

Edward Jones named to *Fortune Magazine's* best companies to work for

(Submitted by Edward Jones)

The financial-services firm Edward Jones ranked number 11 on *Fortune Magazine's* "100 Best Companies to work for 2011" list in its 12th appearance on the prestigious list, according to Mike Sabo, a financial advisor in Fruitport.

Edward Jones' 12 Fortune rankings include top 10 finishes for eight years and consecutive number 1 rankings in 2002 and 2003 and consecutive number 2 rankings in 2009 and 2010.

Edward Jones also ranked number 2 for large-sized companies and number 9 for work-life balance. The firm was the highest ranking financial services firm on the list. •

Team event

By Charlene Lozicki

I am not a sports fan, so I am probably going to step on the toes of some very loyal sports fans. If I knew the teams better, maybe, but there are so many other things to do. There are deer hunter widows and sports widows. I do know there is a lot of enthusiasm going around about something called the Super Bowl. A lot of men divided into two teams, each wearing a different color uniform, line up in front of each other and each team tries to get a ball to a goal line on the other side of the opposing team. While this is going on, and they are knocking each other over, people sit in bleachers yelling and screaming at them to get the ball and bring it over the goal line. Everyone involved in this spectacle indulges in snacking and drinking something, usually not milk.

This event takes place in a spectacular stadium that seats 100,000 people. The stadium has a dome covering the whole thing, and artificial turf (no dirt to get dirty – and I assume climate control), and a huge screen so no one misses a play. A very environmentally friendly place.

While these millionaires are playing with their football, there are vendors selling delicious snacks and drinks. Parking lots were built around this complex to accommodate the fans, and roads were built to make sure they could get there easily.

If you are unable to get there, or to get a ticket, TV news people have ample equipment that will bring all the action right to you in your own home.

I did watch the last part of a golf match a few years ago in California. What surprised me, it was played at night with artificial lighting at a time when Californians were told to conserve electricity in their homes because the electric grid was low. In fact, if I remember right, there were brownouts at the time.

I was surprised to find out in Florida we have a professional hockey team, and high schools there are very involved in competitive hockey.

Save the environment people seem to have convinced those in Washington that the average person at home should be regulated to save the planet. Only use special light bulbs they say we can use, even though the mercury in them is dangerous. Turn the thermostat down in the winter, and don't use plastic bags. We can't drill for oil on our soil, because we might pollute. Instead, we need to buy our oil from countries that aren't careful about pollution, because their pollution won't bother the earth.

I used to complain about some of the school lunch food, but now we are told what we feed our children needs to be regulated. More vegetables and fruit. This brings back memories of peas found in the register next to the table and beans wrapped up in napkins. Carrots were okay if some were cooked and some left raw for a choice. The neighborhood boys shared their ideas on how to get rid of them. I like them so they were encouraged.

Today I find it confusing, all the excitement about a bunch of overweight men crashing into each other, and of course, everyone there eating vegetables and drinking milk. By riding bikes to the games the parking lots have excess space and the spectators jumping up and down to the rhythm of the cheerleaders to generate electricity. Advertising on TV for apples, pears, celery sticks and, of course, warm milk, so we don't get too excited. This will really bring all the fans together.

All the regulations on our lives are making us non-thinkers. We are all individuals, each with our own talents and the responsibilities that accompany those talents. We as adults are responsible for doing what is right and being an example for others, especially our children. Regulating our decisions on what to eat, how warm it needs to be in our homes, and what household goods we use does not belong to the government. Watching TV commercials, spectator antics, and the admiration and favors given to a bunch of millionaires to play ball is confusing. We need to be good people and do what is right on our own, learning from each other. •

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