Chamber Names Winners of the 2018 Small Business of the Year Awards

Tampa, Fla. – The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2018 Small Business of the Year Awards at a ceremony on Thursday, September 13 at the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts. More than 600 attendees celebrated the accomplishments of Tampa Bay’s small business community and toasted the evening’s big winners.

This year’s event was presented by Adcock Financial Group and Warren Averett and represents the 38th year the Chamber has recognized this key segment of the region’s economy. Small business awards were presented in three categories based on the number of employees and a fourth business category honoring a startup company. Companies are evaluated on financial success, community involvement and ethical business practices. An award was also presented to the Outstanding Small Business Leader of the Year.

The 2018 Small Business of the Year Award winners are:

**Outstanding Leader: Brian Butler, Vistra Communications**
Brian Butler is the president and CEO of Vistra, an integrated marketing, communications and consulting agency. A retired Army Officer, Brian has significant leadership and communications expertise. He commanded troops in combat and served as spokesperson for an Army Secretary, on the communications team for a Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and on the Homeland Security Council in the White House. With his years of leadership experience and now as a small business owner for 11 years, Brian helps others develop strategies to achieve their dreams.

**Startup: Tampa Laundry Company, LLC**
Tampa Laundry Company is a full-service laundry company open 24 hours/day. They offer self-service laundry machines, wash dry fold, dry cleaning, residential pick-up and delivery services, and commercial laundry and linen rental. As a 100% minority owned business, they are committed to hiring minorities as well as giving employees opportunities to advance within the growing company.

**5–20 Employees: My Paper Pusher LLC**
My Paper Pusher relieves the burden of bookkeeping by assembling a team of talented accounting professionals to provide affordable access to the expertise that leaders require to run successful, growing organizations. They create and follow step-by-step procedures customized for each client to ensure accuracy and that bookkeeping never skips a beat if someone gets sick or goes on vacation.

**21–50 Employees: Rivero, Gordimer & Co., P.A.**
Rivero, Gordimer & Company is a full-service CPA firm that offers accounting services, audit and assurance, valuation and advisory, and tax services. Their highly qualified professionals establish long-term, year-round business relationships with their clients, which allows them to anticipate client needs by perceiving potential problems before they occur and offering workable solutions.

**51–250 Employees: Seal Swim School**
Seal Swim School operates a year-round learn to swim program that focuses on water safety, early and continuous swim lessons, and a whole lot of fun. They currently teach over five-thousand lessons per week, emphasizing responsible swimming for the entire family. Seal Swim School’s goal is to produce happy, skilled, and safer swimmers while building self-esteem and creating a love for the water.

For more information on the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, please visit [www.tampachamber.com](http://www.tampachamber.com).

###