

ANNOUNCING NEW PITON WEALTH OFFICE IN KALISPELL

October 2020 (KENNEWICK, WA)- Local wealth management firm, **Piton Wealth**, is acquiring a **new office in Kalispell, Montana**. For two decades, Piton Wealth has partnered with Kalispell Thrivent Financial Advisors, Daren Skonord and Aaron Ells, on complex cases for Thrivent clients of the Flathead Valley area. This October, the Thrivent office in Kalispell will be transitioning into the Thrivent Advisor Network as a part of Piton Wealth, under the guidance and support of Piton's founder and CEO, Michelle Clary. Clary transitioned her Piton practice in 2018 to be the first independent financial practice in the Thrivent Advisor Network. The transition has provided greater autonomy while still under the umbrella of the Fortune 500 company, Thrivent Financial.

Piton Wealth is excited to serve their new Montana clients and partner with financial advisors, Daren Skonord and Aaron Ells. CEO, Michelle Clary, has deep roots in Montana. "Having been born in Bozeman and grown up in Whitefish, and still having family in the Flathead Valley and a cabin in Eureka, this is a dream come true for me," said Clary. "I love the people of Montana, and the long-time relationship I have with Aaron and Daren makes this partnership very natural." The move to Piton Wealth will allow the advisors and staff to focus more on providing comprehensive advice and managing invested assets for their clients. Additionally, having a larger staff will provide better bench strength, deeper specialization and a more synergistic ability to serve clients.

Daren Skonord is a Montana native and a practicing financial advisor with Thrivent for 28 years. He has a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting from Pacific Lutheran University. In 2013, Daren earned his Chartered Financial Consultant certification from the American College, and is currently in the process of finishing his Certified Financial Planning designation. "As a function of the move to Piton, I am thrilled to be able to provide more robust financial planning services for my clients," said Skonord. "It started with my clients when I began in this business 28 years ago, and today, the decisions still begin with the focus on what is best for our clients." Skonord's unique ability is in offering straightforward advice with extensive financial planning experience. His goal is to serve as a trusted partner in strengthening financial futures for his clients and their families. Others describe Daren as detailed, analytical, diligent, and trustworthy. Daren has been married to Pam for 26 years, and together they have 3 children, Danielle, Jenna, and Nate. In his free time Daren enjoys coaching baseball and football and working on landscaping projects.

Aaron Ells grew up in the Seattle area, and moved to Montana in 2002. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Pacific Lutheran University, where he was also the Merton Award Scholar, and the PLU Senior Male Athlete of the Year. Aaron started his own Thrivent Financial practice in 2013, and is currently in the process of completing his Certified Financial Planner certification from the American College. Over the past 7 years as a financial advisor with Thrivent, Aaron has taken great pride in offering his personal gifts and his learned expertise to help clients navigate their financial futures. He is currently a Flathead Soccer Club coach and in his free time, Aaron enjoys spending time with his wife of 21 years, Brooke, and their two sons, Sam and Liam. Their family likes to be active in the outdoors, especially backpacking, rafting, sailing, and skiing. "The transition to Piton is a milestone in my quest to serve my clients' needs as life throws unexpected changes at them. Our goal at Piton is to prepare clients for the certainty of uncertainty. We seek to understand, analyze and uncover—and then be there to coach and guide our clients at every step of their financial journey," said Aaron.

For any follow-up questions or more information, please contact:

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