

PRESENTED
BY THE
NASHVILLE
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
AND THE
ENTREPRENEUR
CENTER



#### RENTSTUFF.COM

105 Broadway Suite 200 (Nashville) Website: RentStuff.com

CEO: Adam Albright Background: Rent-Stuff.com connects people looking to rent consumer goods with the rental shops and other individuals that own those items.



# **Employees: 1**

Albright Speaks: "Our business model is predicated on helping people get more use out of underutilized assets as opposed to everyone owning their own asset. We believe in making an environmental impact through renting/sharing of items where the purchase of new stuff is reduced."

**EARTHSAVERS, LLC** Website: earthsavers.org (Full description, Page 6)

**CEO:** Bobby Bandy Bandy speaks: " Business can be about much more than profits and egos. It provides the opportunity to develop relationships with



clients, vendors and staff. Those relationships can then instill purpose and sustain families."

**GRAND AVENUE** 186 North 1st St (Nashville) Website:

www.grandavenueworldwide.com

CEO: Carl Halev Background: Grand Avenue was founded by Carl Haley Jr. in 2009 and has become the leading chauffeured transportation



provider in Middle Tennessee. Haley recognized tremendous opportunity in the Nashville market, and developed Grand Avenue to uniquely accommodate an extensive array of local, national and international clients.

**Employees: 87** 

Haley Speaks: "I believe you must 'walk the walk' if you're going to 'talk the talk'. Leading by example is something that I feel is imperative to the growth of every team member as well as the company as a whole. Being willing to take a risk and think ahead of the pack is a requirement that can make the difference between leading and following."

# DC2 HEALTHCARE

Website: www.dc2holdings.com (Full description, Page 4)

**CEO:** Christina Cook Cook speaks: "My philosophy is that every individual has special gifts. These gifts are strengths that will override their weaknesses."



# **AMERICAN HOMETOWN MEDIA**

Website: www.justapinch.com (Full description, Page 4)

**CEO:** Dan Hammond Hammond speaks: " believe people secretly wish to walk through fire for others but rarely get the opportunity to do so. Give them a reason to do so."



# TNA ENTERTAINMENT

Website: www.impactwrestling.com (Full description, Page 7)

**CEO:** Dixie Carter Carter speaks: " don't care who you are, competition makes you better. There's a reason why there's a Lowe's across the street from every Home Depot and a CVS across the street

from every Walgreens."



# CENTRESOURCE

1313 4th Avenue North (Nashville) Website: www.centresource.com

CEO: Evan Owens Background: Centresource is an interactive agency that makes web and mobile experiences better by defining an MVP, crafting a marketing

strategy and measuring results.

**Employees:** 31

Owens speaks: "I have learned to ask for help. Nashville is an amazing city full of people who are willing to give you a hand if you simply ask. Often all it takes is humbling yourself to gain knowledge."

# THE LITTLE IMAGINARY GIRL 102 Covey Ct. (Smyrna) Website: www.littleimaginarygirl.com

**CEO:** Evane Stoner Background: The Little Imaginary Girl sells various crafts along with fun, vintage-inspired jewelry and accessories that appeal to fashionis-



tas everywhere. TLIG products appear online, in boutiques, and at craft shows. (altered for clarity)

Stoner Speaks: "Each day, I live my life not in pursuit of the end result, but rather in pursuit of that which harnesses my inner-most passions."

## **NASHVILLE TOFFEE COMPANY** Website:

www.nashvilletoffeecompany.com

CEO: George Cohn Background: Maker of hand crafted, all natural, gourmet almond toffees and artisan chocolate barks.



Cohn Speaks: "We use recyclable materials whenever possible and utilize a very green process in our candy making. We give much back to our community in the form of charitable contributions - you will probably find a tin of our toffee at the next silent auction you attend."

#### **STRATASAN**

Website: www.stratasan.com (Full description, Page 5)

CEO: Jason Moore Moore speaks: "The most important leadership trait is selection and identification of people and setting relevant company goals. If you don't hire the



right people, it doesn't matter what the company does, it won't be successful."

# **LEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1015 Davidson Drive (Nashville) Website: www.leadpublicschools.org

CEO: Jeremy Kane Background: LEAD Public Schools is Tennessee's first charter school management organization. We do "Whatever It Takes" to gain college accep-

tance for 100% of our students.

Kane Speaks: "Our organization was founded to dramatically improve the quality of education for low-income and minority students in Nashville. That goal forces our staff members at all levels to share ideas that will improve our organization and the service we provide. Everyone is encouraged to test new methods that give meaning to our 'Whatever It Takes' motto."

# THE PASTA SHOPPE 2728 Eugenia Avenue (Nashville) Website: pastashoppe.com

CEO: Aron John Background: The world's largest selection of fun pasta shapes, all manufactured in our Nashville plant and sold online.



John Speaks: "We have taken what is old

### (Resources from page 3)

# **Geek Breakfast Nashville**

www.facebook.com/nashvillegeekbreakfast A monthly community-driven meeting for technology-minded individuals, businesses and entrepreneurs

# **Nashville Technology** Council

Nashville, TN 37201 Liza Lowery Massey, President and CEO 615-873-1284 Imassey@technologycouncil.com www.technologycouncil.com An affiliate of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce devoted to helping the Middle Tennessee technology community succeed

# Center for Entrepreneurship, **Lipscomb University**

One University Park Drive Nashville, TN joe.ivey@lipscomb.edu 615-966-6229 www.lipscomb.edu/ entrepreneurship Outreach and classes for students and community

# Center for Entrepreneurship, **Vanderbilt University**

Outreach and classes for students and community 401 21st Aveue South Nashville, TN 37206 oec@owen.vanderbilt.edu www2.owen.vanderbilt.edu/oec/ Outreach and classes for students and community

# **Center for Entrepreneurship Belmont University**

1900 Belmont Blvd Nashville, TN 37212-3757 615-460-6605 www.belmont.edu/business/ entrepreneurship/index.html Outreach and classes for students and community

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entrepreneurship was for rich people."

Clay Jackson, head of marketing for the EC, said Nashville's entrepreneurial explosion is by design.

"There's really an incredible amount of idea flow and interaction across a lot of lines," Jackson said. "It's not just about

the Entrepreneur Center, it's about a lot of teamwork, interaction and awareness among a lot of groups—the Chamber of Commerce and its sub-organizations; the academic institutions,

which have all stepped it up with programs for entrepreneurs and many, many successful entrepreneurs who've been willing to mentor and coach others."

"We're an overnight success that's been building for a long time," Jackson added. "We hear from people all over the country-from New York to Silicon Valley. We're a hotbed."

# 105 Broadway, Suite 200,

# **AMERICAN HOMETOWN** MEDIA

**STARTUPS** 

110 Third Avenue North (Franklin)



### Website:

www.justapinch.com CEO: Dan Hammond Background: A vertical social network based on food and coupons, with the largest crowdsourced database of recipes and a deep engagement on the internet. The company has plans to embrace old media as well, including traditional publishing in new forms, TV broadcasting, and electronic fund transfer.

**Employees: 13** 

Hammond speaks: "Hire 'believers' with a passion for the business and then provide them with the tools they need and an environment in which they can succeed."

# **ARTIST GROWTH 521 Gallatin Avenue** (Nashville)

# Website:

www.artistgrowth.com **CEO:** Matt Urmy

Background: Artist Growth is a ground-breaking, cloud-based mobile and web platform for managing and mentoring artists. The company conceived, designed, developed and launched a fully-integrated, cloud-synched platform for web, iphone, and Android in less than 7 months. **Employees:** 4

Urmy speaks: "By focusing the team on the goals of the company, they begin to self-manage to a large degree because of the sense that their destiny is in their own hands."

# DC2 HEALTHCARE 209 10th Avenue (Nashville)



# Website:

www.dc2holdings.com CEO: Christina Cook Background: DC2 Healthcare aligns physicians, hospitals, and payers through research which produces metrics related to improved patient outcomes and cost efficiencies. DC2 is committed to making a difference in the lives of patients, helping them find the right doctors and treatments.

**Employees: 12** 

Cook speaks: "As a leader, giving 100% to the business and its people, with passion and daily drive, is critical."

# DISMAS, Inc. dba TRIPLE THREAD APPAREL 109 17th Avenue (Nashville)

Website: www.triplethread-

apparel.com CEO: Bill Coleman **Background:** triple thread

Triple Thread creates custom

screen-print apparel while reconciling former offenders to society through job training and employment opportunities. Dismas House employs ex-offenders in apparel operations and cultivates them into speakers, team leaders, and social entrepreneurs.

Coleman speaks: "Successfully transitioning former offenders has a direct and significant impact on the economic prosperity of Middle Tennessee."

# FLO (THINKERY) 3 Cannery Row (Nashville)



# Website:

www.findyourflo.com **CEO:** Mark Montgomery Background: Flo provides strategies for the decision-makers in digital media and entertainment. Flo is committed to helping build, shape, and push forward the Nashville entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing thought leadership, challenging the status quo, and creating initiatives that feed this larger goal.

**Employees:** 7

Montgomery speaks: "You have to be at least half crazy and not care what people think or say about you, because if you are on to something big, most people won't recognize it early."

# IQUANTIFI 109 International Drive (Franklin)



Website: www.iguantifi.com CEO: Tom White

Background: iQuantifi creates software that automates and personalizes financial advice. Ouantifi targets those who do not have access to professional financial advice due to asset requirements imposed by financial advisor communities.

**Employees:** 4

White speaks: "You do not need to have a degree or even experience in a specific industry to start a company in that industry. What you need is a clear vision for the company and to identify the right people to be on your team."

# JVBO, INC/BITCHSTRAPS 172 2nd Avenue North (Nashville)



Website: www.Bitchstraps.com CEO: Jeff Bell Background: Bitchstraps, a family-owned company, makes