



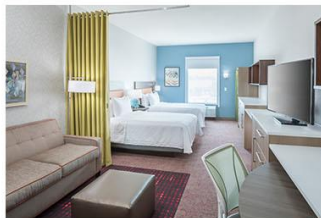
### HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON ORLANDO AIRPORT OPENS!

The new Home2 Suites by Hilton Orlando Airport celebrated its opening on March 19th. The property is located less than three miles from Orlando International Airport and within close proximity to world-famous attractions and theme parks.

The five-story, 128-suite hotel offers guests convenient access to Orlando International Airport, major corporations and the Orlando attractions corridor. A complimentary shuttle to and from Orlando International Airport is available to all guests. Aside from being less than 10 minutes from Walt Disney World, Sea World and other major attractions, the hotel is also within walking distance to local parks with running paths, shopping, dining, entertainment and a short drive from Lake Nona Medical Complex.

"We are excited to add another Home2 to the LBA Hospitality portfolio," says Beau Benton, President of LBA Hospitality. "As the seventh Home2 Suites by Hilton property under our management, this hotel is a natural fit to our growing hotel portfolio across the Southeast." The hotel features a streamlined design and stylish innovations, perfect for the sophisticated, yet cost-conscious traveler. Accommodations are spacious and flexible and offer guests a living area with full-sized sleeper sofa, 49" Smart TV, kitchen with full-size refrigerator/freezer, microwave, dishwasher, as well as customizable working wall. Additional amenities include free Wi-Fi in all suites, lobby, and business center along with an outdoor pool, fitness center and self-service laundry. The guests will enjoy complimentary breakfast, 625 square feet of meeting space and the hotel is pet friendly.

"With 47 million passengers coming through Orlando International Airport and a major expansion in the works, it's a great time to open a hotel in this ever-expanding market," says Farrah Adams, LBA Hospitality's COO. "This is the seventh Home2 Suites property managed by LBA Hospitality which has been involved with the brand from the very beginning. It is the perfect fit to our portfolio of properties across the Southeast."



# LBA C.A.R.E.S.

CARING ASSOCIATES READY AND EMPOWERED TO SERVE.

*LBA C.A.R.E.S. is how the company takes action respecting our deeply ingrained value that we give back to the communities that have welcomed us and nurtured our success. We believe community service is a responsibility and a privilege.*

## SPRING CLEANING

By Anita Estelle, Tuscaloosa Area Director of Sales

The staff at the Fairfield Inn Tuscaloosa (FTA) decided to do some spring cleaning for a great cause! The 2018-19 class of Leadership Tuscaloosa held a clothing drive for the Stillman Interview Closet which was in need of gently used business professional clothing for men and women. The FTA staff rallied together to gather some great items to help potential interviewers put their best foot forward as they pursue their career dreams!



*Pictured from left: Janay Hicks, Annie Gibson, Rebecca Hall, Ashley Fitzhugh, Shirley Nevells, Tambria King, ShiKaishia Edwards, and Shenique Wilson*

## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

By Dana J Good, Director of Sales  
Homewood Suites Cape Canaveral, FL (OCF)

The OCF team worked with the Ronald McDonald House making snack bags for the families staying at the houses. We assembled 100 bags that will be available in the lobby of the houses so parents can grab snacks for their day at the hospital. It was a great morning!



- FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LBA C.A.R.E.S.:
- Visit the LBA Hospitality website at [lbahospitality.com/lbacares](http://lbahospitality.com/lbacares)
  - Access the C.A.R.E.S. toolkit on Innovations

Send us an e-mail describing your property's C.A.R.E.S. related activities, with photos. Let us know all about it!

E-mail your story to Stephanie Butler at [stephanieb@lbaproperties.com](mailto:stephanieb@lbaproperties.com)

## HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY LENDS A HAND

By Lupe Alvarez, General Manager  
Hampton Inn Burlleson, TX (IBX)



The team at IBX joined several hotels from the Hotel Association of Tarrant County to volunteer at The Tarrant County Food Bank. We checked validation of the canned goods and other items and boxed chips to send to places where the Food Bank's big trucks can't deliver.

*Pictured from left: Jessica Mathis (Director of Sales), Julia Moye (Courtyard Ft. Worth Director of Sales) Brenda Herrera (Housekeeping Manager), and Lupe Alvarez (IBX General Manager)*

## CARING FOR OUR FRIENDS

By Ray Brown, Director of Sales  
Homewood Suites Montgomery, AL

In March, the team at Homewood Suites Montgomery purchased and delivered four large cases of cookies, chips and assorted snacks to the Montgomery Cancer Center (MCC). These snacks are offered to the patients who are undergoing treatment. Sometimes the treatments take a while and these snacks help the patients during this time. According to Nita Grizzard, Volunteer Coordinator and Patient Advocate, the donation was met with many thanks and acknowledgements. One Facebook post was from an old friend and classmate of mine from elementary school who was finishing up her chemo treatment at MCC. It touched me personally to know that even with everything she is going through, she still took the time to acknowledge our donation and let us know how much she appreciated it. It just goes to show that you never know who your C.A.R.E.S. projects may help.



*Pictured from left: Bernard McKenzie (Chief Maintenance Engineer), Tammy Addison (Registration Coordinator at MCC), Francine Molette (GM), Nita Grizzard (Volunteer Coordinator/Patient Advocate at MCC) and Ray Brown (DOS)*

# LBA C.A.R.E.S.

CARING ASSOCIATES READY & EMPOWERED TO SERVE

*Note from the editor: The Wiregrass United Way is a major beneficiary of donations from LBA and many of our corporate associates. We thought you would like to learn more about what happens to your dollars once the Wiregrass United Way gets them. In this section, you will learn more about the Wiregrass United Way and its partner agencies.*

## USING YOUR MONEY WISELY

By Taylor Wheeler, Dothan Area Manager  
Wiregrass United Way

When you donate to the Wiregrass United Way, you know you are making a difference. But do you know how your dollars get to where they are most needed?

The Wiregrass United Way recently wrapped up its annual funds distribution process, awarding yearly allocations to its 41 partnering agencies allowing them to continue providing valuable services to our neighbors in need. "This process allows United Way volunteers to visit all of our partnering agencies each year to ensure the dollars we raise are making the greatest possible impact in our communities," says Walter Hill, Wiregrass United Way CEO.

During funds distribution, volunteers from each of the 6 counties served by the WUW are assigned to one of four focus areas – Helping Youth Succeed, Meeting Basic Needs, Serving People with Special Needs, and Strengthening Families and Individuals. "Approximately 50 volunteers from across the counties we serve participate," says Hill. The volunteers tour facilities, meet with directors and board members, and review budgets at each agency. The volunteers take their roles very seriously, making sure WUW agencies are being good stewards of community donations by using them effectively and efficiently. "They hold our agencies accountable for the funds they receive," says Hill.

As a Wiregrass United Way donor, you can be sure that your dollars are used wisely. Thank you for entrusting us with your funds and supporting our mission to help the people of the Wiregrass care for one another.

*Pictured right: LBA Director of Community Engagement Stephanie Butler chaired the Meeting Basic Needs Distribution Committee.*



## THANK YOU, LBA!

By Stephanie Butler, Director of Community Engagement



LBA and our corporate associates had another outstanding Wiregrass United Way (WUW) campaign this year. During this year's WUW Annual Meeting, Katie Morris, LBA HR Generalist and WUW Loaned Executive, and I received a plaque in recognition of your generosity. In total, LBA contributed \$40,000 to the campaign and held our place as the 13th largest campaign in the Wiregrass region.

We look forward to another successful campaign this coming Fall, under the leadership of LBA President Beau Benton, who will serve at the Overall Campaign Chair for WUW.

*Pictured from left: Joseph Johnson – President of Friend Bank & WUW Overall Campaign Chair, Katie Morris, and Stephanie Butler*

## WATCH US GROW

### Property Openings

Home2 Suites Orlando, FL  
Delta Hotels by Marriott Ashland, KY (Opening June 2019)  
Courtyard Houston Heights, TX (Opening 2019)

### Renovations/Reopenings

Home2 Suites Fayetteville, NC  
TownePlace Suites Miami, FL

## GUEST EXPERIENCE

Courtyard Dothan, AL

*"Juana is terrific! On my second visit, she greeted me by name and welcomed me back. She even sent well-wishes to my husband who did not join me this time." Wow! Talk about royal treatment. What a wonderful hotel the Courtyard by Marriott is and Juana represents the hotel 100%." - Leigh*

# AWARDS

## MARRIOTT CONFERENCE AWARDS

By Dana Moreau, Regional Director of Operations

Our Marriott property leaders attended the Marriott GM Conference in April. The week was informative and included many great speakers and it was a great time for the team to connect and learn about their brand initiatives. Marriott leaders also participated in Serve 360 Community initiatives and had an amazing time giving back to our host city of Chicago. The following leaders and properties were recognized. We are so proud of their accomplishments.

**Silver Award Winners** Awarded to properties ending in the **Top 20% of Guest Service Scores:**

- ° Joseph Richard, GM – Springhill Suites Lafayette, LA
- ° Larry Tatum, GM – Courtyard Prattville, AL
- ° Pam Rueb, GM – Fairfield Inn & Suites Pasadena, TX

### Apple REIT – Team Builder/Talent Development Award:

Presented to a team member who exhibits strong leadership qualities and actively fosters a culture of shared success both on their team and within the hotel at large. This team member motivates others, leads by example and does an excellent job of developing others within their hotel:

- ° Brian Tarvin, GM – Courtyard Fort Worth/Stockyards, TX



## TWO-TIME CONNIE AWARD WINNER

By JJ Tabone, Regional Director of Operations



Please join me in congratulating General Manager Tony Stagni, Director of Sales Dana Good, and the entire Homewood Suites Cape Canaveral-Cocoa Beach team for receiving the 2018 Connie Pride Award of Excellence from Hilton. This is the second year in the row that the hotel is receiving this award and we are very proud of the team!

Tony and Dana exhibited excellence in leadership throughout the entire year as the hotel remained in the top 7% of the brand on Hilton's key metric, Total Quality Score, which measures the hotel on several key results. We are truly grateful for all that this team has done in 2018, both at the hotel and in the community.

*Pictured above from left: Tony Stagni and Dana Good*

## PROBLEM SOLVERS

By Chad Larson, General Manager  
Homewood Suites Chattanooga, TN

Homewood Suites Chattanooga

received a brand award for Q4 2018 for exceeding the brand expectations for Problem Resolution and for avoiding problems altogether.

The team was rewarded with a \$100 Visa gift card

which we used towards an extra special associate celebration where the staff enjoyed lunch from Newk's and sweet treats.



## GUEST EXPERIENCE

Hilton Garden Inn Auburn, AL

### A Note from Jody M. Elmore, Director of Sales:

On March 3rd, devastating tornadoes hit our area in Lee County, Alabama. Our hotel is in Auburn, less than five miles from the site of the tornado. The storm was devastating, with 23 individuals, including 3 children, losing their lives. We have employees and family members that live in and around the area, and thankfully they were all safe. In the aftermath of the storm, we housed groups from NBC News, including Lester Holt, The Weather Channel, Operation Blessing out of Virginia Beach, Mercy Chfs, FEMA, and many more. We also housed one of the families that lost everything, including four of their family members. During their month-long stay, they became family to us. They shared these kind comments about our staff and our hotel. I know we will all be lifelong friends with Brenda and her son Ricky. We will never forget them.

.....

*"My mom and I stayed at your hotel after we lost out home in the recent tornados. Jay, the General Manager, was amazing. He greeted us with a big, bright smile and a calm manner. He and his staff went above and beyond to accommodate us during our stay. Rhonda was a true jewel who provided additional support to my mother. Raven always greeted us with a smile. Everyone exceeded my expectations during our prolonged visit and made the stay feel a little more like home. Wesson, Sandra, and Jay in the lounge area always made sure our breakfast was fresh and hot. I appreciate the friendliness of the staff and how they embraced my mom during this devastating event. Some names I do not remember, but everyone was amazing." - Ricky*

# PROPERTY HAPPENINGS

## LOCAL HOTELS STILL SERVING AS A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

By Jannette Pippin, Daily News Staff (Jacksonville, NC)

Home away from home remains a hotel room for many Onslow County residents still waiting on repairs to their storm-damaged homes to be completed nearly seven months after Hurricane Florence.

As Stacy Drazkowski sat in the lobby of Home2 Suites by Hilton in Jacksonville, she got an email that drywall was done and she could start picking out colors for the walls that were torn out after significant water damage to her Hubert home. "It feels like things are getting somewhere; we're getting closer (to returning home)," she said as her 5-year-old daughter Ryleigh talked to the hotel's front desk attendant Molly Spray. Ryleigh clutched a stuffed doll with the image of her father, Marine Sgt. Dakota Drazkowski, who deployed a short time after the hurricane. When asked what she thought about living at the hotel, Ryleigh shrugged and motioned with her hands that it is OK. "I'm making new friends," she said. "We're staying here until our house is fixed." They are not alone.

On a recent Friday morning, more than one family displaced from their homes due to damage from Hurricane Florence, which hit Eastern North Carolina in September 2018, could be seen walking through the lobby as they grabbed breakfast or walked their dogs.

Jae Smith, Director of Sales for LBA Hospitality, said the residents displaced from their homes due to the storm have made up a large part of their occupancy. "We have 105 rooms and for the past six months we've been 95 percent occupied and we probably won't see a break until September," Smith said. "A vast majority have been displaced families or contractors here to help with restoration efforts because of the storm." Smith said the number of displaced families has gone down but it has been a "slow trickle."

While the families have been their guests, hotel staff has worked to make them feel at home and have hosted activities for the kids and events such as a Santa visit at Christmas, a gathering for Thanksgiving, and soon an Easter egg hunt.

"It has been tough because we have had to watch so many families that have been displaced, but on the flip side we've developed a lot of relationships with the families and children and essentially they have become our family," Smith said.

(The rest of this article, along with photos, can be viewed at: <https://www.jdnews.com/news/20190407/local-hotels-still-serving-as-home-away-from-home>)

## TRIPLETS

By Caroline Weaver, Guest Service Manager  
Home2 Suites Jacksonville, NC



This was during a shift change when our amazing trainer, Haley Cross, was working with our newest team member, Deborah Veenman. All of them showed up and just happened to be

wearing the same shirt - like triplets! Here at Home2 Jacksonville, we're always on the same wavelength!

*Pictured above from left: Deborah Veenman, Alyssa Rodney, and Haley Cross*

## HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY LEWIS!

By Alex Hendrix, Assistant General Manager  
Homewood Suites Huntsville, AL



On Saturday, March 16th, Homewood Suites Huntsville Village of Providence participated in the 42nd Annual Downtown Huntsville St. Patrick's Day parade. Employees were led by Homewood Suite's mascot, Lewis the Duck, as they marched the two mile route through downtown holding signs and passing out Quacktivity pages to young spectators. Every department was represented at the parade wearing Lucky Ducks Homewood Suites Village of Providence t-shirts specially designed by local printing company Green Pea Press. Employees gathered together at Campus 805 for food and festivities after the parade ended.

*Pictured from left: Tricia Gonterman (GM), April Jackson (Houseman), Brittany Stevens (Breakfast Host), Antwan Stevens (Brittany's husband), Lewis the Duck, Kay Hanks (DOS), Shana Fields (Executive Housekeeper), Alex Hendrix (AGM), Carlos Woods (Cleo's husband), Cleo Woods (Guest Services Associate)*



# PROPERTY HAPPENINGS

## HUGE COMEBACK IN PC

By Kevin Butler, Regional Director of Operations

Hampton Inn & Suites Panama City Beach Pier Park (IPC) earned an Outstanding rating on their Quality Assurance Audit that was completed in late March, with an overall score of 93.27%. This comes on the heels of recovering from the impact of Hurricane Michael and is a testament to the hard work and determination of the entire IPC Team.

**OUTSTANDING!**

## NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUNDTS ABOUT IT

By LaVonia Wynn, General Manager  
Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta, GA



"No ifs, ands, or bundts about it" the Hampton Inn & Suites Atlanta Perimeter Dunwoody Team kicked off Kipsu in a "suite" and stylish flair.

To make certain each front desk agent was suited for the occasion, all received a Kipsu Kick Off treat bag that included a mini bundt cake, bowtie and other fun accessories such as fedoras, tiaras and bracelets. The first Kipsu guest received a room upgrade to a suite, 5000 Hilton Honors points and Kipsu welcome bag. Each new Kipsu guest also received a treat bag. There is a month long enrollment challenge for the team. The winner with the most welcome messages will receive a gift card. The team is excited to have such an innovative system to engage with our guests. Feedback from the guests has been positive. They were pleasantly surprised how easy and convenient it is to use. We are excited about how Kipsu will help increase and maintain favorable SALT scores.



By Francine Molette, General Manager  
Homewood Suites Montgomery, AL

We had a great Kipsu Kickoff Celebration during morning huddle as we explained Kipsu to the entire team. We also did stretching and breathing exercises to loosen us up to get us prepared for our first official Kipsu Welcome. We placed helpful ice breaker reminders at each workstation, to help the team get used to telling guests about this amazing new feature. For each guest that agreed to sign up, we gave smarties candies to let them know that they made a Smart Choice in being able to stay connected with us 24/7. Going forward we will update our Kipsu board to show the leaders to keep the level of excitement going. We can't wait to see the positive impact on our SALT scores.

## MONTGOMERY AREA AMBASSADOR, RAY BROWN

By Ray Brown, Director of Sales  
Homewood Suites Montgomery, AL

At the recent Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce year end Ambassador Appreciation Reception, I was awarded Ambassador of the Quarter for Q4 of 2018. I was totally surprised and extremely proud to be there representing Homewood Suites and LBA Hospitality. It has been my honor to be a part of this amazing organization and represent our property and our company. As I stated in the Montgomery Business Journal, our membership in the Chamber has enabled me to network with other business leaders in the community and expand our customer base. The revenue we have generated through the Chamber and their member organizations has far outweighed our membership fee. I look forward to continuing my relationship with the Chamber and the Ambassador program through 2019.



*Pictured from left: Mia Mothershed, Ambassador Chairman and Ray Brown*

## GUEST EXPERIENCE

Homewood Suites Chattanooga, TN

*"Ms. Kim is a dream! Not only does she possess excellent interpersonal skills, but she went above and beyond to tend to my needs along with my family's needs. I will certainly be back to this location as long as Ms. Kim is front and center. With two bouncing toddlers and a curious dog, I felt right at home."*

- Desiree

# PROPERTY HAPPENINGS

## NATURALIZATION CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

By Charles Reed, General Manager  
Hilton Garden Inn Charleston, SC

On January 29th, Director of Sales Mamie Bush and I had the proud opportunity to attend the naturalization citizenship ceremony for Mrs. Aida “Lu” Dukes, one of our restaurant associates. On that day, Lu became one of the USA’s newest citizens. Lu immigrated to the United States from Columbia in 2005. She has been with our hotel since the opening in April of 2014. For her citizenship civics examination Lu scored 100%!

During our associate appreciation luncheon, our team took the opportunity to recognize Lu for her accomplishment. She was awarded her own copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution. Our team is very proud of Lu. Please join us in congratulating her on such a great accomplishment!



Pictured from left: Martin Luther Dukes, Jr. (Lu’s husband), Martin Luther Dukes, Sr. (Lu’s father-in-law) who served during WWII, Isabella Marie Dukes (Lu’s daughter), Lu Dukes, Charles Reed and Mamie Bush



Pictured from left: Larry Fort, Chris Rowell (GM), John Estabrook (F&B), Chrissy Holder (F&B Supervisor), Henry Knight, Jocquilla Rountree (GSM), Martin Bell, Tonya Morris, Jana Devoe-Biggins (DOS), Teresa Fisher, and Lonnie Peck.

## AL TOURISM DEPARTMENT SPRING WORKSHOP

By Ray Brown, Director of Sales  
Homewood Suites by Hilton Montgomery



Jody Elmore, DOS at Hilton Garden Inn Auburn, and Ray Brown, DOS Homewood Suites Montgomery, attended the Alabama Tourism Department’s Spring Workshop in April.

Entitled “How to Work With Alabama Tourism”, the workshop was aimed at the travel, hospitality,

and attractions industry to inform attendees on services offered by the department. The morning session was filled with information on Alabama’s travel and revenue numbers, how the department is funded and Skyping with the representatives who work in Great Britain and Germany promoting Alabama travel. The representative from China was also in attendance discussing the Chinese travel market. She said that Alabama is becoming one of the fastest growing destinations in their market with a 3-week average stay. After a meat-and-three lunch provided by the department, the afternoon session was a “speed dating” style one-on-one with each department head within the agency. The topics ranged from Publications & Photographs, Welcome Centers and Partner Relations, to Grants & Gift Shop, Media Relations, and Group Travel/Domestic Travel information. We spent 5 minutes at each table asking questions of each department head. All-in-all it was a great workshop with tons of important information.

Pictured from left: Jody Elmore and Ray Brown at the “How to Work With Alabama Tourism” workshop.

## MOON GAZING

By Dana J. Good, Director of Sales  
Homewood Suites Cape Canaveral, FL (OCF)

OCF hosted a neat event in our back parking lot. Mark Marquette from the American Space Museum in Titusville came out to host a Moon Gazing & Constellation event. He brought several of his telescopes out and talked to our guests about astronomy. We had about 70 of our guests come out between 7:00 and 9:00 pm to look at the moon and the stars and learn some really great info. We hope to make it a monthly event when the moon is in the right spot for viewing.

Pictured: American Space Museum’s Mark Marquette with a young guest



# CORPORATE CORNER

## A Note from Beau...



A major pillar of the LBA culture is celebrating the successes of our company, our hotels, and our individual associates. We were able to do this at our annual LBA General Managers and Directors of Sales conference at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Resort. It was a great week to spend with our teams learning, relaxing and celebrating. Congratulations to all of our award winners! I look forward to another successful year and continuing to celebrate your success.

Below are a few photos captured at this year's conference.

**ENJOY!**



At the Hunter Investment Conference earlier this year, LBA President Beau Benton was interviewed by Dan Kubiak of Hotel News Now. You can find the article, titled "Benton on LBA Hospitality's highlights, labor strategy", online at HotelNewsNow.com.

<http://www.hotelnewsnow.com/Articles/294727/Benton-on-LBA-Hospitalitys-highlights-labor-strategy>

## GUEST EXPERIENCES

### TownePlace Suites Panama City, FL

*"It gives me great pleasure to address this appreciation letter to the entire team. It is so refreshing to have dedicated, hardworking, and committed staff members like yourselves while my spouse and I are enduring difficult times with the recovery of our home and the recent loss of a family member. You all provide such exemplary customer service, even when some of you may have also been affected with the same circumstances.*

*Since being displaced due to the hurricane damage in January, your services, gestures and kindness have won our hearts. We have had the opportunity to meet and talk with staff members of all shifts and each of you has made us feel welcome and at home. Some of you have gotten to know us personally, yet have maintained high professionalism. This is something you don't see at many hospitality establishments.*

*The success of your team surely shows every day in work ethic, exceptional customer service, and impressive hospitality. We are thankful to have been able to meet such a fine team as yours and wanted to make sure that you were aware of how remarkable they are." – Michael*

### Hampton Inn & Suites Dothan, AL

*"Adrienne is the most outstanding Director of Sales I've ever met. She is very professional, goes out of her way to make you feel special, and is a great listener. I've stayed over 850 nights at Hilton hotels, and she is the best I've ever worked with." – Ron*

### Residence Inn Dania Beach, FL

*"This hotel is an absolute gem and it is made so because of the people that work there. The room was amazing, the location perfect, and the breakfast was great. Nysa, Meagan, and others at the front desk bent over backwards to help accommodate my family, and helped to get us an early check in, as my wife was pregnant and we were also traveling with our 5 year old. Linda, one of the cooks who kept the breakfast area stocked with fresh food and clean plates, was very kind and wonderful to talk to. They truly have an outstanding crew here. Nysa went out of her way to ensure my wife had a room close to the elevator to limit her having to walk. I want to thank all of you there at the Residence Inn for making our stay so great. God bless you guys." – USMC 2007*



# CORPORATE CORNER

## PROMOTIONS

We want you to grow with LBA, have a long and successful career, and fulfill all of your professional goals. Join so many who started their journeys in positions that many of you currently hold:

### CORPORATE/REGIONAL

Kimberly St. John, Bench General Manager  
- hired as Assistant General Manager at Hilton Garden Inn Charleston, SC

### COURTYARD HATTIESBURG, MS

Merrily Strickland, General Manager  
- hired as Director of Sales at Courtyard and Residence Inn Hattiesburg, MS

Rebecca Odum, Assistant General Manager  
- hired as Guest Service Representative

Danielle Gacharna, Director of Sales  
- hired as Sales Coordinator

### COURTYARD PANAMA CITY, FL

Candice Worlds, Assistant General Manager  
- hired as Guest Service Representative at TownePlace Suites Panama City, FL

### FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES JACKSONVILLE, NC

Frankie Cowart, Guest Service Manager  
- hired as Front Desk Clerk

### HILTON GARDEN INN CHARLESTON, SC

Cornell Gathers, Restaurant Supervisor  
- hired as Line Cook

Ashley Green, Room Inspector  
- hired as Guest Service Representative

Janelle Greene, Administrative Assistant  
- hired as Guest Service Representative at Home2 Suites Charleston, SC

### HILTON GARDEN INN TALLAHASSEE, FL

Koree Torres, Sales & Catering Coordinator  
- hired as Guest Service Representative

### HILTON GARDEN INN VICTORIA, TX

Chris Haldaman, Food & Beverage Manager  
- hired as Cook

Claire Pagel, Director of Sales  
- hired as Sales Coordinator

### HOME2 SUITES CHARLESTON, SC

Shonda Brown, Guest Services Manager  
- hired as Guest Service Representative

Carrie Brown, Housekeeping Manager  
- hired as Guest Service Representative

Stephanie Givens, Housekeeping Supervisor  
- hired as a Room Attendant

*continued to top of page...*

### RESIDENCE INN HATTIESBURG, MS

Fred Spence, General Manager  
- hired as Bistro Server at Courtyard Hattiesburg, MS

Etheldrick Dantzler, Assistant General Manager  
- hired as Executive Housekeeper

Talicia Dolison, Housekeeping Manager  
- hired as Room Attendant

### TOWNEPLACE SUITES PANAMA CITY, FL

Tera Daniels, Executive Housekeeper  
- hired as a Room Attendant



## MEET JJ TABONE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

I was born and raised in Eden, NY, a small farming town outside of Buffalo, NY. After graduating high school from Eden High (Go Raiders!), I moved to Tampa, FL to attend the University of South Florida. While there, I began working as a breakfast associate at the Residence Inn-Tampa North with McKibbon Hospitality and fell in love with the hotel industry. Shortly after graduating, I was accepted into McKibbon's Manager in Training program and throughout my ten years with McKibbon, I was given several different opportunities for career advancement. Since then, I have enjoyed several opportunities for career growth and achievement along the way, including winning the Opening General Manager of the Year Award for Courtyard by Marriott while in Mississippi.

These opportunities have taken my family and I from coast to coast. I have learned a lot and made A LOT of mistakes; I am eternally thankful for the mentors I have had and the opportunities I have been given. My family and I are happy to now be settled down in Orlando with LBA. We always joked that our daughter had lived in four states before she turned four; we're happy to be changing that trend and have enjoyed growing roots in Orlando.

None of my success would be possible without my wife, Kara, who takes excellent care of our two children (Ann - 4, James - 2) and is always up for an adventure. You can find us at Disney on Saturday (usually in matching t-shirts), and at church on Sunday morning; quickly followed by being in front of the TV for the New England Patriots.

My favorite quote, and what I try to live by are the following words from a famous benediction, "Go out into the world in peace. Have courage! Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

# LBA INN CROWD

LBA INN CROWD IS THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF LARRY BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, INC.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Larry Blumberg- Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Barry Kraselsky- Past President

Beau Benton- President

Farrah Adams- Chief Operating Officer

Sharon Powel- Vice President, Administration

Terrell Hodnett- Vice President, Systems and Reporting

Tom Agar- Vice President, Operations

Bill Davis- Senior Vice President, Commercial Development

J. Stephen Smith- Chief Financial Officer, Vice President of Accounting

David Frencik- Vice President, Revenue Management

Judy Cluck- Vice President of Sales & Marketing

### About LBA Hospitality:

Established in 1973, LBA Hospitality is one of the leading hotel management, development and consulting companies in the US. With an extensive portfolio of hotels located in the Southeast and Southwest, the Company is a recognized leader developing and operating the most respected brands under franchise licenses of Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide, Hyatt Corporation and InterContinental Hotel Group. For more than four decades, LBA Hospitality has continued to set a higher standard in hotel development, management and guest satisfaction, resulting in sustained, profitable growth for owners. For more information, visit [www.lbahospitality.com](http://www.lbahospitality.com).

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the LBA Inn Crowd.

Please e-mail proposed stories and photos for our next edition to Stephanie Butler at [stephanieb@lbaproperties.com](mailto:stephanieb@lbaproperties.com).

*Stephanie Butler, Editor*

*April Rockwell, Designer*



**LBA** HOSPITALITY

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