

KATHY & GEORGE

# How This Retired Couple Bought a Vacation Home while saving \$1.8M

After nearly 30 years of disciplined saving, a couple in their early 50s realized that hard work and good financial habits could only get them so far. They needed a strategic partner to help them make their money work as hard as they had, so they could retire on time, living the lifestyle they wanted.

Net Worth: \$2.15M | Invested Assets at Kenora: \$1.8M\*

## The Vision

Kathy and George envisioned a relaxing but full retirement split between their home in northwest Chicago and a winter vacation home in Florida, where they could golf with friends as often as they wanted.

They also expected their growing family to include multiple grandchildren, and wished to be involved grandparents both physically and financially.

## Meet Kathy and George

- Kathy and George built solid careers, George as a manager at a public company and Kathy in commercial property solutions. Living in a northwest Chicago suburb, they'd raised three children and saved diligently throughout their working years.
- By their early 50s, they'd accumulated \$80,000 in savings, three rental homes, and some company stock.
- They were doing everything right, but as they entered their fifties, doubts started to emerge.
- Too much of their wealth was tied to George's employer stock. They knew if something happened to the company, their retirement could be at risk.
- Though they'd been disciplined savers, they realized the savings alone wouldn't get them to the retirement they envisioned.
- Their eldest child had also just married and was expecting a baby. They wanted to help financially, but were worried about stretching themselves too thin.

*Although names and details have been changed for the sake of privacy, the following case study outlines the real experiences and outcomes of an actual client.*

*Every client's situation is different, and no situation can ever be duplicated entirely. As much as we work to guide our clients in the right direction, the outcomes seen here were also affected by circumstances outside of our control, such as the economy and stock market.*

***Past results are not a guarantee of future performance, and you should not expect similar results.***

*Kenora Financial works with every client to the best of their ability, within the situation at hand. This case study only highlights one client's experience, but we hope it helps you understand the kind of work we do.*

***\*Data as of October 2025. Subject to change.***

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## Kenora Financial Process

Kathy and George became clients of Kenora Financial in 2010 when they attended one of our financial independence classes. They'd done the hard work of building wealth, so we helped them implement strategies to make that wealth work more efficiently toward the future they desired.

## Our Strategic Solutions

- George's company stock represented significant concentration risk. We developed a strategy to diversify that single holding into a more balanced portfolio over time. They hadn't done anything wrong, but this move positioned what they'd built for long-term growth and stability.
- Over the years, we helped structure a predictable gifting strategy for their grandchildren's education, timing contributions around key milestones. With this strategy in place, they could afford to be generous, knowing it wouldn't affect their own well-being.
- Several years into retirement, Kathy and George began dreaming of a Florida vacation home where they could golf through the winter and host family gatherings. However, they didn't want to jeopardize everything they'd built.
- We modeled the financial impact of owning both properties and showed how their expenses would actually decrease once they (eventually) sold their Illinois home. Seeing the numbers gave them permission to pursue the lifestyle they imagined.

## Where They Are Now

Kathy and George are living the retirement they envisioned and then some. Their investable assets have grown to \$1.8 million since they became clients.

They spend their winters in Florida, golfing with friends and soaking up the sunshine. They were able to support all three of their adult children through every major life transition, and now they contribute to multiple grandchildren's education funds, all without compromising their own retirement.

Over the years, the Kenora Financial team has been a sounding board for major decisions, a steady presence through market volatility, and a trusted partner who helps them balance generosity with security.

When asked what's been most valuable about their 15-year partnership with Kenora Financial, their answer is simple: **peace of mind and confidence in their financial future.** They don't worry about outliving their money. They don't second-guess whether they can afford to help their grandchildren. They simply enjoy the life they worked hard to build.

## "Can We Buy a Vacation Home?"

The decision to buy a vacation home in Florida wasn't made on a whim, but with a framework that modeled:

- The cost of maintaining two properties
- How expenses would shift over time
- The financial impact of selling their Illinois home
- Cash flow sustainability through ups and downs

Kathy and George were very clear that if the numbers didn't shake out to give them complete confidence, they would no longer pursue this idea.

Ultimately, the modeling we did allowed them to purchase their Florida home knowing it would fully enhance their retirement, not risk it.