



Best Places to Work

Over the past several years, Stark Investments has participated in the **Milwaukee Magazine** Best Places To Work Survey of local employers. The Survey ranks employers based on their policies and procedures, as well as overall employee satisfaction. We have been selected as one of Milwaukee's best medium-sized employers for the past four published surveys. Highlights about the firm appear below.

At Stark, we take a long term approach to recruiting and retention as part of our efforts to maintain a collegial environment where innovative ideas are openly shared. We elicit feedback from our employees through internal initiatives and external surveys, such as the one from Milwaukee Magazine, to help tailor our employee development efforts. As a result, we have been able to create training platforms which not only address technical needs, but also encourage the growth of the firm's future culture carriers. We think this is just one more reason that Stark is a special place to work.

2008 Milwaukee Magazine

Stark Investments

468 employees

The alternative investment industry is full of talented individuals working in all corners of the capital markets. There are, however, great differences among organizations in terms of investment style, risk tolerance, firm culture, hiring philosophy and consideration of employee welfare.

Stark has created an inviting workplace in the high-energy world of hedge funds by building a company culture based on teamwork, trust, and multi-disciplinary interaction. Low turnover, organizational stability, and an experienced workforce are the pillars of Stark's collaborative model and a key competitive advantage.

See the article in Milwaukee Magazine at:
www.starkinvestments.com/docs/BestWork08.pdf





Excerpts from past surveys

2005 Milwaukee Magazine

Stark Investments

160 employees

At Stark Investments, says Jessica Walker, “we treat each other like family, and our real family comes first – for everyone.” Adds Brent O’Neil: “Everyone works together to get the job done, whether you’re a general or a private.” For many employees, the description of “family” is no accident. They say their employers respect their need to balance work and family life.

2003 Milwaukee Magazine

Stark Investments, Mequon

122 employees

Profile: Hedge fund specializing in arbitrage strategies.

Bragging rights: Stark tops the list of medium-size companies when it comes to benefits, and it pays well, too. Perhaps most noteworthy, those don’t come at the price of a good work environment.

Values: A closely knit entrepreneurial culture that operates by consensus.

Insider’s view: “Stark has a Midwestern-type culture, with very friendly people that are down to earth and enjoyable to work with. There are no arrogant employees, which is unusual for an investments firm. I can’t wait to get to work in the morning!”



2001 Milwaukee Magazine

Stark Investments

106 employees

An egalitarian approach to perks. Brian Stark started buying and selling securities in high school with his father. At Brown University, he wrote his senior thesis on arbitrage. While enrolled at Harvard Law School, he parlayed his knowledge into writing and publishing a book on the subject. After years on the East coast in a succession of investment positions, he formed his current firm in 1992 and came back to Wisconsin, where he and business partner Mike Roth grew up.

The Mequon business serves a worldwide market of very wealthy investors with a strategy that seeks to profit in bad times as well as good. The typical hedge fund reflects its owner’s personality and dies when the founder moves on. Entrepreneurial and non-bureaucratic, they nonetheless tend toward a top-down sort of management. Stark Investments is seeking to break that autocratic mold by creating an organization that will outlive its founders.