### LIFE'S ABUNDANCE WINS SPOT ON FORBES' BEST SMALL COMPANIES LIST

Wellness Brand Recognized as '2019 Small Giant' for Innovation in Delivering Health, Sustainability and Impactful Social Outreach

Jupiter, Florida. (May 23, 2019) — Life's Abundance announced that it has been named to <u>Forbes Small Giants: Best Small Companies list of 2019</u>. The Florida-based wellness brand is one of 25 privately held businesses that stand out for "valuing greatness over growth" by providing high-quality products and services, fulfilling employment opportunities and driving impactful social outreach.



Linda Logue, Arin Roos, Cris Jochum and Sasha Stephens, Life's Abundance Bo Burlingham, Author & Co-Founder Small Giants and Fred Allen, Leadership Editor at Forbes

"We are deeply honored to be a part of the Small Giants Community, an inspiring group of purposedriven business leaders," says Lester Thornhill, CEO of Life's Abundance, which makes products to improve the health of people, pets and the planet. "This award holds particular meaning to us because it celebrates our commitment to making an impact beyond our balance sheet, whether it's creating products for the well-being of you and your pets, selecting sustainable business practices, or contributing to charitable organizations."



Lester Thornhill, Life's Abundance President & CEO

Based on Life's Abundance's belief that making an impact through charitable work is integral to wellness, the company allocates a portion of its profits to planting trees in Africa through <u>Trees for the Future</u>, enriching communities in Dumas, Texas through planting projects, and rescuing animals through its nonprofit arm, <u>The Dr. Jane Foundation</u>. Certified as an <u>Evergreen</u> company by the Tugboat Institute for its vision of making a positive impact on the world, Life's Abundance is also working to become carbon neutral, and will soon invest in solar power for its headquarter offices. In 2012, it launched a successful employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) to empower full time staff and provide stability for the long-term, which the company defines as 100 years.

In 1999, Life's Abundance began producing premium healthy pet food, gaining a reputation as the brand that has never once been recalled. The company has since branched out to reach those pets' humans with skin care products, nutritional supplements and eco-friendly cleaners, as well as adding treats and supplements for companion animals.

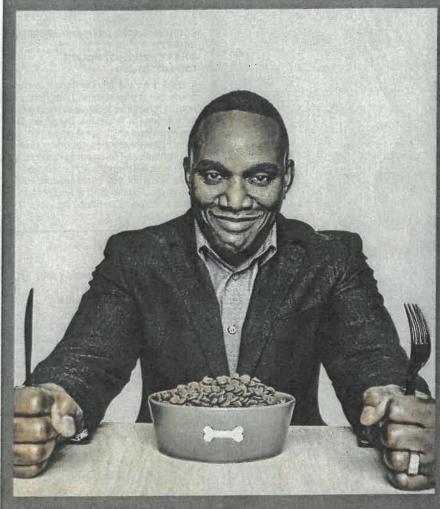
The company is headquartered in Jupiter, Florida with distribution centers in Waterbury (CT), McHenry (IL), Dumas (TX), Fullerton (CA) and Tualatin (OR).

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If you would like more information about this topic, call Linda Logue at 561-741-6308 or email <a href="mailtogue@lifesabundance.com">llogue@lifesabundance.com</a>.

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# GLANTS



### LIFE'S ABUNDANCE

DENNIS AND CAROL BERARDI \$38 MILLION 51

Life's Abundance has been making and selling healthy pet food since 1999, and it's revet had a product recalled, a moord that makes CEO Lester Thombill, a native Trinidedian, proud, it relies on customers to market its products, as in multilevel marketing, but with a crucial difference. There are no quotas, and no one is required to buy or sell anything. That not only means a lot of repeat customers but also lets the company keep its goods out of big-box stores and Amazon, which is a matter of principle. Thombill says, enabling Life's Abundance to manufacture in small batches and guarantee freshness and quality.

could have a blast without drinking. "We didn't judge," he says.

By this time, he had named the growing enterprise Rescue. In 2005, he moved his operations to San Diego, hoping to do graduate work at the University of California campus. He kept working on campaigns with a staff of nine and earned his master's in experimental psychology in 2008.

Rescue's first big break came in 2007,

when Jordan met Pam Ling at a conference. A medical professor at University of California, San Francisco, she studied tobacco-industry marketing strategies. "His stuff was really cool," she says. "He was tapping into feelings and environments in a way that was different from typical public health campaigns." She had landed a \$100,000 grant to work on a smoking-cessation drive for young adults and asked Jordan to collaborate with her.

## GREAT LAKES BREWING COMPANY

CLEVELAND
FOUNDERS: PAT AND DAN CONWAY
2018 REVENUE: \$45 MILLION
EMPLOYEES: 233

Last year at Great Lakes' annual off-site summit, its two founders told all the employees, "Everyone's a winner. So get in line to pick up your prize." The prize: a new employee stock ownership program. "What a moment it was," then-CEO Bill Boor said. "There were hugs and tears and high fives." Great Lakes was the first craft brewer in Ohio and is known for its environmental initiatives, recycling more than 70% of its waste.

### HARVEST GROUP

ROGERS, ARKANSAS FOUNDERS: ROSS CULLY (CEO), WILLIAM WAITSMAN AND DAN ARNSBERGER 2018 REVENUE: \$15 MILLION EMPLOYEES: 85

CEO Ross Cully worked for Procter & Gamble's Walmart team before he and two colleagues left to start their own business managing small brands' relationships with big retailers. "It's more fun to know the people," he says, and his emphasis on customer care is mirrored by in-house benefits. Employees get four weeks of paid vacation on starting, matching of charitable giving and profit sharing. "I hear from people, 'My life is different, the benefits, the opportunities for my family," Cully says.

### HENDERSON

HOUSTON

FOUNDER: DAN HENDERSON (CEO) 2018 REVENUE: \$45 MILLION EMPLOYEES: 175

Early on, some of his fellow oilmen found Dan Henderson pretty far out when he talked about running a "values-driven" company with a culture based on "integrity, truth and transparency," but his 13-year-old business has thrived. In 2017 it acquired a drilling company and became a fulf-fledged rig remanufacturer and service outfit. "We're changing the definition of what is a great service provider's customer relationship," says company president Jim Lank.

#### INTERWORKS

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
FOUNDER: BEHFAR JAHANSHAHI (CEO)
2018 REVENUE: \$57 MILLION
EMPLOYEES: 171

Last year this IT and data consultancy's revenue jumped 39%, but Behfar Jahanshahi keeps a close grip on growth. He gave up a large social media account that was too hard on his people and has let go of clients who were tough to deal with. He also has turned away many would-be investors since launching in 1996. "I want to be surrounded by people I can think of as friends," he says.