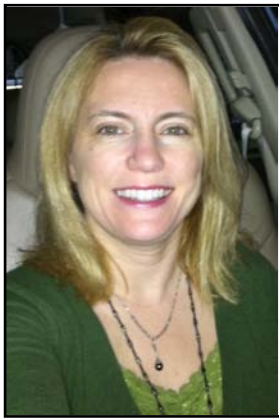




## **Cheryl Kunstle-Chiara, CFA Is October Volunteer of the Month**



Cheryl Kunstle-Chiara's focus on education is completely natural – it's where she began her career and where she returned as a member of CFALA's Scholarship Committee.

"I started out in education administration and was pursuing my Ph.D in education when I got a job with a mutual fund company and that's all she wrote," says October's Volunteer of the Month. "So I went from academia to finance, but education never left me."

The job was with New Jersey-based Alger Funds, where Kunstle-Chiara rose to become National Sales Manager and National Accounts Manager. Her time there also led to her becoming a charter holder and member of CFALA.

"In 2000, I was with an Alger portfolio manager named Ron Tartaro, who was lost in 9/11, and we were on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange," she recalled. "I asked him if he thought I could take the CFA exams, and he said, 'Yes, absolutely.' I never forgot that moment."

In addition to her work on the Scholarship Committee, Kunstle-Chiara also plays a key role in CFALA's alliance with the California Council on Economic Education, which sponsors the well-known Capital Markets Contest (CMC). This year's contest was special for her.

"I coordinated the mentors for all of the schools, and I mentored my own daughter's school," she said. "As it turned out, she was part of the winning team and they're all going to get to visit the New York Stock Exchange and Fed in January. The CMC is great, because it touches young people in a way that makes sense to them. It starts with them having to follow the markets and read the news, and they end up following the economic indicators and texting each other about them."

Kunstle-Chiara's daughter, Claire, obviously has some of her mother's brains – she's headed to Berkeley. Meanwhile, mom, now an independent financial services consultant, plans to keep volunteering.

"I love being involved with the society – it's such a credible designation – and volunteering is a very enjoyable experience," she said. "With all the criticism of Wall

Street, it's nice when investment professionals give back and people recognize that we want to do the right thing."

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