Adviser that have similar investment objectives and strategies as the Fund. However, because the Fund had not yet commenced operations, the Board was not able to consider Fund performance.

**FEES AND EXPENSES**

The Board reviewed the proposed unitary management fee rate (the “Unitary Fee”), the proposed sub-advisory fee and estimated total expense ratio of the Fund, noting that the Investment Adviser pays the Sub-Adviser from the Unitary Fee. The Board compared the Unitary Fee and pro-forma total

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

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expense ratio for the Fund with various comparative data, including a report of other comparable funds prepared by an independent third party. The Board noted that the Fund's proposed Unitary Fee and estimated expenses were comparable to the net fees and expenses other comparable peer funds and other funds managed by the Investment Adviser. In addition, the Board noted that the Investment Adviser had agreed to pay substantially all operating expenses of the Fund, excluding the Unitary Fee, initial and ongoing offering expenses and organizational expenses, interest expenses, taxes, portfolio transaction-related fees and expenses, costs of borrowing, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, and litigation and indemnification expenses and any other extraordinary expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of the Fund's business, with the Sub-Adviser covering half of such expenses pursuant to the Sub-Advisory Agreement (the "Covered Operational Expenses"). The Board concluded that the proposed Unitary Fee to be paid by the Fund, the sub-advisory fee payable to the Sub-Adviser and the pro-forma total expense ratio were reasonable and satisfactory in light of the services to be provided.

#### **BREAKPOINTS AND ECONOMIES OF SCALE**

The Board reviewed the structure of the Unitary Fee under the Investment Management Agreement and the sub-advisory fee to be paid by the Investment Adviser to the Sub-Adviser under the Sub-Advisory Agreement, neither of which included breakpoints. The Board noted that since the Unitary Fee does not have breakpoints, the Fund would not benefit from economies of scale as the Fund grew over time. The Board considered the Covered Operational Expenses proposed to be paid by the Investment Adviser, and the Board concluded that the advisory fees were reasonable for the services to be provided.

#### **PROFITABILITY OF INVESTMENT ADVISER AND SUB-ADVISER**

The Board considered and reviewed pro-forma information concerning the estimated costs to be incurred, including the Covered Operational Expenses, and profits expected to be realized by the Advisers from their relationship with the Fund. Although the Board considered and reviewed pro-forma information concerning the Advisers' expected profits, due to the fact that operations for the Fund had not yet commenced, the Board made no determination with respect to profitability.

#### **ANCILLARY BENEFITS AND OTHER FACTORS**

The Board also discussed other benefits to be received by the Investment Adviser from its management of the Fund including, without limitation, reputational benefits and the ability to market other investment products offered by the Investment Adviser. The Board noted that (i) the Fund's placement agent is an affiliate of the Investment Adviser and receives certain compensation in its role as placement agent and for other services related to the Fund, which are paid by the Investment Adviser; and (ii) an affiliate of the Investment Adviser receives management fees for assets held in the Fund by such affiliate's wealth management clients for services and resources provided by the affiliate to its clients. The Board noted that the sub-adviser did not anticipate receiving any ancillary benefits resulting from its association with the Fund, other than potential opportunities to obtain securities trading advantages for its other advisory clients and that the Advisers do not have affiliations with the Fund's transfer agent, administrator or custodian, and therefore would not derive any benefits from the relationships these parties may have with the Fund. The Board concluded that the Unitary Fee and sub-advisory fee were reasonable in light of the fall-out benefits.

#### **GENERAL CONCLUSION**

Based on its consideration of all factors that it deemed material, and assisted by the advice of its counsel, the Board concluded it would be in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders to approve the Advisory Agreements, each for an initial two-year term.

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

The members of the Board and the Fund's officers and their brief biographical information, including their addresses, their year of birth and descriptions of their principal occupations during the past five years, is set forth below. The Fund's Statement of Additional Information includes additional information about the membership of the Board, and is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-877-779-1999.

**INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER**

<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH</b>	<b>POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND</b>	<b>TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED*</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX** OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE</b>	<b>OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEES</b>
David G. Lee Year of Birth: 1952  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chairman and Trustee	Chairman Since Inception; Trustee Since Inception	Retired (since 2012); President and Director, Client Opinions, Inc. (2003 – 2012); Chief Operating Officer, Brandywine Global Investment Management (1998 – 2002).	24	None
Robert Seyferth Year of Birth: 1952  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2009); Chief Procurement Officer/Senior Managing Director, Bear Stearns/JP Morgan Chase (1993 – 2009).	24	None
Gary E. Shugrue Year of Birth: 1954  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Retired (since 2023); Managing Director, Veritable LP (investment advisory firm) (2016 – 2023); Founder/ President, Ascendant Capital Partners, LP (private equity firm) (2001 – 2015).	24	Trustee, Quaker Investment Trust (3 portfolios) (registered investment company).

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

**INTERESTED TRUSTEE AND OFFICERS**

<b>NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH</b>	<b>POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND</b>	<b>TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED*</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX** OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE</b>	<b>OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEES</b>
Terrance P. Gallagher*** Year of Birth: 1958  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Trustee	Since Inception	Executive Vice President and Trust Platform Director, UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2024 – Present); President and Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (registered investment company) (2013 – Present); Executive Vice President and Director of Fund Accounting, Administration and Tax, UMB Fund Services, Inc. (2007 – 2023).	24	President and Trustee, Investment Managers Series Trust II (41 portfolios) (registered investment company).
Michael Peck Year of Birth: 1980  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	President	Since Inception	Chief Executive Officer and Co-CIO, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly, Vivaldi Asset Management, LLC) (2012 – Present) President and Co-CIO, Vivaldi Capital Management LP (2012 – 2024); Portfolio Manager, Coe Capital Management (2010 – 2012); Senior Financial Analyst and Risk Manager, the Bond Companies (2006 – 2008).	N/A	N/A
Chad Eisenberg Year of Birth: 1982  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Treasurer	Since Inception	Chief Operating Officer, First Trust Capital Management L.P. (formerly, Vivaldi Asset	N/A	N/A

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

NAME, ADDRESS AND YEAR OF BIRTH	POSITION(S) HELD WITH THE FUND	TERM OF OFFICE AND LENGTH OF TIME SERVED*	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) DURING PAST 5 YEARS	NUMBER OF PORTFOLIOS IN FUND COMPLEX** OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE	OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEES
			Management, LLC) (2012 – Present); Chief Operating Officer, Vivaldi Capital Management LP (2012 – 2024); Director, Coe Capital Management LLC (2010 – 2011).		
Bernadette Murphy Year of Birth: 1964  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Chief Compliance Officer	Since Inception	Director, Vigilant Compliance, LLC (investment management solutions firm) (2018 – Present).	N/A	N/A
Ann Maurer Year of Birth: 1972  c/o UMB Fund Services, Inc. 235 W. Galena St. Milwaukee, WI 53212	Secretary	Since Inception	Senior Vice President, Client Services (2017 – Present), Vice President, Senior Client Service Manager (2013 – 2017), Assistant Vice President, Client Relations Manager (2002 – 2013), UMB Fund Services, Inc.	N/A	N/A

\* Trustees serve on the Board for terms of indefinite duration. A Trustee's position in that capacity will terminate if the Trustee is removed or resigns or, among other events, upon the Trustee's death, incapacity or retirement. Officers hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified and serve at the pleasure of the Trustees.

\*\* As of December 31, 2024, the fund complex consists of the AFA Private Credit Fund, Agility Multi-Asset Income Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Capital Appreciation Fund, Aspiriant Risk-Managed Real Assets Fund, Destiny Alternative Fund LLC, Destiny Alternative Fund (TEI) LLC, Felicitas Private Markets Fund, First Trust Alternative Opportunities Fund, First Trust Enhanced Private Credit Fund, First Trust Hedged Strategies Fund, First Trust Private Assets Fund, First Trust Private Credit Fund, First Trust Real Assets Fund, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Hedged Equity Income Fund: Series A3, FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A2, FT Vest Total Return Income Fund: Series A3, Infinity Core Alternative Fund, Keystone Private Income Fund, Pender Real Estate Credit Fund, Variant Alternative Income Fund, Variant Alternative Lending Fund and Variant Impact Fund.

\*\*\* Mr. Gallagher is deemed to be an interested person of the Fund because of his affiliation with the Fund's Administrator.

**Availability of Quarterly Portfolio Schedules**

The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Part F of Form N-PORT. The Fund's Form N-PORT is available on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or without charge and upon request by calling the Fund at 1-877-779-1999.

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund**  
**FUND INFORMATION — Continued**  
**December 31, 2024 (Unaudited)**

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**Proxy Voting Record**

Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies for portfolio securities, if applicable, during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30, is also available, without charge and upon request by calling the Fund at 1-877-779-1999 or by accessing the Fund's Form N-PX on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

**Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures**

A description of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures related to portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1-877-779-1999 or on the SEC website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund  
235 West Galena Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
Toll Free: (877) 779-1999

**FT Vest Rising Dividend Achievers Total Return Fund — Class I Shares**

