



Marcie Heffley 1



Leigh Ghesquiere 2



Lauren Coleman 3



Mike Kanarios 4



Stephanie Castro 5

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

GCG Marketing has promoted **Marcie Heffley** 1 to senior account executive and **Leigh Ghesquiere** 2 and **Lauren Coleman** 3 to senior art director.

Heffley will continue her account service work, including maintaining key relationships ensuring that client needs are met, in addition to leading teams of account executives and coordinators. Ghesquiere and Coleman will oversee art direction for several clients and continue creating engaging and effective visuals.

BANKING & FINANCE

GM Financial has added several members to its executive team. **Mike Kanarios** 4 has been named chief strategy officer; **Stephanie Castro** 5 was named chief privacy officer; **Ryan Bachman** 6 is chief information security officer; **Will Stacy**

7 is the new chief marketing officer, and **Brian Fallon** 8 was named chief commercial officer.

EDUCATION

Tasha Ginn has been named principal of **Fort Worth Cristo Rey High School**. Ginn previously was head of schools for KIPP Charter Schools in Dallas and began her career as a Teach for America corps member. She is working toward a doctorate in educational leadership at Texas Christian University.

NONPROFITS

The partnership of the **DRC** and **Paulos Foundation** took honors Nov. 17 in A Night of Light, the CNM Connect annual awards program recognizing excellence in the North Texas nonprofit sector.

The partnership won Nonprofit Partner of the Year for redeveloping the Palm



Ryan Bachman 6



Will Stacy 7



Brian Fallon 8

Tree Apartments, a housing community for people once homeless, in cooperation with Fort Worth Housing Solutions.

It is the second award for the project given this year to the partnership of the DRC, the Paulos Foundation and **Fort Worth Housing Solutions**.

Fort Worth Housing Solutions and project partners also won an Award of Excellence from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials

recognizing the Palm Tree Apartments as a project that produces affordable housing through innovation or public/private partnerships.

The 24-unit Palm Tree Apartments, built in 1955, today provides permanent supportive housing for people who were formerly homeless, 80 percent of whom had lived unsheltered in the surrounding Six Points Urban Village.

The Paulos Foundation bought the complex in late 2015 and renovated it. It opened to residents in May

2016.

DRC Executive Director **Bruce Frankel** and Paulos Foundation President **Flora Brewer** accepted the award on behalf of project partners. Nonprofit Partner of the Year was one of five awards presented in A Night of Light at the **George W. Bush Presidential Center** in Dallas by CNM Connect, formerly The Center for Nonprofit Management.

Send newsmakers to Robert Francis at rfrancis@bizpress.net.

VARIDESK founders receive entrepreneur award

The co-founders of Coppell-based **VARIDESK** have been recognized as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year in the emerging category.

CEO **Jason McCann** and Chairman **Dan Flaherty**, co-founders of VARIDESK, received the award, which honors entrepreneurs at companies between two and five years old who show excellence in innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their



businesses and communities. Winners were announced Nov. 18 at the EY Strategic Growth Forum in Palm Springs, California.

Having won the Emerging Consumer Products category for the Southwest region in June, VARIDESK's founders were again recognized for both their

leadership and the changes they have brought to the office furniture industry.

"It is an honor to be recognized and celebrated among some of the best and most innovative companies in the country," said McCann. "It is amazing to think that this journey started just five years ago because Dan had a pain in his back. With VARIDESK we have gone from back pains to growing pains and are now transforming the global

office furniture industry. The EY Entrepreneur of the Year award is one of the greatest honors Dan and I have ever received."

The EY Entrepreneur of The Year program is in its 31st year and recognizes business leaders in more than 145 cities and 60 countries throughout the world. McCann and Flaherty were selected by an independent judging panel of fellow entrepreneurs and leading figures from business, finance and academics.