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Washington D.C.
Sept. 25-27
40th Anniversary

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A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO FURNITURE TODAY, AUGUST 14, 2017

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PART OF OBELISK HOME'S DNA BY THOMAS LESTER

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The culture surrounding Obelisk Home and its sister companies is something that owners Nathan Taylor and J. Kent Martin try to bring into their community at large.

The duo, who also founded BlueBridge Sourcing Partners (which provides product design and sourcing for national retailers) and JKM Home and also own and operate the Inspired Commerce Building here, foster a family-like environment in their workspace, complete with a close-knit workforce and a couple of office dogs. They also give back to their community often. For those efforts and their impact in the community, Obelisk Home will be recognized as one of Progressive Business Media's Impact Award winners during the NEXT Conference, held Sept. 25-27 at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. "A sense of family is an integral part of employment at Taylor-Martin Group. From the dogs in the office every day to family dinners and activities, everyone in the company is encouraged to participate in the growth of the organization," Martin said. "We believe that environment promotes creativity and well-being so we not only strive to provide a nice place to work but also help employees decorate and furnish their own homes."

Martin and Taylor are civic and social-minded and enjoy giving back and helping others by hosting events, participating in a variety of charities by offering time and talents for animal, children and civil rights causes. They support a broad range of local organizations including Ronald McDonald Houses of the Ozarks, Springfield Black Tie, The GLO Center, Habitat for Humanity, The Humane Society, Developmental Center of the Ozarks, Cox Health Foundation, The Kitchen and others. The Obelisk Home team supports nearby Missouri State University and other downtown Springfield businesses.

Giving back is just part of the Obelisk Home story – the retailer is also quite good at selling home furnishings and was recognized earlier this year as one of Home Accents Today's 2017 Retail Stars. Key vendors include Four Hands, Jonathan Charles and Stanley Furniture in accent furniture; CR Laine, Lee Industries and Lillian August in upholstery; Asia Minor, Surya and Loloi in area rugs; Phillips Collection, Noir and Global Views in decorative accessories; Visual Comfort and Arteriors in lighting and Socher Marin and Leftbank Art in wall art. Additionally, JKM Home, Martin's newly launched line of noteworthy accents and stand-alone statement pieces that showcase his own personal aesthetic can be seen throughout the store.

All of these products can be seen throughout the 38,000-sq.-ft. Inspired Commerce Building, which is a converted warehouse space that had fallen into disrepair. Today, that same facility is a well-designed, hip and high-end building that Martin and Taylor say promotes one very inspired, authentic and envious company culture. The completely renovated industrial structure houses the Obelisk Home retail store and serves as a vibrant touchstone for the team's favorite curated products, of-the-moment lifestyle brand names and a rotation of design treasures.

The space has helped Obelisk Home become a destination of sorts for home enthusiasts and designers in and around Springfield.

"We often host a voracious schedule of events related to the arts and encourage artists, design students, interns and local craftsmen to come by anytime," Taylor said. "Every aspect of home furnishings and design converges here."

Obelisk Home owners J. Kent Martin, standing, and Nathan Taylor say giving back to the Springfield, Mo. Community is an important part of the retailer's DNA.

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CONFERENCE 2017

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This is more than just a conference: This is an idea share, a meeting of some of the most forward-thinkers leaders, up-and-comers and early adopters who will be shaping the future of home furnishings. This is a forum which will encourage and explore fresh ideas. And though the future is impossible to predict, the NEXT Conference will provide a foundation to help attendees prepare for it, understand it and lead through it.

2017 INNOVATOR AWARD

Progressive Business Media is proud to launch the Impact Awards to honor individuals and companies who have truly impacted the lives of others. The Innovator Award recognizes retailers in the home furnishings industry who have not only set new standards for their business, but also make a significant impact in their local community.

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. Their first priority is to provide a "home away from home" for families when their seriously-ill or injured child is in a hospital far from home. Since 1988 the Ronald McDonald House® of the Ozarks has embraced more than 10,000 families during a time of unspeakable hardship. [www.rmhc.org]

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