

BENTWOOD FURNITURE OF GRANTS PASS, OREGON JOINS UPSTREAM 21 FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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Upstream 21 Corporation, a holding company based in Portland, Oregon, is pleased to announce that Bentwood Furniture, of Grants Pass, Oregon, is the newest addition to the Upstream 21 family of companies.

When Gary and Randy White, brothers and co-founders of Bentwood Furniture, Inc., decided it was time to transition their 30-year old hardwood furniture manufacturing company, they were concerned for their employees and their community. Like many small companies and their founders, Bentwood Furniture faced the wrenching decision of whether and how they could continue the successful legacy they had built or whether they would have to bring it all to an end. When Gary White called Bryan Redd, CEO of Upstream 21, and posed that question, they both immediately concluded they should meet and explore whether Upstream 21 could offer a solution to Gary and Randy's dilemma. A week later, they met at Bentwood Furniture's manufacturing headquarters in Grants Pass, OR.

“When I met with Gary and Randy, toured their factory and learned more about their products, their operations, and their employees, it was clear that Bentwood Furniture would be a fine addition to the Upstream 21 family,” said Mr. Redd. “Gary, Randy and their employees have built a company that produces sustainable, high-quality wood furniture that is an important part of the local and regional economy, and they possess the manufacturing knowledge and skills that are critical to the restoration and strengthening of our economy.” According to Mr. Redd, “Upstream 21 will work with the Bentwood Furniture team to continue its legacy and enhance its performance to serve the best interests of its employees, its community and the environment.”

From co-founder and owner Gary White: “We are very pleased that Bentwood Furniture and all of our loyal employees have been added to the Upstream 21 family. Randy and I are looking forward to doing what we do best—designing and manufacturing high quality furniture. This new partnership allows us to do just that.”

About Bentwood Furniture

Bentwood Furniture, www.bentwoodfurn.com, designs and manufactures distinctive solid hardwood furniture with the highest standards of craftsmanship and quality. 100% of its products are made by its skilled employees in Grants Pass, OR, where the company has been operating for over 30 years. As part of the Upstream 21 family, Bentwood Furniture will continue to utilize sustainably grown and harvested wood and will increase its focus on incorporating more local and regional native woods and offering certified wood products to its customers. Through its continuous improvement efforts and its constant focus on adding value to its products and its customers, Bentwood Furniture is

steadfast in its commitment to helping build a more sustainable future that benefits the common good.

About Upstream 21

Upstream 21 Corporation has been created to put investors' capital to work in local communities by purchasing small, successful companies whose products and services are part of a shared vision for a sustainable future. A founding principle of the company is that corporations should not be required to maximize wealth for shareholders at the expense of employees, the community and the environment. The company has even written its corporate charter and governance structure to focus on the multiple constituents that make companies thrive—employees, the environment, customers, suppliers, communities and shareholders. Upstream 21 is positioned to be a catalyst for advancing local economies that build, rather than erode, natural, social and economic capital in communities.

Based in Portland, OR, the company was formed in 2004 by Portfolio 21 Investments, www.portfolio21.com, and Bryan Gooch Redd. Portfolio 21 Investments' President, Leslie Christian, and its Chairman, Carsten Henningsen, serve on the Board of Upstream 21 along with Bryan Redd. The company is building a family of businesses (currently there are three, with more to come) by acquiring them and operating them as wholly owned subsidiaries. These companies are diverse in the types of products and services they offer, but all share principles and business practices designed to improve their performance as companies and as members of their communities.

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