



**For Immediate Release**

***Harry & David Hires Financial Industry Veteran Michael Schwindle  
As Chief Financial Officer***

*Following the hiring of Craig Johnson as CEO, Harry & David continues transition to permanent leadership*

**MEDFORD, OREGON** (December 19, 2011) Harry & David announced it has hired Michael Schwindle as the gifting authority and retailer's new CFO. In a personal letter addressed to employees, CEO Craig Johnson confirmed that Mr. Schwindle will join the organization on Wednesday, December 28. "Michael will report directly to me and lead all finance and accounting functions. He will help us define and develop our business vision and future strategies; ensuring that Harry & David has a solid financial foundation to drive future operations and growth," said Mr. Johnson in the employee letter. Mr. Schwindle succeeds Paul Kosturos from Alvarez & Marsal, who was serving as interim CFO, and will work with Mr. Schwindle through a transition period.

"My family and I look forward to relocating back to the Medford area and I am thrilled to be joining the talented Harry & David team," said Mr. Schwindle. "I am excited to work alongside Craig to implement Harry & David's long term profitable growth strategies."

Mr. Schwindle has over 20 years of experience in finance and strategic management. His background includes 10+ years of senior executive leadership experience, delivering results through profit improvement in growth environments, and ten years of operational experience (store operations, call centers, inventory planning, and supply chain) with an emphasis in retail and ecommerce.

Before joining Harry & David, Mr. Schwindle was the CFO for Empire Today, located in Northlake, Illinois, the nation's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest flooring installer. Prior to Empire Today, Michael was the CFO of Musician's Friend, located in Medford, Oregon, where he was responsible for a team of 55 employees, covering finance and accounting, inventory management, acquisition integration and compliance functions.

Additionally, Mr. Schwindle has held several senior-level financial leadership roles at companies such as The Home Depot, Limited Brands and Longaberger Company. He holds an M.B.A. in International Business and a B.A. in Business from Wright State University, located in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Johnson said, "I am confident that Michael will be instrumental to our success and will provide great leadership as we work to implement Harry & David's profitable, multi-channel growth objectives and maintain our best-in-class products, customer service and best guarantee in the business."

### **About Harry & David**

With a 75-year reputation for genuine farm-to-table freshness and unsurpassed artisanal quality, Harry & David is legendary for exclusive gifts such as the Fruit-of-the-Month Club® collection, featuring top-quality fruit, pampered on the tree, picked at its peak; Royal Riviera® Pears, prized for their lush juiciness, melting texture and exquisite flavor, many of which are grown in Harry & David's Rogue Valley, Oregon pear orchards which are at the heart of the company's success; Oregold® Peaches, the biggest, juiciest, sweetest-tasting peaches you're likely to taste; and Moose Munch® gourmet snacks, most of which are made exclusively in our own confectionery, in flavors for everyone - some with nuts, some sweet, and some savory. Gifts from Harry & David, and its brands Cushman's and Wolferman's, are designed for festive occasions, entertaining and self enjoyment throughout the year. Through its stores, catalogs and website, Harry & David offers an affordable "best-of-class" experience as part of everyday life. Happiness Delivered! Harry & David is a dba of Harry and David. [www.harryanddavid.com](http://www.harryanddavid.com)

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