BlackRock Utilities, Infrastructure & Power Opportunities Trust Form N-CSR March 08, 2018

#### **UNITED STATES**

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### **FORM N-CSR**

# CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT

#### **INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number: 811-22606

Name of Fund: BlackRock Utilities, Infrastructure & Power Opportunities Trust (Formerly BlackRock Utility and Infrastructure Trust) (BUI)

Fund Address: 100 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19809

Name and address of agent for service: John M. Perlowski, Chief Executive Officer, BlackRock Utilities,

Infrastructure & Power Opportunities Trust (Formerly BlackRock Utility and Infrastructure Trust),

55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10055

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (800) 882-0052, Option 4

Date of fiscal year end: 12/31/2017

Date of reporting period: 12/31/2017

Item 1 Report to Stockholders

**DECEMBER 31, 2017** 

# ANNUAL REPORT

**BlackRock Energy and Resources Trust (BGR)** 

BlackRock Enhanced Capital and Income Fund, Inc. (CII)

BlackRock Enhanced Equity Dividend Trust (BDJ)

**BlackRock Enhanced Global Dividend Trust (BOE)** 

BlackRock Enhanced International Dividend Trust (BGY)

**BlackRock Health Sciences Trust (BME)** 

BlackRock Resources & Commodities Strategy Trust (BCX)

BlackRock Science and Technology Trust (BST)

BlackRock Utilities, Infrastructure & Power Opportunities Trust (BUI)

Not FDIC Insured May Lose Value No Bank Guarantee The Markets in Review

Dear Shareholder,

In the 12 months ended December 31, 2017, risk assets, such as stocks and high-yield bonds, continued to deliver strong performance. The equity market advanced, month after month, despite geopolitical uncertainty and relatively high valuations, while bond returns were constrained by higher interest rates.

Rising interest rates worked against high-quality assets with more interest rate sensitivity. Consequently, longer-term U.S. Treasuries posted modest returns, as rising energy prices, modest wage increases, and steady job growth led to expectations of higher inflation and interest rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve (the Fed ).

The market s performance reflected reflationary expectations early in the reporting period, as investors began to sense that a global recovery was afoot. Thereafter, many countries throughout the world experienced sustained and synchronized growth for the first time since the financial crisis. Growth rates and inflation are still relatively low, but they are finally rising together.

The Fed responded to these positive developments by increasing short-term interest rates three times and setting expectations for additional interest rate increases. The Fed also began reducing the vast balance sheet reserves that had accumulated in the wake of the financial crisis. In October 2017, the Fed reduced its \$4.5 trillion balance sheet by only \$10 billion, while setting expectations for additional modest reductions and rate hikes in 2018.

By contrast, the European Central Bank ( ECB ) and the Bank of Japan ( BoJ ) both continued to expand their balance sheets despite nascent signs of sustained economic growth. The Eurozone and Japan are both approaching the limits of central banks ownership share of national debt, which is a structural pressure point that limits their capacity to deliver additional monetary stimulus. In October 2017, the ECB announced plans to cut the amount of its bond purchases in half for 2018, while the BoJ reiterated its commitment to economic stimulus until the inflation rate rises to its target of 2%.

Emerging market growth also stabilized, as accelerating growth in China, the second largest economy in the world and the most influential of all developing economies, improved the outlook for corporate profits and economic growth across most developing nations. Chinese demand for commodities and other raw materials allayed concerns about the country s banking system, leading to rising equity prices and foreign investment flows.

While escalating tensions between the United States and North Korea and our nation s divided politics are concerning, benign credit conditions, modest inflation, solid corporate earnings, and the positive outlook for growth in the world s largest economies have kept markets relatively tranquil.

Rising consumer confidence and improving business sentiment are driving momentum for the U.S. economy. If the Fed maintains a measured pace of stimulus reduction, to the extent that inflation rises, it s likely to be accompanied by rising real growth and higher wages. That could lead to a favorable combination of moderately higher inflation, steadily rising interest rates, and improving growth in 2018.

Further fueling optimism, Congress passed a sweeping tax reform bill in December 2017. The U.S. tax overhaul is likely to accentuate the reflationary themes already in place, including faster growth and rising interest rates. Changing the corporate tax rate to a flat 21% will create many winners and losers among high-and-low tax companies, while the windfall from lower taxes could boost business and consumer spending.

In this environment, investors need to think globally, extend their scope across a broad array of asset classes, and be nimble as market conditions change. We encourage you to talk with your financial advisor and visit **blackrock.com** 

for further insight about investing in today s markets.

Sincerely,

# Rob Kapito

President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

# Rob Kapito

President, BlackRock Advisors, LLC

# Total Returns as of December 31, 2017

	6-month	12-month
U.S. large cap equities	11.42%	21.83%
(S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index)		
U.S. small cap equities	9.20	14.65
(Russell 2000 <sup>®</sup> Index)		
International equities	9.86	25.03
(MSCI Europe, Australasia,		
Far East Index)		
Emerging market equities	15.92	37.28
(MSCI Emerging Markets Index)		
3-month Treasury bills	0.55	0.86
(ICE BofAML 3-Month U.S. Treasury Bill Index)		
U.S. Treasury securities	(0.01)	2.07
(ICE BofAML 10-Year U.S. Treasury Index)		
U.S. investment grade bonds	1.24	3.54
(Bloomberg Barclays U.S.		
Aggregate Bond Index)		
Tax-exempt municipal bonds	1.64	4.95
(S&P Municipal Bond Index)		
U.S. high yield bonds	2.46	7.50
(Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer		
Capped Index)		

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Index performance is shown for illustrative purposes only. You cannot invest directly in an index.

Supplemental Information (unaudited)

#### Section 19(a) Notices

BlackRock Energy and Resources Trust s (BGR), BlackRock Enhanced Capital and Income Fund, Inc. s (CII), BlackRock Enhanced Equity Dividend Trust s (BDJ), BlackRock Global Dividend Trust s (BOE), BlackRock Enhanced International Dividend Trust s (BGY), BlackRock Health Sciences Trust s (BME), BlackRock Resources & Commodities Strategy Trust s (BCX), BlackRock Science and Technology Trust s (BST) and BlackRock Utilities, Infrastructure & Power Opportunities Trust s (BUI) (each, a Trust and collectively, the Trusts), amounts and sources of distributions reported are estimates and are being provided to you pursuant to regulatory requirements and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources for tax reporting purposes will depend upon each Trust s investment experience during the fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. Each Trust will provide a Form 1099-DIV each calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

# **December 31, 2017**

						Ç	% Brea	kdow	n of tl	ne Tota	al
		Total Cu	mulative Dist	tributions				Cumu	lative	•	
		for	the Fiscal Per	riod		Dist	ribution	ns for	the F	iscal P	eriod
	Net l	Net Realized I	Net Realized			Net	Net R	ealize	$^{2}d$		
					Total Per	Net Re	alized				
	Investmen <b>C</b>	apital Gain <b>C</b>	apital Gains		Inves <b>G</b>	apittal	<b>Gajinit</b> a	l Gair	ıs	To	tal Per
				Return of	Common				Retur	n ofCa	ommon
	Income	Short-Term	Long-Term	Capital	Sha <b>ite</b> c	o <b>She</b> rt	-Tekon	g-Teri	т Сар	oital	Share
BGR*	\$ 0.404129	\$	\$	\$0.527071	\$0.931200	43%		%	%	57%	100%
CII*	0.148793			0.844807	0.993600	15				85	100
BDJ	0.163613		0.396787		0.560400	29		7	1		100
BOE	0.144688	0.649691	1.491621		2.286000	6	29	6	5		100
BME*	0.025870		1.468233	0.905897	2.400000	1		6	1	38	100
BGY*	0.077022			0.378978	0.456000	17				83	100
BCX*	0.197497			0.407703	0.605200	33				67	100
BST*			0.195212	1.084788	1.280000			1	5	85	100
BUI	0.543259		0.908741		1.452000	37		6	3		100

<sup>\*</sup> Certain Trusts estimate that they have distributed more than the amount of earned income and net realized gains; therefore, a portion of the distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the shareholder s investment in a Trust is returned to the shareholder. A return of capital does not necessarily reflect a Trust s investment performance and should not be confused with yield or income. When distributions exceed total return performance, the difference will reduce the Trust s net asset value per share.

Section 19(a) notices for the Trusts, as applicable, are available on the BlackRock website at http://www.blackrock.com.

#### Section 19(b) Disclosure

The Trusts, acting pursuant to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) exemptive order and with the approval of each Trust's Board of Trustees/Directors (the Board), each have adopted a plan, consistent with its investment objectives and policies to support a level distribution of income, capital gains and/or return of capital (the Plan). In accordance with the Plans, the Trusts distribute the following fixed amounts per share on a monthly basis as of December 31, 2017:

	Amount Per
Exchange Symbol	Common Share
BGR	\$ 0.0776
CII	0.0828
BDJ	0.0467
BOE	0.0780
BME	0.2000
BGY	0.0380
BCX	0.0516
BST	0.1300
BUI	0.1210

The fixed amounts distributed per share are subject to change at the discretion of each Trust s Board. Under its Plan, each Trust will distribute all available investment income to its shareholders, consistent with its primary investment objectives and as required by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code ). If sufficient investment income is not available on a monthly basis, the Trusts will distribute long-term capital gains and/or return of capital to shareholders in order to maintain a level distribution. Each monthly distribution to shareholders is expected to be at the fixed amount established by the Board, except for extraordinary distributions and potential distribution rate increases or decreases to enable the Trusts to comply with the distribution requirements imposed by the Code.

Shareholders should not draw any conclusions about each Trust s investment performance from the amount of these distributions or from the terms of the Plan. Each Trust s total return performance on net asset value is presented in its financial highlights table.

The Board may amend, suspend or terminate a Trust s Plan at any time without prior notice to the Trust s shareholders if it deems such actions to be in the best interests of the Trust or its shareholders. The suspension or termination of the Plan could have the effect of creating a trading discount (if the Trust s stock is trading at or above net asset value) or widening an existing trading discount. The Trusts are subject to risks that could have an adverse impact on their ability to maintain level distributions. Examples of potential risks include, but are not limited to, economic downturns impacting the markets, decreased market volatility, companies suspending or decreasing corporate dividend distributions and changes in the Code. Please refer to BME s prospectus for a more complete description of its risks.

Supplemental Information 3

# Table of Contents

	Page
The Markets in Review	2
Section 19(a) Notices	3
Section 19(b) Disclosure	3
Annual Report:	
The Benefits and Risks of Option Over-Writing	5
Trust Information	6
Derivative Financial Instruments	24
Financial Statements:	
Schedules of Investments	25
Statements of Assets and Liabilities	89
Statements of Operations	91
Statements of Changes in Net Assets	93
Statements of Cash Flows	98
Financial Highlights	100
Notes to Financial Statements	109
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	122
Important Tax Information	123
Automatic Dividend Reinvestment Plans	124
Trustee and Officer Information	125
Additional Information	128
Glossary of Terms Used in this Report	131

4

The Benefits and Risks of Option Over-Writing

In general, the goal of each of the Trusts is to provide total return through a combination of current income and realized and unrealized gains (capital appreciation). The Trusts seek to pursue this goal primarily by investing in a portfolio of equity securities and utilizing an option over-writing strategy in an effort to enhance the Trusts distribution rate and total return performance. However, these objectives cannot be achieved in all market conditions.

The Trusts primarily write single stock covered call options, and may also from time to time write single stock put options. When writing (selling) a covered call option, the Trust holds an underlying equity security and enters into an option transaction which allows the counterparty to purchase the equity security at an agreed-upon price (strike price) within an agreed-upon time period. The Trusts receive cash premiums from the counterparties upon writing (selling) the option, which along with net investment income and net realized gains, if any, are generally available to support current or future distributions paid by the Trusts. During the option term, the counterparty may elect to exercise the option if the market value of the equity security rises above the strike price, and the Trust is obligated to sell the equity security to the counterparty at the strike price, realizing a gain or loss. Premiums received increase gains or reduce losses realized on the sale of the equity security. If the option remains unexercised upon its expiration, the Trusts realize gains equal to the premiums received. Alternatively, an option may be closed out by an offsetting purchase or sale of an option prior to expiration. The Trust realizes a capital gain from a closing purchase or sale transaction if the premium paid is less than the premium received from writing the option. The Trust realizes a capital loss from a closing purchase or sale transaction if the premium paid to purchase the option.

Writing covered call options entails certain risks, which include, but are not limited to, the following: an increase in the value of the underlying equity security above the strike price can result in the exercise of a written option (sale by the Trust to the counterparty) when the Trust might not otherwise have sold the security; exercise of the option by the counterparty may result in a sale below the current market value and a gain or loss being realized by the Trust; and limiting the potential appreciation that could be realized on the underlying equity security to the extent of the strike price of the option. As such, an option over-writing strategy may outperform the general equity market in flat or falling markets but underperform in rising markets.

Each Trust employs a plan to support a level distribution of income, capital gains and/or return of capital. The goal of the plan is to provide shareholders with consistent and predictable cash flows by setting distribution rates based on expected long-term returns of the Trusts. Such distributions, under certain circumstances, may exceed a Trust s total return performance. When total distributions exceed total return performance for the period, the difference reduces the Trust s total assets and net asset value per share (NAV) and, therefore, could have the effect of increasing the Trust s expense ratio and reducing the amount of assets, the Trust has available for long term investment. In order to make these distributions, a Trust may have to sell portfolio securities at less than opportune times.

The final tax characterization of distributions is determined after the fiscal year and is reported in the Trust s annual report to shareholders. Distributions can be characterized as ordinary income, capital gains and/or return of capital. The Trust s taxable net investment income or net realized capital gains (taxable income) may not be sufficient to support the level of distributions paid. To the extent that distributions exceed the Trust s current and accumulated earnings and profits, the excess may be treated as a non-taxable return of capital. Distributions that exceed a Trust s taxable income but do not exceed the Trust s current and accumulated earnings and profits, may be classified as ordinary income which are taxable to shareholders. Such distributions are reported as distributions in excess of net investment income.

A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect a Trust s investment performance and should not be confused with yield or income. A return of capital is a return of a portion of an investor s original investment. A return

of capital is not taxable, but it reduces a shareholder s tax basis in his or her shares, thus reducing any loss or increasing any gain on a subsequent disposition by the shareholder of his or her shares. It is possible that a substantial portion of the distributions paid during a calendar year may ultimately be classified as return of capital or as distributions in excess of net investment income for U.S. federal income tax purposes when the final determination of the source and character of the distributions is made.

To illustrate these concepts, assume the following: (1) a common stock purchased at and currently trading at \$37.15 per share; (2) a three-month call option is written by a Trust with a strike price of \$40 (i.e., 7.7% higher than the current market price); and (3) the Trust receives \$2.45, or 6.6% of the common stock s value, as a premium. If the stock price remains unchanged, the option expires and there would be a 6.6% return for the three-month period. If the stock were to decline in price by 6.6% (i.e., decline to \$34.70 per share), the option strategy would break-even from an economic perspective resulting in neither a gain nor a loss. If the stock were to climb to a price of \$40 or above, the option would be exercised and the stock would return 7.7% coupled with the option premium received of 6.6% for a total return of 14.3%. Under this scenario, the Trust loses the benefit of any appreciation of the stock above \$40, and thus is limited to a 14.3% total return. The premium from writing the call option serves to offset some of the unrealized loss on the stock in the event that the price of the stock declines, but if the stock were to decline more than 6.6% under this scenario, the Trust s downside protection is eliminated and the stock could eventually become worthless.

Each Trust intends to write covered call options to varying degrees depending upon market conditions. Please refer to each Trust s Schedule of Investments and the Notes to Financial Statements for details of written options.

THE BENEFITS AND RISKS OF OPTION OVER-WRITING

Trust Information as of December 31, 2017

#### **BlackRock Energy and Resources Trust**

#### **Investment Objective**

BlackRock Energy and Resources Trust s (BGR) (the Trust) investment objective is to provide total return through a combination of current income, current gains and long-term capital appreciation. The Trust seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, at least 80% of its total assets in equity securities of energy and natural resources companies and equity derivatives with exposure to the energy and natural resources industry. The Trust may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives. The Trust seeks to pursue this goal primarily by investing in a portfolio of equity securities and utilizing an option over-writing strategy in an effort to seek total return performance and enhance distributions.

No assurance can be given that the Trust s investment objective will be achieved.

#### **Trust Information**

Symbol on New York Stock Exchange ( NYSE )	BGR
Initial Offering Date	December 29, 2004
Current Distribution Rate on Closing Market Price as of December 31, 2017 (\$14.18) <sup>(a)</sup>	6.57%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0.0776
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0.9312

- (a) Current distribution rate on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. The current distribution rate consists of income, net realized gains and/or a return of capital. See the Financial Highlights for the actual sources and character of distributions. Past performance does not guarantee future results.
- (b) The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change. A portion of the distribution may be deemed a return of capital or net realized gain.

# **Performance and Portfolio Management Commentary**

Returns for the 12 months ended December 31, 2017 were as follows:

	Returns Based On		
	Market Price	Net Asset Value	
$BGR^{(a)(b)}$	5.11%	3.49%	
Lipper Natural Resources Funds <sup>(c)</sup>	7.33	1.06	

- (a) All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends and/or distributions at actual reinvestment prices.
- (b) The Trust s discount to NAV narrowed during the period, which accounts for the difference between performance based on market price and performance based on NAV.

(c) Average return. Returns reflect reinvestment of dividends and/or distributions at NAV on the ex-dividend as calculated by Lipper.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance results may include adjustments made for financial reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

# The following discussion relates to the Trust s absolute performance based on NAV:

#### What factors influenced performance?

Oil prices, after declining in the first half of the year, staged a strong recovery once signs emerged that the oil market was tighter than many believed. Global inventories declined at a time of the year when they typically rise, suggesting limited availability of near-term supply. However, energy stocks—after falling sharply when oil prices were weak in the first half—did not stage a rebound of equal magnitude in oil—s subsequent rally. In this environment, the Trust—s positions in more leveraged exploration and production (E&P) stocks, such as Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Hess Corp., detracted from absolute performance.

There was a distinct performance differential between integrated energy companies and E&Ps during the year, with the former outperforming. In addition, international integrated companies outpaced their U.S. counterparts. With this as the backdrop, the Trust sholdings in Royal Dutch Shell PLC and BP PLC were the largest contributors to absolute performance.

The Trust made use of options, principally written call options on individual stocks, in order to seek enhanced income returns while continuing to participate in the performance of the underlying equities. The option overlay strategy had a positive impact on results.

# Describe recent portfolio activity.

Early in the period, the investment adviser increased the Trust s exposure to U.S. onshore energy services companies and funded the purchases by taking profits in certain E&P holdings. Later in the period, the investment adviser increased the Trust s exposure to the integrated energy industry while reducing its allocation to certain U.S.-based E&P stocks. The latter shift included exiting the Trust s position in Hess Corp. and reducing its weighting in EOG Resources, Inc.

#### Describe portfolio positioning at period end.

The E&P sector represented the Trust s largest allocation, followed by the integrated, oil services, distribution, and refining & marketing industries, respectively. The investment adviser positioned the Trust with a higher-quality bias, focusing on companies with robust balance sheets and low costs of production.

The views expressed reflect the opinions of BlackRock as of the date of this report and are subject to change based on changes in market, economic or other conditions. These views are not intended to be a forecast of future events and are no guarantee of future results.

Trust Information as of December 31, 2017 (continued)

**BlackRock Energy and Resources Trust** 

# Market Price and Net Asset Value Per Share Summary

	12/31/17	12/31/16	Change	High	Low
Market Price	\$ 14.18	\$ 14.44	(1.80)%	\$ 14.87	\$ 12.32
Net Asset Value	15.79	16.33	(3.31)	16.57	13.61

Market Price and Net Asset Value History For the Past Five Years

#### Overview of the Trust s Total Investments

#### TEN LARGEST HOLDINGS

Security	12/31/17
Chevron Corp.	10%
Royal Dutch Shell PLC ADR, Class A	10
Exxon Mobil Corp.	9
BP PLC	7
ConocoPhillips	5
EOG Resources, Inc.	4
Halliburton Co.	4
Pioneer Natural Resources Co.	4
TransCanada Corp.	3
Devon Energy Corp.	3

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes option positions and money market funds.

#### INDUSTRY ALLOCATION

Industry	12/31/17	12/31/16
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	90%	91%
Energy Equipment & Services	10	9

For Trust compliance purposes, the Trust s industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by the investment adviser. These definitions may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine such industry sub-classifications for reporting ease.

Trust Information 7

Trust Information as of December 31, 2017

#### BlackRock Enhanced Capital and Income Fund, Inc.

#### **Investment Objective**

**BlackRock Enhanced Capital and Income Fund, Inc. s (CII) (the Trust**) investment objective is to provide investors with a combination of current income and capital appreciation. The Trust seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in a portfolio of equity securities of U.S. and foreign issuers. The Trust may invest directly in such securities or synthetically through the use of derivatives. The Trust also seeks to achieve its investment policy by employing a strategy of writing (selling) call and put options.

No assurance can be given that the Trust s investment objective will be achieved.

#### **Trust Information**

Symbol on NYSE	CII
Initial Offering Date	April 30, 2004
Current Distribution Rate on Closing Market Price as of December 31, 2017 (\$16.38)(a)	6.07%
Current Monthly Distribution per Common Share <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0.0828
Current Annualized Distribution per Common Share <sup>(b)</sup>	\$0.9936

- (a) Current distribution rate on closing market price is calculated by dividing the current annualized distribution per share by the closing market price. The current distribution rate consists of income, net realized gains and/or a return of capital. See the Financial Highlights for the actual sources and character of distributions. Past performance does not guarantee future results.
- (b) The distribution rate is not constant and is subject to change. A portion of the distribution may be deemed a return of capital or net realized gain.

#### **Performance and Portfolio Management Commentary**

Returns for the 12 months ended December 31, 2017 were as follows:

	Return	Returns Based On		
	Market Price	Net Asset Value		
$CII^{(a)(b)}$	27.54%	21.69%		
S&P 500 <sup>®</sup> Index	N/A	21.83		

- (a) All returns reflect reinvestment of dividends and/or distributions at actual reinvestment prices.
- (b) The Trust s discount to NAV narrowed during the period, which accounts for the difference between performance based on market price and performance based on NAV.

N/A Not applicable as the index does not have a market price.

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Performance results may include adjustments made for financial reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

# The following discussion relates to the Trust s relative performance based on the index cited above:

# What factors influenced performance?

8

In sector terms, consumer discretionary was the prime contributor to relative performance, led by household durables and specialty retail holdings. Stock selection in energy and materials also added considerable value, as did holdings within the information technology ( IT ) sector. Conversely, utilities and financials detracted from performance.

In stock specifics, Lam Research Corp. and D.R. Horton, Inc. were top individual contributors. Lam performed very well, notably in the first half of the year, on the back of strong execution and growing demand for its products, driven by the build-out of 3D NAND capacity, for which the company is a key supplier. The stock was sold by the end of the reporting period as, in the investment adviser s view, semiconductor capital expenditures are nearing peak levels and Lam s valuation reflected the sustainability of above-normal demand trends. Homebuilders, including D.R. Horton, outperformed during the year on continued strength in single family housing demand, particularly among first-time, entry-level homebuyers. The investment adviser thinks that cyclical and secular drivers (particularly the return of the entry-level homebuyer) should support continued growth in housing markets for the foreseeable future and, hence, sustainable earnings per share growth that is not reflected in current homebuilder share prices.

Additional contributions came from an underweight to General Electric Co., as well as the position in Activision Blizzard, Inc.

Among the largest individual detractors in the period was Walgreens Boots Alliance. Early in the reporting period, sentiment for Walgreens shares was negatively affected by delays in the closing of its highly anticipated merger with peer Rite-Aid. Later, the stock underperformed on press reports that Amazon is evaluating entering the retail pharmacy market. The investment adviser ultimately sold the position on the view that the company s over-reliance on front-of-the-store sales exposes it to potential ongoing sales and margin pressure.

Elsewhere, zero exposure to Amazon.com, Inc. and Facebook, Inc. proved disadvantageous.

The Trust made use of options, principally written call options on individual stocks, in order to seek enhanced income returns while continuing to participate in the performance of the underlying equities. The Trust s option writing strategy had a negative impact on performance during the reporting period.

2017 BLACKROCK ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Trust Information as of December 31, 2017 (continued)

BlackRock Enhanced Capital and Income Fund, Inc.

# Describe recent portfolio activity.

Due to a combination of portfolio trading activity and market movement during the 12-month period, the Trust s exposure to the health care sector increased, with additions in utilities and materials as well. The largest reductions were in consumer staples and energy.

#### Describe portfolio positioning at period end.

From a positioning standpoint, as of period end, the investment adviser continues to favor financials, particularly banks, and is also focusing on stock-specific opportunities to capture growth tied to healthy U.S. consumers. These cyclical positions are balanced with strategic allocations to more stable growers in the health care and IT sectors. The investment adviser continues to underweight defensive stocks, as well as industrials.

The views expressed reflect the opinions of BlackRock as of the date of this report and are subject to change based on changes in market, economic or other conditions. These views are not intended to be a forecast of future events and are no guarantee of future results.

**Market Price and Net Asset Value Per Share Summary** 

12/31/17 12/31/16 Change High