

WINMARK CORP  
Form 10-K  
March 08, 2016  
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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

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**FORM 10-K**

(Mark one)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015, or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from        to

Commission File Number: 000-22012

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**WINMARK CORPORATION**

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(exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Minnesota**  
(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

**41-1622691**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**605 Highway 169 North, Suite 400, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: **(763) 520-8500**

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12 (b) of the Act:

| <b>Title of Each Class</b>           | <b>Name of Each Exchange On Which Registered</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Common Stock, no par value per share | NASDAQ Global Market                             |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days: Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K (§229.405 of this chapter) is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of the registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer, and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act:

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer   
Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant, computed by reference to the price at which the common equity was last sold, or the average bid and asked price of such common equity, as of the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter was \$178,959,694.

Shares of no par value Common Stock outstanding as of March 4, 2016: 4,108,930 shares.

### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive Proxy Statement for the Registrant's Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 27, 2016 have been incorporated by reference into **Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14** of Part III of this report.

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**PART I**

**ITEM 1: BUSINESS**

**Background**

We are a franchisor of five value-oriented retail store concepts that buy, sell and trade gently used merchandise. Each of our retail store brands emphasizes consumer value by offering high-quality used merchandise at substantial savings from the price of new merchandise and by purchasing customers' used goods that have been outgrown or are no longer used. Our concepts also offer a limited amount of new merchandise to customers. As of December 26, 2015, we had 1,150 franchised stores across the United States and Canada.

We operate a middle-market equipment leasing business through our wholly owned subsidiary, Winmark Capital Corporation. Our middle-market leasing business serves large and medium-sized businesses and focuses on technology-based assets which typically cost more than \$250,000. The businesses we target generally have annual revenue of between \$30 million and several billion dollars. We generate middle-market equipment leases primarily through business alliances, equipment vendors and directly from customers.

Additionally, we operate a small-ticket financing business through our wholly owned subsidiary, Wirth Business Credit, Inc. Our small-ticket financing business serves small businesses and focuses on assets which generally have a cost of \$5,000 to \$100,000.

Our significant assets are located within the United States, and we generate all revenues from United States operations other than franchising revenues from Canadian operations of approximately \$2.9 million, \$2.9 million and \$2.7 million for 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. For additional financial information, please see Item 6 Selected Financial Data and Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplementary Data. We were incorporated in Minnesota in 1988.

**Franchise Operations**

Our retail brands with their fiscal year 2015 system-wide sales, defined as estimated revenues generated by all franchise owned locations, are summarized as follows:

*Plato's Closet® - \$432 million.*

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We began franchising the Plato's Closet brand in 1999. Plato's Closet stores buy and sell used clothing and accessories geared toward the teenage and young adult market. Customers have the opportunity to sell their used items to Plato's Closet stores and to purchase quality used clothing and accessories at prices lower than new merchandise.

### ***Once Upon A Child® - \$298 million.***

We began franchising the Once Upon A Child brand in 1993. Once Upon A Child stores buy and sell used and, to a lesser extent, new children's clothing, toys, furniture, equipment and accessories. This brand primarily targets parents of children ages infant to 12 years. These customers have the opportunity to sell their used children's items to a Once Upon A Child store when outgrown and to purchase quality used children's clothing, toys, furniture and equipment at prices lower than new merchandise.

### ***Play It Again Sports® - \$225 million.***

We began franchising the Play It Again Sports brand in 1988. Play It Again Sports stores buy, sell, trade and consign used and new sporting goods, equipment and accessories for a variety of athletic activities including team sports (baseball/softball, hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer), fitness, ski/snowboard and golf among others. The stores offer a flexible mix of merchandise that is adjusted to adapt to seasonal and regional differences.

Table of Contents**Music Go Round® - \$28 million.**

We began franchising the Music Go Round brand in 1994. Music Go Round stores buy, sell, trade and consign used and, to a lesser extent, new musical instruments, speakers, amplifiers, music-related electronics and related accessories.

**Style Encore® - \$19 million.**

In January 2013, we announced the development of an additional retail concept focused on buying and selling used women's apparel, shoes and accessories, branded as Style Encore. Customers have the opportunity to sell their used items to Style Encore stores and to purchase quality used clothing, shoes and accessories at prices lower than new merchandise. We began awarding franchises in May 2013. As of December 26, 2015, there were 38 franchises in operation under the brand, with an additional 29 franchises awarded but not yet open.

The following table presents the royalties and franchise fees contributed by our franchised retail brands for each of the past three years and the corresponding percentage of consolidated revenues for each such year:

|                      | Total Royalties and Franchise Fees<br>(in millions) |         |         | % of Consolidated Revenue |       |       |
|----------------------|---|---------|---------|---------------------------|-------|-------|
|                      | 2013  | 2014    | 2015    | 2013                      | 2014  | 2015  |
| Plato's Closet       | \$ 16.9   | \$ 18.0 | \$ 19.1 | 30.3%                     | 29.4% | 27.5% |
| Once Upon A Child    | 10.8  | 12.1    | 13.0    | 19.3                      | 19.7  | 18.7  |
| Play It Again Sports | 9.4   | 9.4     | 9.5     | 16.9                      | 15.4  | 13.6  |
| Style Encore         | 0.0   | 0.6     | 1.2     |                           | 1.0   | 1.8   |
| Music Go Round       | 0.7   | 0.9     | 0.9     | 1.3                       | 1.4   | 1.3   |
|                      | \$ 37.8   | \$ 41.0 | \$ 43.7 | 67.8%                     | 66.9% | 62.9% |

The following table presents a summary of our retail brands franchising activity for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015:

|                                | TOTAL<br>12/27/14 | OPENED    | CLOSED      | TOTAL<br>12/26/15 | AVAILABLE<br>FOR<br>RENEWAL | COMPLETED<br>RENEWALS | % RENEWED   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| <b>Plato's Closet</b>          |                   |           |             |                   |                             |                       |             |
| Franchises - US and Canada     | 426               | 31        | (1)         | 456               | 28                          | 28                    | 100%        |
| <b>Once Upon A Child</b>       |                   |           |             |                   |                             |                       |             |
| Franchises - US and Canada     | 308               | 20        | (2)         | 326               | 23                          | 23                    | 100%        |
| <b>Play It Again Sports</b>    |                   |           |             |                   |                             |                       |             |
| Franchises - US and Canada     | 301               | 7         | (11)        | 297               | 23                          | 23                    | 100%        |
| <b>Style Encore</b>            |                   |           |             |                   |                             |                       |             |
| Franchises - US                | 24                | 14        | (0)         | 38                |                             |                       | N/A         |
| <b>Music Go Round</b>          |                   |           |             |                   |                             |                       |             |
| Franchises - US                | 33                | 1         | (1)         | 33                | 4                           | 4                     | 100%        |
| <b>Total Franchised Stores</b> | <b>1,092</b>      | <b>73</b> | <b>(15)</b> | <b>1,150</b>      | <b>78</b>                   | <b>78</b>             | <b>100%</b> |





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***Retail Brands Franchising Overview***

We use franchising as a business method of distributing goods and services through our retail brands to consumers. We, as franchisor, own a retail business brand, represented by a service mark or similar right, and an operating system for the franchised business. We then enter into franchise agreements with franchisees and grant the franchisee the right to use our business brand, service marks and operating system to manage a retail business. Franchisees are required to operate their retail businesses according to the systems, specifications, standards and formats we develop for the business brand. We train the franchisees how to operate the franchised business. We also provide continuing support and service to our franchisees.

We have developed value-oriented retail brands based on a mix of used and, to a lesser extent, new merchandise. We franchise rights to franchisees who open franchised locations under such brands. The key elements of our franchise strategy include:

- franchising the rights to operate retail stores offering value-oriented merchandise;
- attracting new, qualified franchisees; and
- providing initial and continuing support to franchisees.

*Offering Value-Oriented Merchandise*

Our retail brands provide value to consumers by purchasing and reselling used merchandise that consumers have outgrown or no longer use at substantial savings from the price of new merchandise. By offering a combination of high-quality used and value-priced new merchandise, we benefit from consumer demand for value-oriented retailing. In addition, we believe that among national retail operations our retail store brands provide a unique source of value to consumers by purchasing used merchandise. We also believe that the strategy of buying used merchandise increases consumer awareness of our retail brands.

*Attracting Franchisees*

Our franchise marketing program for retail brands seeks to attract prospective franchisees with experience in management and operations and an interest in being the owner and operator of their own business. We seek franchisees who:

- have a sufficient net worth;
- have prior business experience; and

- intend to be integrally involved with the management of the business.

At December 26, 2015, we had 88 signed retail franchise agreements, of which the majority are expected to open in 2016.

We began franchising in Canada in 1991 and, as of December 26, 2015, had 89 franchised retail stores open in Canada. The Canadian retail stores are operated by franchisees under agreements substantially similar to those used in the United States.

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*Retail Brand Franchise Support*

As a franchisor, our success depends upon our ability to develop and support competitive and successful franchise brands. We emphasize the following areas of franchise support and assistance.

*Training*

Each franchisee must attend our training program regardless of prior experience. Soon after signing a franchise agreement, the franchisee is required to attend new owner orientation training. This course covers basic management issues, such as preparing a business plan, lease evaluation, evaluating insurance needs and obtaining financing. Our training staff assists each franchisee in developing a business plan for their retail store with financial and cash flow projections. The second training session is centered on store operations. It covers, among other things, point-of-sale computer training, inventory selection and acquisition, sales, marketing and other topics. We provide the franchisee with operations manuals that we periodically update.

*Field Support*

We provide operations personnel to assist the franchisee in the opening of a new business. We also have an ongoing field support program designed to assist franchisees in operating their retail stores. Our franchise support personnel visit each retail store periodically and, in most cases, a business assessment is made to determine whether the franchisee is operating in accordance with our standards. The visit is also designed to assist franchisees with operational issues.

*Purchasing*

During training each franchisee is taught how to evaluate, purchase and price used goods directly from customers. We have developed specialized computer point-of-sale systems for our brands that provide the franchisee with standardized pricing information to assist in the purchasing of used items.

We provide centralized buying services, which on a limited basis include credit and billing for the Play It Again Sports franchisees. Our Play It Again Sports franchise system uses several major vendors for new product including Nautilus, Wilson Sporting Goods, Champro Sporting Goods, Easton Sports, CCM Hockey and Bauer Hockey. The loss of any of the above vendors would change the vendor mix, but not significantly change our products offered.

To provide the franchisees of our Play It Again Sports, Once Upon A Child and Music Go Round systems a source of affordable new product, we have developed relationships with our significant vendors and negotiated prices for our franchisees to take advantage of the buying power a

franchise system brings.

Our typical Once Upon A Child franchised store purchases approximately 30% of its new product from Rachel s Ribbons, Melissa & Doug, Dorel, North States and Nuby. The loss of any of the above vendors would change the vendor mix, but not significantly change our products offered.

Our typical Music Go Round franchised store purchases approximately 50% of its new product from KMC/Musicorp, RapcoHorizon Company, D Addario, GHS Corporation and Ernie Ball. The loss of any of the above vendors would change the vendor mix, but not significantly change our products offered.

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There are no significant vendors of new products to our typical Plato's Closet and Style Encore franchised stores as new product is an extremely low percentage of sales for these brands.

*Retail Advertising and Marketing*

We encourage our franchisees to implement a marketing program that includes the following: television, radio, point-of-purchase materials, in store signage and local store marketing programs as well as email marketing promotions, website promotions and participation in social and digital media. Franchisees of the respective retail brands are required to spend a minimum of 5% of their gross sales on approved advertising and marketing. Franchisees may be required to participate in regional cooperative advertising groups.

*Computerized Point-Of-Sale Systems*

We require our retail brand franchisees to use a retail information management computer system in each store, which has evolved with the development of new technology. This computerized point-of-sale system is designed specifically for use in our franchise retail stores. The current system includes our proprietary Data Recycling System software, a dedicated server, two or more work station registers, a receipt printer, a report printer and a bar code scanner, together with software modules for inventory management, cash management and customer information management. Our franchisees purchase the computer hardware from us. The Data Recycling System software is designed to accommodate buying of used merchandise. This system provides franchisees with an important management tool that reduces errors, increases efficiencies and enhances inventory control. We provide point-of-sale system support through our Computer Support Center located at our Company headquarters.

*The Retail Franchise Agreement*

We enter into franchise agreements with our franchisees. The following is a summary of certain key provisions of our current standard retail brand franchise agreement. Except as noted, the franchise agreements used for each of our retail brands are generally the same.

Each franchisee must execute our franchise agreement and pay an initial franchise fee. At December 26, 2015, the franchise fee for all brands was \$25,000 for an initial store in the U.S. and \$29,000CAD for an initial store in Canada. Once a franchisee opens its initial store, it can open additional stores, in any brand, by paying a \$15,000 franchise fee for a store in the U.S. and \$17,500CAD for a store in Canada, provided an acceptable territory is available and the franchisee meets the brand's additional store standards. The franchise fee for our initial retail store and additional retail store in Canada is based upon the exchange rate applied to the United States franchise fee on the last business day of the preceding fiscal year. The franchise fee in March 2016 for an initial retail store in Canada will be \$34,500CAD, and an additional retail store in Canada will be \$21,000CAD. Typically, the franchisee's initial store is open for business approximately 12 months from the date the franchise agreement is signed. The franchise agreement has an initial term of 10 years, with subsequent 10-year renewal periods, and grants the franchisee an exclusive geographic area, which will vary in size depending upon population, demographics and other factors. Under current franchise agreements, franchisees of the respective brands are required to pay us weekly continuing fees (royalties) equal to the percentage of gross sales outlined in their Franchise Agreements, generally ranging from 4% to 5% for all of our brands except Music Go Round, which is 3%.



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Each Franchisee is required to pay us an annual marketing fee of \$500 or \$1,000. Each new or renewing franchisee is required to spend 5% of its gross sales for advertising and promoting its franchised store. Existing franchisees with older Franchise Agreements may only be required to spend 3% to 4% of their gross sales on advertising and promotion. Currently, for all of the retail brands except Play It Again Sports, we have the option to increase the minimum advertising expenditure requirement from 5% to 6% of the franchisee's gross sales, of which up to 2% would be paid to us as an advertising fee for deposit into an advertising fund. While we currently do not have the option to increase the advertising expenditure requirement for Play It Again Sports franchisees, we may also require those franchisees to pay 2% of their gross sales into an advertising fund. This fund, if initiated, would be managed by us and would be used for advertising and promotion of the franchise system.

During the term of a franchise agreement, franchisees agree not to operate directly or indirectly any competitive business. In addition, franchisees agree that after the end of the term or termination of the franchise agreement, franchisees will not operate any competitive business for a period of one year and within a reasonable geographic area.

Although our franchise agreements contain provisions designed to assure the quality of a franchisee's operations, we have less control over a franchisee's operations than we would if we owned and operated a retail store. Under the franchise agreement, we have a right of first refusal on the sale of any franchised store, but we are not obligated to repurchase any franchise.

***Renewal of the Franchise Relationship***

At the end of the 10-year term of each franchise agreement, each franchisee has the option to renew the franchise relationship by signing a new 10-year franchise agreement. If a franchisee chooses not to sign a new franchise agreement, a franchisee must comply with all post termination obligations including the franchisee's noncompetition clause discussed above. We may choose not to renew the franchise relationship only when permitted by the franchise agreement and applicable state law.

We believe that renewing a significant number of these franchise relationships is important to the success of the Company. During the past three years, we renewed 98% of franchise agreements up for renewal.

***Retail Franchising Competition***

Retailing, including the sale of teenage, children's and women's apparel, sporting goods and musical instruments, is highly competitive. Many retailers have substantially greater financial and other resources than we do. Our franchisees compete with established, locally owned retail stores, discount chains and traditional retail stores for sales of new merchandise. Full line retailers generally carry little or no used merchandise. Resale, thrift and consignment shops and garage and rummage sales offer competition to our franchisees for the sale of used merchandise. Also, our franchisees increasingly compete with online used and new goods marketplaces such as eBay, craigslist and many others.

Our Plato's Closet franchise stores primarily compete with specialty apparel stores such as Gap, Abercrombie & Fitch, Old Navy, Hollister and Forever 21. We compete with other franchisors in the teenage resale clothing retail market.



Our Play It Again Sports franchisees compete with large retailers such as Dick's Sporting Goods, The Sports Authority as well as regional and local sporting goods stores. We also compete with Target and Wal-Mart.

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Our Once Upon A Child franchisees compete primarily with large retailers such as Babies R Us, Wal-Mart, Target and various specialty children's retail stores such as Gap Kids. We compete with other franchisors in the specialty children's resale retail market.

Our Music Go Round franchise stores compete with large musical instrument retailers such as Guitar Center as well as local independent musical instrument stores.

Our Style Encore franchise stores compete with a wide range of women's apparel stores. We also compete with other franchisors in the women's resale clothing retail market.

Our retail franchises may face additional competition in the future. This could include additional competitors that may enter the used merchandise market. We believe that our franchisees will continue to be able to compete with other retailers based on the strength of our value-oriented brands and the name recognition associated with our service marks.

We also face competition in connection with the sale of franchises. Our prospective franchisees frequently evaluate other franchise opportunities before purchasing a franchise from us. We compete with other franchise companies for franchisees based on the following factors, among others: amount of initial investment, franchise fee, royalty rate, profitability, franchisor services and industry. We believe that our franchise brands are competitive with other franchises based on the fees we charge, our franchise support services and the performance of our existing franchise brands.

**Equipment Leasing Operations**

We operate a middle-market leasing business through Winmark Capital Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary. We operate a small-ticket financing business through Wirth Business Credit, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary. We incorporated both of these subsidiaries in April 2004. To differentiate ourselves from our competitors in the leasing industry, we offer innovative lease and financing products and concentrate on building long-term relationships with our customers and business alliances.

***Winmark Capital Corporation***

Winmark Capital Corporation is engaged in the business of providing non-cancelable leases for high-technology and business-essential assets to both larger organizations and smaller, growing companies. We target businesses with annual revenue between \$30 million and several billion dollars. We focus on transactions that have terms from two to three years. Such transactions are generally larger than \$250,000 and include high-technology equipment and/or business essential equipment, including computers, telecommunications equipment, storage systems, network equipment and other business-essential equipment. The leases are retained in our portfolio to accommodate equipment additions and upgrades to meet customers' changing needs.

*Industry*

The high-technology equipment industry has been characterized by rapid and continuous advancements permitting broadened user applications and reductions in processing costs. The introduction of new equipment generally does not cause existing equipment to become obsolete but usually does cause the market value of existing equipment to decrease, reflecting the improved performance per dollar cost of the new equipment. Users frequently replace equipment as their existing equipment becomes inadequate for their needs or as increased processing capacity is required, creating a secondary market in used equipment.

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Generally, high-technology equipment, such as information technology equipment, does not suffer from material physical deterioration if properly maintained. As required under our leases, our leased equipment is kept under continual maintenance, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, most often provided by the manufacturer. The economic life and residual value of information technology equipment is subject to, among other things, the development of technological improvements and changes in sale and maintenance terms initiated by the manufacturer.

*Business Strategy*

Our business strategy allows us to differentiate ourselves from our competitors in the leasing industry. Key elements of this strategy include:

- **Relationship Focus.** We maintain a focused, long-term, customer-service approach to our business.
- **Full Service.** We can service the equipment leasing needs of both large organizations as well as smaller, growing companies.
- **Asset Ownership.** We differentiate ourselves with our commitment to retain ownership of our leases throughout the lease term.

*Leasing and Sales Activities*

Our middle-market lease products are marketed nationally through our offices in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Santa Barbara, California.

We market our leasing services directly to end-users and indirectly through business alliances, and through vendors of equipment, software, value-added services and consulting services. We directly market to customers and prospects by telephone canvassing and by establishing relationships with business alliances in the local business community.

We generally lease high-technology and other business-essential equipment. Additionally, we may lease operating system and application software to our customers, but typically only with a hardware lease. Our standard lease agreements, entered into with each customer, are noncancelable net leases which contain hell-or-high water provisions under which the customer, upon acceptance of the equipment, must make all lease payments regardless of any defects or performance of the equipment, and which require the customer to maintain and service the equipment, insure the equipment against casualty loss and pay all property, sales and other taxes related to the equipment. We retain ownership of the equipment we lease and, in the event of default by the customer, we or the financial institution to whom the lease payment has been assigned may declare the customer in default, accelerate all lease payments due under the lease and pursue other available remedies, including repossession of the equipment. Upon expiration of the initial term or extended lease term, depending on the structure of the lease, the customer may:

- return the equipment to us;
- renew the lease for an additional term; or
- purchase the equipment.

If the equipment is returned to us, it will typically be sold into the secondary-user marketplace.

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***Wirth Business Credit, Inc.***

Our small-ticket financing operation serves the needs of small businesses. Small-ticket financing transactions are typically between \$5,000 and \$100,000, have terms of between two and four years and cover business essential assets, including computers, printing equipment, security systems, telecommunications equipment, production equipment and other assets. Our financing transactions are generally full pay out transactions, which means, after paying all required payments under the financing agreement, the customer owns the asset. Key elements of our small-ticket business strategy include a focus on both business owners and equipment vendor relationships as well as providing fast credit decisions, flexible terms and an easy to understand process.

The small ticket finance industry is highly fragmented and competitive. Small business owners typically finance their businesses through one of many possible sources including banks, vendor captive finance companies, leasing brokers, credit card companies and independent leasing companies. These sources of funding typically limit their focus to certain types of transactions and may base their decision on credit quality, geography, size of transaction, type of asset or other criteria.

***Financing***

To date, we have funded the vast majority of our leases internally using our available cash or debt.

Winmark Capital Corporation may from time to time arrange permanent financing of leases through non-recourse discounting of lease rentals with various financial institutions at fixed interest rates. The proceeds from the assignment of the lease rentals will generally be equal to the present value of the remaining lease payments due under the lease, discounted at the interest rate charged by the financial institution. Interest rates obtained under this type of financing are negotiated on a transaction-by-transaction basis and reflect the financial strength of the customer, the term of the lease and the prevailing interest rates. In the event of a default by a customer in non-recourse financing, the financial institution has a first lien on the underlying leased equipment, with no further recourse against us. The institution may, however, take title to the collateral in the event the customer fails to make lease payments or certain other defaults by the customer occur under the terms of the lease. Our use of lease discounting is dependent upon having leases that are attractive to financial institutions as well as our available cash balances.

***Equipment Leasing Competition***

We compete with a variety of equipment financing sources that are available to businesses, including: national, regional and local finance companies that provide lease and loan products; financing through captive finance and leasing companies affiliated with major equipment manufacturers; credit card companies; and commercial banks, savings and loans, and credit unions. Many of these companies are substantially larger than we are and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do.

Some of our competitors have a lower cost of funds and access to funding sources that are not available to us. A lower cost of funds could enable a competitor to offer leases with yields that are much less than the yields that we offer, which might cause us to lose lease origination volume. In addition, certain of our competitors may have higher risk tolerances or different risk assessments, which could enable them to

establish more origination sources and end user customer relationships and increase their market share. We have and will continue to encounter significant competition.

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**Government Regulation**

Fourteen states, the Federal Trade Commission and five Canadian Provinces impose pre-sale franchise registration and/or disclosure requirements on franchisors. In addition, a number of states have statutes which regulate substantive aspects of the franchisor-franchisee relationship such as termination, nonrenewal, transfer, discrimination among franchisees and competition with franchisees.

Additional legislation, both at the federal and state levels, could expand pre-sale disclosure requirements, further regulate substantive aspects of the franchise relationship and require us to file our Franchise Disclosure Documents with additional states. We cannot predict the effect of future franchise legislation, but do not believe there is any imminent legislation currently under consideration which would have a material adverse impact on our operations.

Although most states do not directly regulate the commercial equipment lease financing business, certain states require licensing of lenders and finance companies, and impose limitations on interest rates and other charges, and a disclosure of certain contract terms and constrain collection practices. We believe that we are currently in compliance with all material statutes and regulations that are applicable to our business.

**Trademarks and Service Marks**

Plato's Closet®, Once Upon A Child®, Play It Again Sports®, Style Encore®, Music Go Round®, Winmark®, Winmark Business Solutions®, Wirth Business Credit® and Winmark Capital®, among others, are our registered service marks. These marks are of considerable value to our business. We intend to protect our service marks by appropriate legal action where and when necessary. Each service mark registration must be renewed every 10 years. We have taken, and intend to continue to take, all steps necessary to renew the registration of all our material service marks.

**Seasonality**

Our Plato's Closet and Once Upon A Child franchise brands have experienced higher than average sales volumes during the spring months and during the back to school season. Our Play It Again Sports franchise brand has experienced higher than average sales volumes during the winter season. Overall, the different seasonal trends of our brands partially offset each other and do not result in significant seasonality trends on a Company-wide basis. Our equipment leasing business is not seasonal; however, quarter to quarter results often vary significantly.

**Employees**

As of December 26, 2015, we employed 108 employees.



**Available Information**

We maintain a Web site at [www.winmarkcorporation.com](http://www.winmarkcorporation.com), the contents of which are not part of or incorporated by reference into this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We make our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K (and amendments to those reports) available on our Web site via a link to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Web site, free of charge, as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports have been filed with or furnished to the SEC.

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**ITEM 1A: RISK FACTORS**

*We are dependent on franchise renewals.*

Each of our franchise agreements is 10 years long. At the end of the term of each franchise agreement, each franchisee may, if certain conditions are met, renew the franchise relationship by signing a new 10-year franchise agreement. As of December 26, 2015 each of our five franchised retail brands have the following number of franchise agreements that will expire over the next three years:

|                      | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Plato's Closet       | 31   | 27   | 30   |
| Once Upon A Child    | 30   | 24   | 17   |
| Play It Again Sports | 13   | 18   | 15   |
| Music Go Round       | 5    | 5    | 3    |
| Style Encore         |      |      |      |
|                      | 79   | 74   | 65   |

We believe that renewing a significant number of these franchise relationships is important to our continued success. If a significant number of franchise relationships are not renewed, our financial performance would be materially and adversely impacted.

*We are dependent on new franchisees.*

Our ability to generate increased revenue and achieve higher levels of profitability depends in part on increasing the number of franchises open. Unfavorable macro-economic conditions may affect the ability of potential franchisees to obtain external financing and/or impact their net worth, both of which could lead to a lower level of openings than we have historically experienced. There can be no assurance that we will sustain our current level of franchise openings.

*We may make additional investments outside of our core businesses.*

From time to time, we have and may continue to make investments both inside and outside of our current businesses. To the extent that we make additional investments that are not successful, such investments could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

*We may sell franchises for a territory, but the franchisee may not open.*

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We believe that a substantial majority of franchises awarded but not opened will open within the time period permitted by the applicable franchise agreement or we will be able to resell the territories for most of the terminated or expired franchises. However, there can be no assurance that substantially all of the currently sold but unopened franchises will open and commence paying royalties to us.

*Our retail franchisees are dependent on supply of used merchandise.*

Our retail brands are based on offering customers a mix of used and new merchandise. As a result, the ability of our franchisees to obtain continuing supplies of high quality used merchandise is important to the success of our brands. Supply of used merchandise comes from the general public and is not regular or highly reliable. In addition, adherence to federal and state product safety and other requirements may limit the amount of used merchandise available to our franchisees. In addition to laws and regulations that apply to businesses generally, our franchised retail stores may be subject to state or local statutes or ordinances that govern secondhand dealers. There can be no assurance that our franchisees will avoid supply problems with respect to used merchandise.

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*We may be unable to collect accounts receivable from franchisees.*

In the event that our ability to collect accounts receivable significantly declines from current rates, we may incur additional charges that would affect earnings. If we are unable to collect payments due from our franchisees, it would materially adversely impact our results of operations and financial condition.

*We operate in extremely competitive industries.*

Retailing, including the sale of teenage, children's and women's apparel, sporting goods and musical instruments, is highly competitive. Many retailers have significantly greater financial and other resources than us and our franchisees. Individual franchisees face competition in their markets from retailers of new merchandise and, in certain instances, resale, thrift and other stores that sell used merchandise. We may face additional competition as our franchise systems expand and if additional competitors enter the used merchandise market.

Our equipment leasing businesses compete with a variety of equipment financing sources that are available to businesses, including: national, regional, and local finance companies that provide leases and loan products; financing through captive finance and leasing companies affiliated with major equipment manufacturers; and commercial banks, savings and loans, credit unions and credit cards. Many of these companies are substantially larger than we are and have considerably greater financial, technical and marketing resources than we do. There can be no assurances that we will be able to successfully compete with these larger competitors.

*We are subject to credit risk in our lease portfolio and our allowance for credit losses may be inadequate to absorb losses.*

In our leasing business, if we inaccurately assess the creditworthiness of our customers, we may experience a higher number of lease defaults than expected, which would reduce our earnings. For our middle-market customers, we serve a wide range of businesses from smaller companies that may be financed by venture capital investors to larger organizations that may be financed by private equity firms and larger independent public or private companies. In many cases, our credit analysis relies on the customer's current or projected financials. If we fail to adequately assess the risks of our customer's business plans, we may experience credit losses. For our small-ticket customers, there is typically only limited publicly available financial and other information about their businesses. Accordingly, in making credit decisions, we rely upon the accuracy of information from the small business owner and/or third party sources, such as credit reporting agencies. If the information we obtain from small business owners and/or third party sources is incorrect, our ability to make appropriate credit decisions will be impaired.

We may incur concentration of credit risk in our lease portfolio. As of December 26, 2015, leased assets with three customers represented approximately 48% of our total net investment in leases.

If losses from leases exceed our allowance for credit losses, our operating income will be reduced. In connection with our leases, we record an allowance for credit losses to provide for estimated losses. Determining the appropriate level of the allowance is an inherently uncertain process and therefore our determination of this allowance may prove to be inadequate to cover losses in connection with our portfolio of leases. Losses in excess of our allowance for credit losses would cause us to increase our provision for credit losses, reducing or eliminating our operating

income. Any such significant increase in losses could have a material adverse impact on our financial results.

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*Deterioration in economic or business conditions may negatively impact our leasing business.*

In an economic slowdown or recession, our equipment leasing businesses may face an increase in delinquent payments, lease defaults and credit losses. The volume of leasing business for our new and existing customers may decline, as well as the credit quality of our customers. Because we extend credit to many emerging and leveraged companies through our subsidiary Winmark Capital Corporation and primarily to small businesses through our subsidiary Wirth Business Credit, Inc., our customers may be particularly susceptible to economic slowdowns or recessions. Any protracted economic slowdowns or recessions may make it difficult for us to maintain the volume of lease originations for new and existing customers, and may deteriorate the credit quality of new leases. Any of these events may slow the growth of our leasing portfolio and impact the profitability of our leasing operations.

*We are subject to restrictions in our line of credit and note facilities. Additionally, we are subject to counter party risk in our line of credit facility.*

The terms of our \$60.0 million line of credit and \$25.0 million note facility impose certain operating and financial restrictions on us and require us to meet certain financial tests including tests related to minimum levels of debt service coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage. As of December 26, 2015, we were in compliance with all of our financial covenants under these facilities; however, failure to comply with these covenants in the future may result in default under one or both of these sources of capital and could result in acceleration of the related indebtedness. Any such acceleration of indebtedness would have an adverse impact on our business activities and financial condition.

Sustained credit market deterioration could jeopardize the counterparty obligations of one or both of the banks participating in our line of credit facility, which could have an adverse impact on our business if we are not able to replace such credit facility or find other sources of liquidity on acceptable terms.

*We have increased our indebtedness.*

We incurred increased indebtedness in connection with the purchase of shares in the Tender Offer (see Note 6 Shareholders Equity (Deficit) and Note 7 Debt ) and, as a result, are more leveraged. We expect to generate the cash necessary to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and to pay the principal and interest on all of our outstanding debt from cash flows provided by operating activities and by opportunistically using other means to repay or refinance our obligations as we determine appropriate. Our ability to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and meet our debt service obligations depends on our future performance, which may be affected by financial, business, economic, and other factors. If we do not have enough money to pay our debt service obligations, we may be required to refinance all or part of our existing debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity. In such an event, we may not be able to refinance our debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity on terms acceptable to us or at all. Also, our ability to carry out any of these activities on favorable terms, if at all, may be further impacted by any financial or credit crisis which may limit access to the credit markets and increase our cost of capital.

*We are subject to government regulation.*

As a franchisor, we are subject to various federal and state franchise laws and regulations. Fourteen states, the Federal Trade Commission and five Canadian Provinces impose pre-sale franchise registration and/or disclosure requirements on franchisors. In addition, a number of states have statutes which regulate substantive aspects of the franchisor-franchisee relationship such as termination, nonrenewal, transfer, discrimination among franchisees and competition with franchisees.

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Additional legislation, both at the federal and state levels, could expand pre-sale disclosure requirements, further regulate substantive aspects of the franchise relationship and require us to file our franchise offering circulars with additional states. Future franchise legislation could impose costs or other burdens on us that could have a material adverse impact on our operations. In addition, evolving labor and employment laws, rules and regulations could result in potential claims against us as a franchisor for labor and employment related liabilities that have historically been borne by franchisees.

Although most states do not directly regulate the commercial equipment lease financing business, certain states require licensing of lenders and finance companies, impose limitations on interest rates and other charges, constrain collection practices and require disclosure of certain contract terms. Laws or regulations may be adopted with respect to our equipment leases or the equipment leasing industry, and collection processes. Any new legislation or regulation, or changes in the interpretation of existing laws, which affect the equipment leasing industry could increase our costs of compliance.

*We may be unable to protect against data security risks.*

We have implemented security systems with the intent of maintaining the physical security of our facilities and protecting our employees, franchisees, lessees, customers, clients and suppliers confidential information and information related to identifiable individuals against unauthorized access through our information systems or by other electronic transmission or through the misdirection, theft or loss of physical media. These include, for example, the appropriate encryption of information. Despite such efforts, we are subject to potential breach of security systems which may result in unauthorized access to our facilities or the information we are trying to protect. Because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access are constantly changing and becoming increasingly more sophisticated and often are not recognized until launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques or implement sufficient preventative measures. If unauthorized parties gain physical access to one of our facilities or electronic access to our information systems or such information is misdirected, lost or stolen during transmission or transport, any theft or misuse of such information could result in, among other things, unfavorable publicity, governmental inquiry and oversight, difficulty in marketing our services, allegations by our customers and clients that we have not performed our contractual obligations, litigation by affected parties and possible financial obligations for damages related to the theft or misuse of such information, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

**ITEM 1B: UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM 2: PROPERTIES**

We lease 41,016 square feet at our headquarters facility in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We are obligated to pay rent monthly under the lease, and will pay an average of \$652,000 annually over the remaining term that expires in 2019. We are also obligated to pay estimated taxes and operating expenses as described in the lease, which change annually. The total rentals, taxes and operating expenses paid may increase if we exercise any of our rights to acquire additional space described in the lease. Our facilities are sufficient to meet our current and immediate future needs.



**ITEM 3: LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

We are not a party to any material litigation and are not aware of any threatened litigation that would have a material adverse effect on our business.

**ITEM 4: MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

Table of Contents**PART II****ITEM 5: MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS, AND ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES****Market Information, Holders, Dividends**

Winmark Corporation's common stock trades on the NASDAQ Global Market under the symbol WINA. The table below sets forth the high and low sales prices of our common stock as reported by NASDAQ for the quarterly periods indicated:

| <b>FY 2015:</b> |    | <b>First</b> |    | <b>Second</b> |    | <b>Third</b> |    | <b>Fourth</b> |
|-----------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|
| High            | \$ | 89.08        | \$ | 105.09        | \$ | 108.28       | \$ | 103.91        |
| Low             | \$ | 79.02        | \$ | 84.42         | \$ | 94.68        | \$ | 82.69         |

| <b>FY 2014:</b> |    | <b>First</b> |    | <b>Second</b> |    | <b>Third</b> |    | <b>Fourth</b> |
|-----------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|
| High            | \$ | 93.68        | \$ | 78.54         | \$ | 75.40        | \$ | 85.90         |
| Low             | \$ | 74.00        | \$ | 64.19         | \$ | 64.08        | \$ | 72.31         |

At March 4, 2016, there were 4,108,930 shares of common stock outstanding held by approximately 75 shareholders of record. Shareholders of record do not include holders who beneficially own common stock held in nominee or street name.

We declared and paid cash dividends per common share of the following amounts in each of the quarterly periods indicated:

|         |    | <b>First</b> |    | <b>Second</b> |    | <b>Third</b> |    | <b>Fourth</b> |
|---------|----|--------------|----|---------------|----|--------------|----|---------------|
| FY 2015 | \$ | 0.06         | \$ | 0.07          | \$ | 0.07         | \$ | 0.07          |
| FY 2014 | \$ | 5.05         | \$ | 0.06          | \$ | 0.06         | \$ | 0.06          |

Any future declaration of dividends will be subject to the discretion of our Board of Directors and subject to our results of operations, financial condition, cash requirements, compliance with loan covenants and other factors deemed relevant by our Board of Directors.

**Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers**

**Period**

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|  | Total Number of<br>Shares Purchased | Average Price<br>Paid Per Share | Total Number of<br>Shares Purchased as<br>Part of a Publicly<br>Announced Plan(1) | Maximum Number<br>of Shares that may<br>yet be Purchased<br>Under the Plan |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| September 27, 2015 to October 31, 2015 |                                     | \$                              |   | 166,700  |
| November 1, 2015 to November 28, 2015  |                                     | \$                              |   | 166,700  |
| November 29, 2015 to December 26, 2015 | 6,518                               | \$ 90.85                        | 6,518   | 160,182  |

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(1) The Board of Directors' authorization for the repurchase of shares of the Company's common stock was originally approved in 1995 with no expiration date. The total shares approved for repurchase has been increased by additional Board of Directors' approvals and is currently limited to 5,000,000 shares, of which 160,182 may still be repurchased under the existing authorization.

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**Performance Graph**

In accordance with the rules of the SEC, the following graph compares the performance of our common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market to the NASDAQ US Benchmark TR composite index and to the NASDAQ US Benchmark Retail TR industry index, of which we are a component. The graph compares on an annual basis the cumulative total shareholder return on \$100 invested on December 23, 2010 through our fiscal year ended December 26, 2015 and assumes reinvestment of all dividends. The performance graph is not necessarily indicative of future investment performance.

Table of Contents**ITEM 6: SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following table sets forth selected financial information for the periods indicated. The information should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes discussed in Items 8 and 15, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations discussed in Item 7.

|   | Fiscal Year Ended<br>(in thousands except per share data) |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | December 26,<br>2015                                      | December 27,<br>2014 | December 28,<br>2013 | December 29,<br>2012 | December 31,<br>2011 |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                               |   |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Royalties                                     | \$ 41,908   | \$ 38,972            | \$ 36,344            | \$ 33,760            | \$ 30,361            |
| Leasing income                                | 21,566  | 16,247               | 14,524               | 13,212               | 16,365               |
| Merchandise sales                             | 2,817   | 2,729                | 2,327                | 2,751                | 2,481                |
| Franchise fees                                | 1,788   | 1,990                | 1,459                | 1,291                | 1,081                |
| Other   | 1,369   | 1,241                | 1,077                | 929                  | 1,047                |
| Total revenue                                 | 69,448  | 61,179               | 55,731               | 51,943               | 51,335               |
| Cost of merchandise sold                      | 2,653   | 2,620                | 2,206                | 2,622                | 2,366                |
| Leasing expense                               | 5,759   | 1,631                | 1,592                | 1,790                | 5,116                |
| Provision for credit losses                   | (150)   | 63                   | (45)                 | (48)                 | (43)                 |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses  | 24,095  | 23,806               | 22,198               | 20,280               | 19,048               |
| Income from operations                        | 37,091  | 33,059               | 29,780               | 27,299               | 24,848               |
| Loss from equity investments(1)               |   |                      |                      | (2,493)              | (516)                |
| Impairment of investment in notes             |   |                      |                      | (1,324)              | (883)                |
| Interest expense                              | (1,802)   | (484)                | (213)                | (392)                | (112)                |
| Interest and other income (expense)           | (64)  | 14                   | 23                   | 66                   | 45                   |
| Income before income taxes                    | 35,225  | 32,589               | 29,590               | 23,156               | 23,382               |
| Provision for income taxes                    | (13,425)  | (12,522)             | (11,358)             | (10,218)             | (9,287)              |
| Net income                                    | \$ 21,800   | \$ 20,067            | \$ 18,232            | \$ 12,938            | \$ 14,095            |
| Earnings per common share - diluted           | \$ 4.69   | \$ 3.85              | \$ 3.48              | \$ 2.47              | \$ 2.69              |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted | 4,652   | 5,217                | 5,241                | 5,238                | 5,238                |
| Cash dividends per common share               | \$ .27  | \$ 5.23              | \$ .19               | \$ 5.15              | \$ .11               |
| <b>Balance Sheet Data:</b>                    |   |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Working capital(2)                            | \$ 16,920   | \$ 3,857             | \$ 24,376            | \$ 1,971             | \$ 19,360            |
| Total assets                                  | 47,406  | 54,728               | 53,036               | 43,539               | 47,746               |
| Total debt                                    | 66,400  | 18,500               |                      | 10,800               |                      |
| Shareholders' equity (deficit)                | (30,674)  | 21,610               | 38,145               | 17,928               | 35,109               |
| <b>Selected Financial Ratios:</b>             |   |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Return on average assets                      | 42.7%   | 37.2%                | 37.8%                | 28.3%                | 31.4%                |
| Return on average equity                      | N/A   | 67.2%                | 65.0%                | 48.8%                | 48.5%                |

(1) Included in loss from equity investments is a \$1.8 million impairment charge for the Company's investment in Tomsten, Inc. in 2012. As of December 26, 2015, the Company has no remaining carrying value for this investment.

(2) Prior year balances of deferred tax assets (liabilities) have been revised to reflect current year presentation. (See Note 2 Significant Accounting Policies ).

Table of Contents**ITEM 7: MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**Overview

As of December 26, 2015, we had 1,150 franchises operating under the Plato's Closet, Once Upon A Child, Play It Again Sports, Style Encore and Music Go Round brands and had a leasing portfolio of \$39.0 million. Management closely tracks the following financial criteria to evaluate current business operations and future prospects: royalties, leasing activity, and selling, general and administrative expenses.

Our most significant source of franchising revenue is royalties received from our franchise partners. During 2015, our royalties increased \$2.9 million or 7.5% compared to 2014.

Leasing income net of leasing expense in 2015 was \$15.8 million compared to \$14.6 million in 2014. Fluctuations in period-to-period leasing income and leasing expense result primarily from the manner and timing in which leasing income and leasing expense is recognized over the term of each particular lease in accordance with accounting guidance applicable to leasing. For this reason, we believe that more meaningful levels of leasing activity are the purchases of equipment for lease customers and the medium- to long-term trend in the size of the leasing portfolio. During 2015, we purchased \$22.2 million in equipment for lease customers compared to \$27.5 million in 2014 and \$20.7 million in 2013. Our leasing portfolio (net investment in leases - current and long-term) was \$39.0 million at December 26, 2015 compared to \$44.0 million at December 27, 2014 and \$37.5 million at December 28, 2013.

Management continually monitors the level and timing of selling, general and administrative expenses. The major components of selling, general and administrative expenses include salaries, wages and benefits, advertising, travel, occupancy, legal and professional fees. During 2015, selling, general and administrative expense increased \$0.3 million, or 1.2%, compared to the same period last year.

Management also monitors several nonfinancial factors in evaluating the current business operations and future prospects including franchise openings and closings and franchise renewals. The following is a summary of our franchising activity for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015:

|                             | TOTAL<br>12/27/14 | OPENED | CLOSED | TOTAL<br>12/26/15 | AVAILABLE<br>FOR<br>RENEWAL | COMPLETED<br>RENEWALS | % RENEWED |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| <u>Plato's Closet</u>       |                   |        |        |                   |                             |                       |           |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 426               | 31     | (1)    | 456               | 28                          | 28                    | 100%      |
| <u>Once Upon A Child</u>    |                   |        |        |                   |                             |                       |           |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 308               | 20     | (2)    | 326               | 23                          | 23                    | 100%      |
| <u>Play It Again Sports</u> |                   |        |        |                   |                             |                       |           |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 301               | 7      | (11)   | 297               | 23                          | 23                    | 100%      |
| <u>Style Encore</u>         |                   |        |        |                   |                             |                       |           |
| Franchises - US             | 24                | 14     | (0)    | 38                |                             |                       | N/A       |

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Music Go Round

|                         |       |    |      |       |    |    |      |
|-------------------------|-------|----|------|-------|----|----|------|
| Franchises - US         | 33    | 1  | (1)  | 33    | 4  | 4  | 100% |
| Total Franchised Stores | 1,092 | 73 | (15) | 1,150 | 78 | 78 | 100% |

Renewal activity is a key focus area for management. Our franchisees sign 10-year agreements with us. The renewal of existing franchise agreements as they approach their expiration is an indicator that management monitors to determine the health of our business and the preservation of future royalties. In 2015, we renewed 100% of franchise agreements up for renewal. This percentage of renewal has ranged between 96% and 100% during the last three years.



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Our ability to grow our operating income is dependent on our ability to: (i) effectively support our franchise partners so that they produce higher revenues, (ii) open new franchises, (iii) increase lease originations and minimize write-offs in our leasing portfolios, and (iv) control our selling, general and administrative expenses. A detailed description of the risks to our business along with other risk factors can be found in Item 1A Risk Factors .

**Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth selected information from our Consolidated Statements of Operations expressed as a percentage of total revenue and the percentage change in the dollar amounts from the prior period:

|  | December 26,<br>2015 | Fiscal Year Ended<br>December 27,<br>2014 | December 28,<br>2013 | Fiscal 2015<br>over (under)<br>2014 | Fiscal 2014<br>over (under)<br>2013 |
|--|----------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Revenue:</b>                              |                      |   |                      |                                     |                                     |
| Royalties                                    | 60.3%                | 63.7%                                     | 65.2%                | 7.5%                                | 7.2%                                |
| Leasing income                               | 31.0                 | 26.6                                      | 26.1                 | 32.7                                | 11.9                                |
| Merchandise sales                            | 4.1                  | 4.5                                       | 4.2                  | 3.2                                 | 17.3                                |
| Franchise fees                               | 2.6                  | 3.2                                       | 2.6                  | (10.1)                              | 36.3                                |
| Other  | 2.0                  | 2.0                                       | 1.9                  | 10.3                                | 15.2                                |
| Total revenue                                | 100.0                | 100.0                                     | 100.0                | 13.5                                | 9.8                                 |
| <b>Cost of merchandise sold</b>              |                      |   |                      |                                     |                                     |
| Cost of merchandise sold                     | (3.8)                | (4.3)                                     | (4.0)                | 1.3                                 | 18.8                                |
| Lease expense                                | (8.3)                | (2.7)                                     | (2.8)                | 253.2                               | 2.4                                 |
| Provision for credit losses                  | 0.2                  | (0.1)                                     | 0.1                  | (338.0)                             | 240.7                               |
| Selling, general and administrative expenses | (34.7)               | (38.9)                                    | (39.8)               | 1.2                                 | 7.2                                 |
| Income from operations                       | 53.4                 | 54.0                                      | 53.5                 | 12.2                                | 11.0                                |
| Interest expense                             | (2.6)                | (0.8)                                     | (0.4)                | 272.0                               | 126.9                               |
| Interest and other income (expense)          | (0.1)                |   |                      | 555.0                               | (40.2)                              |
| Income before income taxes                   | 50.7                 | 53.2                                      | 53.1                 | 8.1                                 | 10.1                                |
| Provision for income taxes                   | (19.3)               | (20.4)                                    | (20.4)               | 7.2                                 | 10.2                                |
| Net income                                   | 31.4%                | 32.8%                                     | 32.7%                | 8.6%                                | 10.1%                               |

**Revenue**

Revenues for the year ended December 26, 2015 totaled \$69.4 million compared to \$61.2 million and \$55.7 million for the comparable periods in 2014 and 2013, respectively.

**Royalties and Franchise Fees**

Royalties increased to \$41.9 million for 2015 from \$39.0 million for the same period in 2014, a 7.5% increase. The increase was due to higher Plato's Closet and Once Upon A Child royalties of \$1.3 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. The increase in royalties for these brands is

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primarily from having 30 additional Plato's Closet and 18 additional Once Upon A Child franchise stores in 2015 compared to 2014 as well as higher franchisee retail sales. In 2014, royalties increased \$2.6 million compared to 2013. This increase was primarily due to having 87 additional franchise stores in 2014 compared to 2013.

Franchise fees decreased to \$1.8 million for 2015 from \$2.0 million for 2014 primarily as a result of opening 22 fewer franchises in 2015 compared to 2014. Franchise fees in 2014 increased \$0.5 million compared to 2013 primarily due to opening 26 more franchises in 2014 compared to 2013. Franchise fees include initial franchise fees from the sale of new franchises and transfer fees related to the transfer of existing franchises. Franchise fee revenue is recognized when the franchise opens or when the franchise agreement is assigned to a buyer of a franchise. An overview of retail brand franchise fees is presented in the Franchising subsection of the Business section (Item 1).

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*Leasing Income*

Leasing income increased to \$21.6 million in 2015 compared to \$16.2 million for the same period in 2014. The increase is primarily due to a higher level of equipment sales to customers. Leasing income in 2014 increased \$1.7 million compared to 2013 primarily due to a higher level of equipment sales to customers as well as a larger lease portfolio in 2014 compared to 2013.

*Merchandise Sales*

Merchandise sales include the sale of product to franchisees either through our Computer Support Center or through the Play It Again Sports buying group (together, Direct Franchisee Sales). Direct Franchisee Sales increased to \$2.8 million in 2015 from \$2.7 million in 2014. The increase is primarily due to an increase in technology purchases by our franchisees. Direct Franchisee Sales in 2014 increased \$0.4 million compared to 2013 as a result of increased technology purchases by our franchisees.

*Cost of Merchandise Sold*

Cost of merchandise sold includes in-bound freight and the cost of merchandise associated with Direct Franchisee Sales. Cost of merchandise sold increased to \$2.7 million in 2015 from \$2.6 million in 2014. The increase was due to an increase in Direct Franchisee Sales in 2015 discussed above. Cost of merchandise sold in 2014 increased \$0.4 million compared to 2013 due to an increase in Direct Franchisee Sales in 2014 discussed above. Cost of merchandise sold as a percentage of Direct Franchisee Sales for 2015, 2014 and 2013 was 94.2%, 96.0% and 94.8%, respectively.

*Leasing Expense*

Leasing expense increased to \$5.8 million in 2015 compared to \$1.6 million in 2014. The increase is primarily due to an increase in the associated costs of equipment sales to customers discussed above. Leasing expense in 2014 was comparable to 2013.

*Provision for Credit Losses*

Provision for credit losses was \$(149,700) in 2015 compared to \$62,900 in 2014 and (\$44,700) in 2013. The provision levels for 2015 and 2013 were impacted by net recoveries in the leasing portfolio.

*Selling, General and Administrative Expenses*

Selling, general and administrative expenses increased 1.2% to \$24.1 million in 2015 from \$23.8 million in 2014. The increase was primarily due to an increase in compensation expenses. The \$1.6 million, or 7.2%, increase in selling, general and administrative expenses in 2014 compared to 2013 was primarily due to an increase in compensation and benefits.

*Interest Expense*

Interest expense increased to \$1.8 million in 2015 compared to \$0.5 million in 2014. The increase is primarily due to higher average corporate borrowings during 2015 when compared to 2014. Interest expense in 2014 increased \$0.3 million compared to 2013 due to higher average corporate borrowings during 2014 when compared to 2013.

Table of Contents***Interest and Other Income (Expense)***

During 2015, we had interest and other income (expense) of \$(63,700) compared to \$14,000 and \$23,400 of interest and other income in 2014 and 2013, respectively. Income and other income (expense) in 2015 included losses on sales of marketable securities while interest and other income in 2014 included higher investment income and gains on sales of marketable securities.

***Income Taxes***

The provision for income taxes was calculated at an effective rate of 38.1%, 38.4% and 38.4% for 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The lower effective rate in 2015 compared to 2014 and 2013 is primarily due to a decrease in state taxes.

**Segment Comparison of Fiscal Years 2015, 2014 and 2013**

We currently have two reportable business segments, franchising and leasing. The franchising segment franchises value-oriented retail store concepts that buy, sell, trade and consign merchandise. The leasing segment includes (i) Winmark Capital Corporation, our middle-market equipment leasing business and (ii) Wirth Business Credit, Inc., our small-ticket financing business. Segment reporting is intended to give financial statement users a better view of how we manage and evaluate our businesses. Our internal management reporting is the basis for the information disclosed for our business segments and includes allocation of shared-service costs. The following tables summarize financial information by segment and provide a reconciliation of segment contribution to income from operations:

|  | <b>Year Ended</b>        |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | <b>December 26, 2015</b> | <b>December 27, 2014</b> | <b>December 28, 2013</b> |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                                  |                          |                          |                          |
| Franchising                                      | \$ 47,882,100            | \$ 44,931,400            | \$ 41,207,100            |
| Leasing  | 21,565,700               | 16,247,300               | 14,524,100               |
| Total revenue                                    | \$ 69,447,800            | \$ 61,178,700            | \$ 55,731,200            |
| <b>Reconciliation to income from operations:</b> |                          |                          |                          |
| Franchising segment contribution                 | \$ 26,891,000            | \$ 23,631,800            | \$ 21,867,700            |
| Leasing segment contribution                     | 10,199,700               | 9,427,500                | 7,912,300                |
| Total income from operations                     | \$ 37,090,700            | \$ 33,059,300            | \$ 29,780,000            |

***Franchising Segment Operating Income***

The franchising segment's 2015 operating income increased by \$3.3 million, or 13.8%, to \$26.9 million from \$23.6 million for 2014. The increase in segment contribution was primarily due to increased royalty revenues. The \$1.8 million increase in the franchising segment's 2014 operating income from 2013 was primarily due to increased royalty revenues partially offset by an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses.

*Leasing Segment Operating Income*

The leasing segment's operating income for 2015 increased by \$0.8 million, or 8.2%, to \$10.2 million from \$9.4 million for 2014. The increase in segment contribution was due to an increase in leasing income net of leasing expense partially offset by an increase in selling, general and administrative expenses. The \$1.5 million increase in the leasing segment's 2014 operating income from 2013 was due to an increase in leasing income net of leasing expense.

Table of Contents**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Our primary sources of liquidity have historically been cash flow from operations and borrowings. The components of the Consolidated Statements of Operations that reduce our net income but do not affect our liquidity include non-cash items for depreciation and compensation expense related to stock options.

We ended 2015 with \$1.0 million in cash and cash equivalents compared to \$2.1 million in cash and cash equivalents at the end of 2014.

Operating activities provided \$22.3 million of cash during 2015 compared to \$18.0 million provided during 2014 and \$21.6 million provided during 2013. The increase in cash provided by operating activities in 2015 compared to 2014 was primarily due to the increase in net income and a decrease in cash paid for income taxes. A contributing factor to the decrease in cash provided by operating activities in 2014 compared to 2013 was an increase in cash paid for income taxes of \$6.1 million.

Investing activities provided \$4.5 million of cash during 2015 compared to \$7.1 million used during 2014 and \$4.0 million used during 2013. Our most significant investing activities consist of the purchase of equipment for lease contracts and principal collections on lease receivables, as our franchising business is not capital intensive. Purchase of equipment for lease customers in 2015 was \$22.2 million compared to \$27.5 million in 2014 and \$20.7 million in 2013. During 2015, principal collections on lease receivables were \$26.6 million compared to \$20.7 million during 2014 and \$17.8 million during 2013.

Financing activities used \$27.9 million of cash during 2015 compared to \$19.5 million used during 2014 and \$9.2 million used during 2013. Our most significant financing activities over the past three years have consisted of net borrowings/payments on our debt facilities, the payment of dividends, repurchase of common stock, and net proceeds and tax benefits received from the exercise of stock options. During 2013, we paid off \$10.8 million remaining on the line of credit, paid dividends of \$1.0 million, repurchased 28,422 shares of our common stock for \$1.9 million and received net proceeds and tax benefits from the exercise of stock options of \$3.7 million. During 2014, we paid \$26.9 million in cash dividends (including a \$5.00 per share special cash dividend) and used \$11.6 million to purchase 166,030 shares of our common stock. Net borrowings on our line of credit of \$18.5 million during 2014 were associated with these activities. During 2015, we paid \$1.2 million in cash dividends and used \$74.9 million to purchase 881,518 shares of our common stock including \$74.3 million to repurchase 875,000 shares of our common stock in a tender offer (the Tender Offer). Net borrowings on our line of credit and notes payable of \$47.9 million during 2015 were associated with these activities. (See Note 6 Shareholders Equity (Deficit) and Note 7 Debt).

We have debt obligations and future operating lease commitments for our corporate headquarters and satellite office space. As of December 26, 2015, we had no other material outstanding commitments. (See Note 11 Commitments and Contingencies). The following table summarizes our significant future contractual obligations at December 26, 2015:

|                                | Total | Payments due by period |           |           |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
|                                |       | Less than 1 year       | 1-3 years | 3-5 years | More than 5 years |
| <u>Contractual Obligations</u> |       |                        |           |           |                   |

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|                               |    |            |    |           |    |            |    |               |
|-------------------------------|----|------------|----|-----------|----|------------|----|---------------|
| Line of Credit(1)(3)          | \$ | 42,400,000 | \$ |           | \$ | 42,400,000 | \$ |               |
| Notes payable(2)(3)           |    | 31,053,800 |    | 3,278,800 |    | 6,227,500  |    | 15,263,400    |
| Operating Lease Obligations   |    | 2,566,100  |    | 691,200   |    | 1,423,800  |    | 451,100       |
| Total Contractual Obligations | \$ | 76,019,900 | \$ | 3,970,000 | \$ | 7,651,300  | \$ | 49,135,200    |
|                               |    |            |    |           |    |            |    | \$ 15,263,400 |

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(1) In addition to the principal payments noted in the table, the Company will incur interest expense on such variable rate debt. Interest rates on amounts outstanding under the Line of Credit at December 26, 2015, ranged from 2.60% to 3.50%.

(2) Includes interest payable quarterly at 5.50% assuming principal payments in accordance with amortizing schedule.

(3) Refer to Part II, Item 8 in this report under Note 7 Debt for additional information regarding long-term debt.



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As of December 26, 2015, we had no off-balance sheet arrangements.

We have a revolving credit with The PrivateBank and Trust Company and BMO Harris Bank N.A. (the Line of Credit ).

In April 2015, the Line of Credit was amended to, among other things:

- Provide the consent of the lenders for the Tender Offer;
- Increase the aggregate commitments from \$35.0 million to \$60.0 million to partially fund the Tender Offer;
- Extend the termination date from February 28, 2018 to May 14, 2019;
- Amend the tangible net worth covenant calculation to remove the effect of the Tender Offer and amend the leverage ratio to allow for an increase in the maximum of such ratio for a period of approximately two years from the effective date of the amendment;
- Provide for a change in the applicable margin on the interest rate options based upon the leverage ratio;
- Provide for additional LIBOR interest periods of six months and twelve months and remove the fixed rate interest options; and
- Permit the Company to sell up to \$30 million in term notes to Prudential Investment Management, Inc., its affiliates and managed accounts ( Prudential ) to partially fund the Tender Offer.

During 2015, the Line of Credit was used to finance in part the Tender Offer and has been and will continue to be used for general corporate purposes. The Line of Credit is secured by a lien against substantially all of the Company's assets, contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of debt service coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Line of Credit). There were \$42.4 million in borrowings outstanding under the line of credit bearing interest ranging from 2.60% to 3.50%, leaving \$17.6 million available for additional borrowings.

The Line of Credit allows us to choose between two interest rate options in connection with our borrowings. The interest rate options are the Base Rate (as defined) and the LIBOR Rate (as defined) plus an applicable margin as of December 26, 2015 of 0% and 2.25%, respectively. Interest periods for LIBOR borrowings can be one, two, three, six or twelve months, as selected by us. The Line of Credit also provides for non-utilization fees of 0.25% per annum on the daily average of the unused commitment.

In May 2015, we entered into a \$25.0 million Note Agreement (the Note Agreement ) with Prudential. Proceeds from the Note Agreement of \$25.0 million were used to fund in part the Tender Offer.

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The final maturity of the notes is 10 years. Interest at a rate of 5.50% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required prepayments of the principal of \$500,000 quarterly for the first five years, and \$750,000 quarterly thereafter until the principal is paid in full. The notes may be prepaid, at our option, in whole or in part (in a minimum amount of \$1.0 million), but prepayments require payment of a Yield Maintenance Amount, as defined in the Note Agreement.

Our obligations under the Note Agreement are secured by a lien against substantially all of our assets, and the Note Agreement contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of fixed charge coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Note Agreement).

As of December 26, 2015, we were in compliance with all of the financial covenants under the Line of Credit and Note Agreement.

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We incurred increased indebtedness in connection with the purchase of shares in the Tender Offer and, as a result, are more leveraged. We expect to generate the cash necessary to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and to pay the principal and interest on all of our outstanding debt from cash flows provided by operating activities and by opportunistically using other means to repay or refinance our obligations as we determine appropriate. Our ability to pay our expenses, finance our leasing business and meet our debt service obligations depends on our future performance, which may be affected by financial, business, economic, and other factors including the risk factors described under Item 1A of this report. If we do not have enough money to pay our debt service obligations, we may be required to refinance all or part of our existing debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity. In such an event, we may not be able to refinance our debt, sell assets, borrow more money or raise equity on terms acceptable to us or at all. Also, our ability to carry out any of these activities on favorable terms, if at all, may be further impacted by any financial or credit crisis which may limit access to the credit markets and increase our cost of capital.

We may utilize discounted lease financing to provide funds for a portion of our leasing activities. Rates for discounted lease financing reflect prevailing market interest rates and the credit standing of the lessees for which the payment stream of the leases are discounted. We believe that discounted lease financing will continue to be available to us at competitive rates of interest through the relationships we have established with financial institutions.

We believe that the combination of our cash on hand, the cash generated from our franchising business, cash generated from discounting sources and our Line of Credit will be adequate to fund our planned operations, including leasing activity, through 2016.

**Critical Accounting Policies**

The Company prepares the consolidated financial statements of Winmark Corporation and Subsidiaries in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As such, the Company is required to make certain estimates, judgments and assumptions that it believes are reasonable based on information available. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the periods presented. There can be no assurance that actual results will not differ from these estimates. The critical accounting policies that the Company believes are most important to aid in fully understanding and evaluating the reported financial results include the following:

*Revenue Recognition    Royalty Revenue and Franchise Fees*

The Company collects royalties from each retail franchise based on a percentage of retail store gross sales. The Company recognizes royalties as revenue when earned. At the end of each accounting period, estimates of royalty amounts due are made based on applying historical weekly sales information to the number of weeks of unreported franchisee sales. If there are significant changes in the actual performance of franchisees versus the Company's estimates, its royalty revenue would be impacted. During 2015, the Company collected \$12,100 more than it estimated at December 27, 2014. As of December 26, 2015, the Company's royalty receivable was \$1,241,900.

The Company collects initial franchise fees when franchise agreements are signed and recognizes the initial franchise fees as revenue when the franchise is opened, which is when the Company has performed substantially all initial services required by the franchise agreement. Franchise fees collected from franchisees but not yet recognized as income are recorded as deferred revenue in the liability section of the consolidated

balance sheet. As of December 26, 2015, deferred franchise fees were \$1,743,100.

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*Leasing Income Recognition*

Leasing income for direct financing leases is recognized under the effective interest method. The effective interest method of income recognition applies a constant rate of interest equal to the internal rate of return on the lease. Generally, when a lease is more than 90 days delinquent (when more than three monthly payments are owed), the lease is classified as being on non-accrual and the Company stops recognizing leasing income on that date. Payments received on leases in non-accrual status generally reduce the lease receivable. Leases on non-accrual status remain classified as such until there is sustained payment performance that, in the Company's judgment, would indicate that all contractual amounts will be collected in full.

In certain circumstances, the Company may re-lease equipment in its existing portfolio. As this equipment may have a fair value greater than its carrying amount when re-leased, the Company may be required to account for the lease as a sales-type lease. At inception of a sales-type lease, revenue is recorded that consists of the present value of the future minimum lease payments discounted at the rate implicit in the lease. In subsequent periods, the recording of income is consistent with the accounting for a direct financing lease.

For leases that are accounted for as operating leases, income is recognized on a straight-line basis when payments under the lease contract are due.

*Allowance for Credit Losses*

The Company maintains an allowance for credit losses at an amount that it believes to be sufficient to absorb losses inherent in its existing lease portfolio as of the reporting dates. Leases are collectively evaluated for potential loss. The Company's methodology for determining the allowance for credit losses includes consideration of the level of delinquencies and non-accrual leases, historical net charge-off amounts and review of any significant concentrations.

A provision is charged against earnings to maintain the allowance for credit losses at the appropriate level. If the actual results are different from the Company's estimates, results could be different. The Company's policy is to charge-off against the allowance the estimated unrecoverable portion of accounts once they reach 121 days delinquent. (See Note 4 Investment in Leasing Operations).

*Stock-Based Compensation*

The Company currently uses the Black-Scholes option pricing model to determine the fair value of stock options. The determination of the fair value of the awards on the date of grant using an option-pricing model is affected by stock price as well as assumptions regarding a number of complex and subjective variables. These variables include implied volatility over the term of the awards, actual and projected employee stock option exercise behaviors, risk-free interest rate and expected dividends.

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The Company evaluates the assumptions used to value awards on an annual basis. If factors change and the Company employs different assumptions for estimating stock-based compensation expense in future periods or if the Company decides to use a different valuation model, the future periods may differ significantly from what it has recorded in the current period and could materially affect operating income, net income and earnings per share.

### **Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

See Note 2, Significant Accounting Policies Recent Accounting Pronouncements .

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**Outlook**

***Forward Looking Statements***

The statements contained Item 1 Business, Item 1A Risk Factors, in this Item 7 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations, and in Item 8 Financial Statements and Supplemental Data that are not strictly historical fact, including without limitation, the Company's statements relating to growth opportunities, prospects for and anticipated operations of the leasing business, its ability to open new franchises, its ability to manage costs in the future, the number of franchises it believes will open, its future cash requirements, allowance for credit losses and its belief that it will have adequate capital and reserves to meet its current and contingent obligations and operating needs, as well as its disclosures regarding market rate risk, are forward looking statements made under the safe harbor provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act. Such statements are based on management's current expectations as of the date of this report but involve risks, uncertainties and other factors which may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward looking statements. Investors are cautioned to consider these forward looking statements in light of important factors which may result in material variations between results contemplated by such forward looking statements and actual results and conditions including, but not limited to, the risk factors discussed in Section 1A of this report. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update publicly any forward-looking statement for any reason.

**ITEM 7A: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK**

The Company incurs financial markets risk in the form of interest rate risk. Risk can be quantified by measuring the financial impact of a near-term adverse increase in short-term interest rates. At December 26, 2015, the Company had available a \$60.0 million line of credit with The PrivateBank and Trust Company and BMO Harris Bank N.A. The interest rates applicable to this agreement are based on either the bank's base rate or LIBOR for short-term borrowings (twelve months or less). The Company had \$42.4 million of debt outstanding at December 26, 2015 under this line of credit all of which was in the form of short-term borrowings subject to daily changes in the bank's base rate or LIBOR. The Company's earnings would be affected by changes in these short-term interest rates. With the Company's borrowings at December 26, 2015, a one percent increase in short-term rates would reduce annual pretax earnings by \$424,000. The Company had no interest rate derivatives in place at December 26, 2015.

None of the Company's cash and cash equivalents at December 26, 2015 was invested in money market mutual funds, which are subject to the effects of market fluctuations in interest rates. The Company's portfolio of marketable securities is subject to customary equity market risk.

Foreign currency transaction gains and losses were not material to the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 26, 2015, as less than 5% of the Company's total revenues and 1% of expenses were denominated in a foreign currency. Based upon these revenues and expenses, a 10% increase or decrease in the foreign currency exchange rates would impact annual pretax earnings by approximately \$350,000. To date, the Company has not entered into any foreign currency forward exchange contracts or other derivative financial instruments to hedge the effects of adverse fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.





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**ITEM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

Winmark Corporation and Subsidiaries

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## Consolidated Balance Sheets

|   | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                   |                   |
| Current Assets:   |                   |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents   | \$ 1,006,700      | \$ 2,089,700      |
| Marketable securities   | 227,800           | 466,800           |
| Receivables, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$200 and \$1,600                                    | 1,416,900         | 1,328,200         |
| Restricted cash   | 25,000            |                   |
| Net investment in leases - current  | 17,741,500        | 19,831,600        |
| Income tax receivable   | 3,290,400         | 4,163,900         |
| Inventories   | 45,200            | 93,500            |
| Prepaid expenses  | 677,800           | 467,400           |
| Total current assets  | 24,431,300        | 28,441,100        |
| Net investment in leases - long-term  | 21,246,000        | 24,188,900        |
| Property and equipment:   |                   |                   |
| Furniture and equipment   | 3,166,100         | 3,105,200         |
| Building and building improvements  | 1,444,200         | 1,433,200         |
| Less - accumulated depreciation and amortization  | (3,488,800)       | (3,118,100)       |
| Property and equipment, net   | 1,121,500         | 1,420,300         |
| Other assets  | 607,500           | 677,500           |
|   | \$ 47,406,300     | \$ 54,727,800     |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY (DEFICIT)</b>  |                   |                   |
| Current Liabilities:  |                   |                   |
| Line of credit  | \$                | \$ 18,500,000     |
| Notes payable, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$10,000   | 1,990,000         |                   |
| Accounts payable  | 1,643,300         | 1,955,500         |
| Accrued liabilities   | 1,875,700         | 1,759,200         |
| Discounted lease rentals  | 38,700            | 227,300           |
| Deferred revenue  | 1,963,200         | 2,142,600         |
| Total current liabilities   | 7,510,900         | 24,584,600        |
| Long-term Liabilities:  |                   |                   |
| Line of credit  | 42,400,000        |                   |
| Notes payable, net of unamortized debt issuance costs of \$83,500   | 21,916,500        |                   |
| Discounted lease rentals  |                   | 25,800            |
| Deferred revenue  | 1,421,600         | 1,347,800         |
| Other liabilities   | 1,216,300         | 1,403,200         |
| Deferred income taxes   | 3,614,800         | 5,756,900         |
| Total long-term liabilities   | 70,569,200        | 8,533,700         |
| Commitments and Contingencies   |                   |                   |
| Shareholders' Equity (Deficit):   |                   |                   |
| Common stock, no par, 10,000,000 shares authorized, 4,124,767 and 4,998,512 shares issued and outstanding | 406,500           | 422,400           |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss  | (32,900)          | (37,100)          |
| Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)   | (31,047,400)      | 21,224,200        |
| Total shareholders' equity (deficit)  | (30,673,800)      | 21,609,500        |
|   | \$ 47,406,300     | \$ 54,727,800     |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*

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## Consolidated Statements of Operations

|  | December 26, 2015    | Fiscal Year Ended<br>December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013    |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>REVENUE:</b>  |                      |  |                      |
| Royalties  | \$ 41,908,000        | \$ 38,972,400                          | \$ 36,344,100        |
| Leasing income   | 21,565,700           | 16,247,300                             | 14,524,100           |
| Merchandise sales  | 2,816,900            | 2,728,600                              | 2,327,100            |
| Franchise fees   | 1,788,100            | 1,989,700                              | 1,459,300            |
| Other  | 1,369,100            | 1,240,700                              | 1,076,600            |
| Total revenue  | 69,447,800           | 61,178,700                             | 55,731,200           |
| <b>COST OF MERCHANDISE SOLD</b>                          | <b>2,653,100</b>     | <b>2,619,900</b>                       | <b>2,205,700</b>     |
| <b>LEASING EXPENSE</b>                                   | <b>5,759,300</b>     | <b>1,630,600</b>                       | <b>1,592,000</b>     |
| <b>PROVISION FOR CREDIT LOSSES</b>                       | <b>(149,700)</b>     | <b>62,900</b>                          | <b>(44,700)</b>      |
| <b>SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>      | <b>24,094,400</b>    | <b>23,806,000</b>                      | <b>22,198,200</b>    |
| Income from operations                                   | 37,090,700           | 33,059,300                             | 29,780,000           |
| <b>INTEREST EXPENSE</b>                                  | <b>(1,802,200)</b>   | <b>(484,500)</b>                       | <b>(213,500)</b>     |
| <b>INTEREST AND OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>               | <b>(63,700)</b>      | <b>14,000</b>                          | <b>23,400</b>        |
| Income before income taxes                               | 35,224,800           | 32,588,800                             | 29,589,900           |
| <b>PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES</b>                        | <b>(13,425,100)</b>  | <b>(12,522,300)</b>                    | <b>(11,358,300)</b>  |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>  | <b>\$ 21,799,700</b> | <b>\$ 20,066,500</b>                   | <b>\$ 18,231,600</b> |
| <b>EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC</b>                        | <b>\$ 4.89</b>       | <b>\$ 3.96</b>                         | <b>\$ 3.60</b>       |
| <b>EARNINGS PER SHARE - DILUTED</b>                      | <b>\$ 4.69</b>       | <b>\$ 3.85</b>                         | <b>\$ 3.48</b>       |
| <b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING - BASIC</b>       | <b>4,458,927</b>     | <b>5,069,391</b>                       | <b>5,068,975</b>     |
| <b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE SHARES OUTSTANDING -<br/>DILUTED</b> | <b>4,651,527</b>     | <b>5,216,914</b>                       | <b>5,241,121</b>     |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*

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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

|   | December 26, 2015 | Fiscal Year End<br>December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| NET INCOME  | \$ 21,799,700     | \$ 20,066,500                        | \$ 18,231,600     |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), BEFORE TAX:                                  |                   |                                      |                   |
| Unrealized net gains (losses) on marketable securities:                         |                   |                                      |                   |
| Unrealized holding net gains (losses) arising during period                     | 9,300             | (47,600)                             | (100)             |
| Reclassification adjustment for net gains included in net income                | (2,300)           | (5,600)                              |                   |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), BEFORE TAX                                   | 7,000             | (53,200)                             | (100)             |
| INCOME TAX (EXPENSE) BENEFIT RELATED TO ITEMS<br>OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME: |                   |                                      |                   |
| Unrealized net gains/losses on marketable securities:                           |                   |                                      |                   |
| Unrealized holding net gains/losses arising during period                       | (3,700)           | 18,000                               |                   |
| Reclassification adjustment for net gains included in net income                | 900               | 2,200                                |                   |
| INCOME TAX (EXPENSE) BENEFIT RELATED TO ITEMS<br>OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  | (2,800)           | 20,200                               |                   |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS), NET OF TAX                                   | 4,200             | (33,000)                             | (100)             |
| COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  | \$ 21,803,900     | \$ 20,033,500                        | \$ 18,231,500     |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*

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## Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity (Deficit)

Fiscal years ended December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

|  | Common Stock<br>Shares | Common Stock<br>Amount | Retained<br>Earnings | Accumulated<br>Other<br>Comprehensive<br>Income (Loss) | Total           |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| BALANCE, December 29, 2012                       | 4,996,459              | \$                     | \$ 17,932,000        | \$ (4,000)   | \$ 17,928,000   |
| Repurchase of common stock                       | (28,422)               | (1,854,900)            |                      |  | (1,854,900)     |
| Stock options exercised and related tax benefits | 175,493                | 3,650,800              |                      |  | 3,650,800       |
| Compensation expense relating to stock options   |                        | 1,153,600              |                      |  | 1,153,600       |
| Cash dividends                                   |                        |                        | (964,300)            |  | (964,300)       |
| Comprehensive income (loss)                      |                        |                        | 18,231,600           | (100)  | 18,231,500      |
| BALANCE, December 28, 2013                       | 5,143,530              | 2,949,500              | 35,199,300           | (4,100)  | 38,144,700      |
| Repurchase of common stock                       | (166,030)              | (4,453,400)            | (7,111,400)          |  | (11,564,800)    |
| Stock options exercised and related tax benefits | 21,012                 | 509,100                |                      |  | 509,100         |
| Compensation expense relating to stock options   |                        | 1,417,200              |                      |  | 1,417,200       |
| Cash dividends                                   |                        |                        | (26,930,200)         |  | (26,930,200)    |
| Comprehensive income (loss)                      |                        |                        | 20,066,500           | (33,000)   | 20,033,500      |
| BALANCE, December 27, 2014                       | 4,998,512              | 422,400                | 21,224,200           | (37,100)   | 21,609,500      |
| Repurchase of common stock                       | (881,518)              | (2,010,600)            | (72,843,100)         |  | (74,853,700)    |
| Stock options exercised and related tax benefits | 7,773                  | 299,900                |                      |  | 299,900         |
| Compensation expense relating to stock options   |                        | 1,694,800              |                      |  | 1,694,800       |
| Cash dividends                                   |                        |                        | (1,228,200)          |  | (1,228,200)     |
| Comprehensive income                             |                        |                        | 21,799,700           | 4,200  | 21,803,900      |
| BALANCE, December 26, 2015                       | 4,124,767              | \$ 406,500             | \$ (31,047,400)      | \$ (32,900)  | \$ (30,673,800) |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*

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## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

|   | December 26, 2015  | Fiscal Year Ended<br>December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>  |                    |  |                   |
| Net income  | \$ 21,799,700      | \$ 20,066,500                          | \$ 18,231,600     |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                    |  |                   |
| Depreciation  | 432,600            | 412,000                                | 431,500           |
| Provision for credit losses   | (149,700)          | 62,900                                 | (44,700)          |
| Compensation expense related to stock options                                     | 1,694,800          | 1,417,200                              | 1,153,600         |
| Deferred income taxes   | (2,142,100)        | 111,900                                | (499,200)         |
| Loss (gain) on sale of marketable securities                                      | 22,800             | (8,700)                                | (25,200)          |
| Loss from disposal of property and equipment                                      | 100                | 2,300                                  |                   |
| Deferred initial direct costs   | (416,600)          | (850,400)                              | (444,400)         |
| Amortization of deferred initial direct costs                                     | 587,300            | 754,400                                | 539,900           |
| Tax benefits on exercised stock options   | (26,300)           | (91,100)                               | (413,600)         |
| Change in operating assets and liabilities:                                       |                    |  |                   |
| Receivables   | (88,700)           | (122,700)                              | 31,600            |
| Restricted cash   | (25,000)           |  |                   |
| Income tax receivable/payable   | 897,000            | (3,886,100)                            | 1,647,800         |
| Inventories   | 48,300             | 3,200                                  | (25,500)          |
| Prepaid expenses  | (210,400)          | 119,900                                | (142,100)         |
| Other assets  | 70,000             |  |                   |
| Accounts payable  | (312,200)          | (485,900)                              | 237,700           |
| Accrued and other liabilities   | (147,100)          | 423,700                                | (158,300)         |
| Rents received in advance and security deposits                                   | 370,600            | (55,900)                               | 342,300           |
| Deferred revenue  | (105,600)          | 109,800                                | 785,900           |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 22,299,500         | 17,983,000                             | 21,648,900        |
| <b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>  |                    |  |                   |
| Proceeds from sale of marketable securities                                       | 299,000            | 862,400                                | 774,400           |
| Purchase of marketable securities   | (75,800)           | (637,200)                              | (1,399,900)       |
| Purchase of property and equipment  | (133,900)          | (452,400)                              | (396,400)         |
| Purchase of equipment for lease contracts   | (22,192,800)       | (27,547,400)                           | (20,727,100)      |
| Principal collections on lease receivables  | 26,603,000         | 20,724,600                             | 17,755,900        |
| Net cash provided by (used for) investing activities                              | 4,499,500          | (7,050,000)                            | (3,993,100)       |
| <b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>  |                    |  |                   |
| Proceeds from borrowings on line of credit  | 62,300,000         | 33,900,000                             | 2,000,000         |
| Payments on line of credit  | (38,400,000)       | (15,400,000)                           | (12,800,000)      |
| Proceeds from borrowings on notes payable   | 25,000,000         |  |                   |
| Payments on notes payable   | (1,000,000)        |  |                   |
| Repurchases of common stock   | (74,853,700)       | (11,564,800)                           | (1,854,900)       |
| Proceeds from exercises of stock options  | 273,600            | 418,000                                | 3,237,200         |
| Dividends paid  | (1,228,200)        | (26,930,200)                           | (964,300)         |
| Proceeds from discounted lease rentals  |                    |  | 721,800           |
| Tax benefits on exercised stock options   | 26,300             | 91,100                                 | 413,600           |
| Net cash used for financing activities  | (27,882,000)       | (19,485,900)                           | (9,246,600)       |
| <b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>                       | <b>(1,083,000)</b> | <b>(8,552,900)</b>                     | <b>8,409,200</b>  |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year                                      | 2,089,700          | 10,642,600                             | 2,233,400         |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year  | \$ 1,006,700       | \$ 2,089,700                           | \$ 10,642,600     |

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SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES:

|  |    |            |    |            |    |            |
|--|----|------------|----|------------|----|------------|
| Cash paid for interest                   | \$ | 1,492,500  | \$ | 421,200    | \$ | 217,500    |
| Cash paid for income taxes               | \$ | 14,647,400 | \$ | 16,229,000 | \$ | 10,135,100 |
| Non-cash landlord leasehold improvements | \$ |            | \$ |            | \$ | 187,800    |

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.*



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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

**1. Organization and Business:**

Winmark Corporation and subsidiaries (the Company) offers licenses to operate franchises using the service marks Plato's Closet®, Play It Again Sports®, Once Upon A Child®, Style Encore® and Music Go Round®. In addition, the Company sells point-of-sale system hardware to its franchisees and certain merchandise to its Play It Again Sports franchisees. The Company also operates both middle market and small-ticket equipment leasing businesses under the Winmark Capital® and Wirth Business Credit® marks. The Company has a 52/53-week fiscal year that ends on the last Saturday in December. Fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013 were 52-week fiscal years.

Following is a summary of our franchising activity for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015:

|                             | 12/27/14 | OPENED | CLOSED | 12/26/15 |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| <u>Plato's Closet</u>       |          |        |        |          |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 426      | 31     | (1)    | 456      |
| <u>Once Upon A Child</u>    |          |        |        |          |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 308      | 20     | (2)    | 326      |
| <u>Play It Again Sports</u> |          |        |        |          |
| Franchises - US and Canada  | 301      | 7      | (11)   | 297      |
| <u>Style Encore</u>         |          |        |        |          |
| Franchises - US             | 24       | 14     | (0)    | 38       |
| <u>Music Go Round</u>       |          |        |        |          |
| Franchises - US             | 33       | 1      | (1)    | 33       |
| Total Franchised Stores     | 1,092    | 73     | (15)   | 1,150    |

**2. Significant Accounting Policies:***Principles of Consolidation*

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly-owned subsidiaries, Winmark Capital Corporation, Wirth Business Credit, Inc. and Grow Biz Games, Inc. All material inter-company transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

*Cash Equivalents*

Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased. Cash equivalents are stated at cost, which approximates fair value. As of December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, the Company had \$99,100 and \$73,100 of cash located in Canadian banks. The Company holds its cash and cash equivalents with financial institutions and at times, such balances may be in excess of insurance limits.

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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

***Receivables***

The Company provides an allowance for doubtful accounts on trade receivables. The allowance for doubtful accounts was \$200 and \$1,600 at December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively. If receivables in excess of the provided allowance are determined uncollectible, they are charged to expense in the year the determination is made. Trade receivables are written off when they become uncollectible (which generally occurs when the franchise terminates and there is no reasonable expectation of collection), and payments subsequently received on such receivable are credited to the allowance for doubtful accounts. Historically, receivables balances written off have not exceeded allowances provided.

***Restricted Cash***

The Company is required by certain states to maintain initial franchise fees in a restricted bank account until the franchise opens. The use of these funds by the Company is restricted until the franchise opens. Cash held in escrow totaled \$25,000 at December 26, 2015.

***Investment in Leasing Operations***

The Company uses the direct finance method of accounting to record income from direct financing leases. At the inception of a lease, the Company records the minimum future lease payments receivable, the estimated residual value of the leased equipment and the unearned lease income. Initial direct costs related to lease originations are deferred as part of the investment and amortized over the lease term. Unearned lease income is the amount by which the total lease receivable plus the estimated residual value exceeds the cost of the equipment.

***Leasing Income Recognition***

Leasing income for direct financing leases is recognized under the effective interest method. The effective interest method of income recognition applies a constant rate of interest equal to the internal rate of return on the lease. Generally, when a lease is more than 90 days delinquent (when more than three monthly payments are owed), the lease is classified as being on non-accrual and the Company stops recognizing leasing income on that date. Payments received on leases in non-accrual status generally reduce the lease receivable. Leases on non-accrual status remain classified as such until there is sustained payment performance that, in the Company's judgment, would indicate that

all contractual amounts will be collected in full.

In certain circumstances, the Company may re-lease equipment in its existing portfolio. As this equipment may have a fair value greater than its carrying amount when re-leased, the Company may be required to account for the lease as a sales-type lease. At inception of a sales-type lease, revenue is recorded that consists of the present value of the future minimum lease payments discounted at the rate implicit in the lease. In subsequent periods, the recording of income is consistent with the accounting for a direct financing lease.

For leases that are accounted for as operating leases, income is recognized on a straight-line basis when payments under the lease contract are due.

#### *Leasing Expense*

Leasing expense includes the cost of financing equipment purchases, the cost of equipment sales as well as depreciation expense for operating lease assets. Additionally, at inception of a sales-type lease, cost is recorded that consists of the equipment's book value, less the present value of its residual and is included in leasing expense.

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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

*Initial Direct Costs*

The Company defers initial direct costs incurred to originate its leases in accordance with applicable accounting guidance. The initial direct costs deferred are part of the investment in leasing operations and are amortized using the effective interest method. Initial direct costs include commissions and costs associated with credit evaluation, recording guarantees and other security arrangements, documentation and transaction closing.

*Lease Residual Values*

Residual values reflect the estimated amounts to be received at lease termination from sales or other dispositions of leased equipment to unrelated parties. The leased equipment residual values are based on the Company's best estimate.

*Allowance for Credit Losses*

The Company maintains an allowance for credit losses at an amount that it believes to be sufficient to absorb losses inherent in its existing lease portfolio as of the reporting dates. Leases are collectively evaluated for potential loss. The Company's methodology for determining the allowance for credit losses includes consideration of the level of delinquencies and non-accrual leases, historical net charge-off amounts and review of any significant concentrations.

A provision is charged against earnings to maintain the allowance for credit losses at the appropriate level. If the actual results are different from the Company's estimates, results could be different. The Company's policy is to charge-off against the allowance the estimated unrecoverable portion of accounts once they reach 121 days delinquent.

*Inventories*

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The Company values its inventories at the lower of cost, as determined by the weighted average cost method, or market. Inventory consists of computer hardware and related accessories.

### *Impairment of Long-lived Assets*

The Company reviews its long-lived assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. If the carrying amount of the asset exceeds expected undiscounted future cash flows, the Company measures the amount of impairment by comparing the carrying amount of the asset to its fair value.

### *Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation and amortization for financial reporting purposes is provided on the straight-line method. Estimated useful lives used in calculating depreciation and amortization are: three to five years for computer and peripheral equipment, five to seven years for furniture and equipment and the shorter of the lease term or useful life for leasehold improvements. Major repairs, refurbishments and improvements which significantly extend the useful lives of the related assets are capitalized. Maintenance and repairs, supplies and accessories are charged to expense as incurred.

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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

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***Goodwill***

The Company reviews its goodwill for impairment at its fiscal year end or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that there has been impairment in the value of its goodwill. No impairment was noted during the years ended December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014. Goodwill of \$607,500 is included in other assets in the consolidated balance sheets at December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, and is all attributable to the Franchising segment.

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted U.S. accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. The ultimate results could differ from those estimates. The most significant estimates relate to allowance for credit losses. These estimates may be adjusted as more current information becomes available, and any adjustment could be significant.

***Advertising***

Advertising costs are charged to operating expenses as incurred. Advertising costs were \$199,300, \$252,800 and \$185,300 for fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

***Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation***

The Company recognizes the cost of all share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, in the consolidated financial statements based on the grant date fair value of those awards. This cost is recognized over the period for which an employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award.

The Company estimates the fair value of options granted using the Black-Scholes option valuation model. The Company estimates the volatility of its common stock at the date of grant based on its historical volatility rate. The Company's decision to use historical volatility was based upon the lack of actively traded options on its common stock. The Company estimates the expected term based upon historical option exercises. The risk-free interest rate assumption is based on observed interest rates for the expected term. The Company uses historical data to estimate pre-vesting option forfeitures and record share-based compensation expense only for those awards that are expected to vest. For options granted, the Company amortizes the fair value on a straight-line basis. All options are amortized over the vesting periods.

***Revenue Recognition - Franchising***

The Company collects royalties from each retail franchise based on a percentage of retail store gross sales. The Company recognizes royalties as revenue when earned. The Company collects initial franchise fees when franchise agreements are signed and recognizes the initial franchise fees as revenue when the franchise is opened, which is when the Company has performed substantially all initial services required by the franchise agreement. The Company had deferred franchise fee revenue of \$1,743,100 and \$2,005,300 at December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively. The Company recognizes deferred software license fees over the 10-year life of the initial franchise agreement. The Company had deferred software license fees of \$1,591,600 and \$1,399,400 at December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively. Merchandise sales are recognized when the product has been shipped to the franchisee.



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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

***Sales Tax***

The Company's accounting policy is to present taxes collected from customers and remitted to government authorities on a net basis.

***Discounted Lease Rentals***

The Company may utilize its lease rentals receivable and underlying equipment as collateral to borrow from financial institutions at fixed rates on a non-recourse basis. In the event of a default by a customer, the financial institution has a first lien on the underlying leased equipment, with no further recourse against the Company. Proceeds from discounting are recorded on the balance sheet as discounted lease rentals. As customers make payments, lease income and interest expense are recorded and discounted lease rentals are reduced by the effective interest method.

***Earnings Per Share***

The Company calculates earnings per share by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding to arrive at the Earnings Per Share - Basic. The Company calculates Earnings Per Share - Diluted by dividing net income by the weighted average number of shares of common stock and dilutive stock equivalents from the potential exercise of stock options using the treasury stock method.

The following table sets forth the presentation of shares outstanding used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share (EPS):

|   | <b>Year Ended</b>        |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | <b>December 26, 2015</b> | <b>December 27, 2014</b> | <b>December 28, 2013</b> |
| Denominator for basic EPS - weighted average common shares  | 4,458,927                | 5,069,391                | 5,068,975                |
| Dilutive shares associated with option plans  | 192,600                  | 147,523                  | 172,146                  |
| Denominator for diluted EPS - weighted average common shares and dilutive potential common shares | 4,651,527                | 5,216,914                | 5,241,121                |
| Options excluded from EPS calculation - anti-dilutive   | 22,459                   | 39,240                   | 30,450                   |

*Fair Value Measurements*

The Company defines fair value as the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. The Company uses three levels of inputs to measure fair value:

- Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 2 observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.
- Level 3 unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data available, which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

The Company's marketable securities were valued based on Level 1 inputs using quoted prices.

Due to their nature, the carrying value of cash equivalents, receivables, payables and debt obligations approximates fair value.

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**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

***Recent Accounting Pronouncements***

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ( FASB ) issued Accounting Standards Update ( ASU ) 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, which provides guidance for revenue recognition that supersedes existing revenue recognition guidance (but does not apply to nor supersede accounting guidance for lease contracts). The ASU's core principle is that an entity will recognize revenue when it transfers promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The ASU also requires more detailed disclosures to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers. As a result of the FASB's issuance of ASU 2015-14, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers: Deferral of the Effective Date*, which deferred the effective date of ASU 2014-09 for all entities by one year, such ASU is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and should be applied retrospectively to each prior reporting period presented or retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying the ASU recognized at the date of initial application. The new standard will become effective for the Company beginning with the first quarter of fiscal 2018. The Company is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of this ASU on the Company's consolidated results.

In April 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-03, *Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs*, which amends existing guidance to require the presentation of debt issuance costs in the balance sheet as a deduction from the carrying amount of the related debt liability instead of a deferred charge (as an asset). The ASU is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, but early adoption is permitted. The Company early adopted the ASU for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015, and applied its provision retrospectively. The adoption of this ASU resulted in the classification of \$93,500 of unamortized debt issuance costs related to Notes Payable as long-term debt within the Company's Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 26, 2015. As the ASU is only applicable to debt issuance costs incurred by the Company for its Notes Payable in fiscal 2015, no prior period information has been retrospectively adjusted. Other than this classification, the adoption of this ASU did not have an impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In November 2015, FASB issued ASU 2015-17, *Balance Sheet Classification of Deferred Taxes*, which simplifies the presentation of deferred income taxes. This ASU requires deferred tax assets and liabilities to be classified as noncurrent on the balance sheet. The Company early adopted the ASU for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2015 and applied its provisions retrospectively to all periods presented. The adoption of this ASU affects balance sheet presentation, and as of December 27, 2014 it resulted in an increase in long-term deferred income tax liabilities of \$4.4 million and a reduction of current deferred income tax liabilities of \$4.4 million.

In February 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-02, *Leases (Topic 842)*, which provides guidance on accounting for leases that supersedes existing lease accounting guidance. The ASU's core principle is that a lessee should recognize lease assets and lease liabilities for those leases classified as operating leases under existing lease accounting guidance. The new standard also makes targeted changes to lessor accounting. This guidance is effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. The provisions of this guidance are to be applied using a modified retrospective approach, with elective reliefs, which requires application of the guidance for all periods presented. The Company is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of the adoption of this ASU on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

*Reclassifications*

Certain reclassifications of previously reported amounts have been made to conform to the current year presentation. Such reclassifications did not impact net income or shareholders' equity as previously reported.

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## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

**3. Investments:***Marketable Securities*

The following is a summary of marketable securities classified as available-for-sale securities:

|                   | December 26, 2015 |            | December 27, 2014 |            |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|                   | Cost              | Fair Value | Cost              | Fair Value |
| Equity securities | \$ 280,600        | \$ 227,800 | \$ 526,600        | \$ 466,800 |

The Company's unrealized gains and losses for marketable securities classified as available-for-sale securities in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are as follows:

|                                 | Year Ended        |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                 | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
| Unrealized gains                | \$ 13,400         | \$ 3,300          | \$ 6,800          |
| Unrealized losses               | (52,800)          | (63,100)          | (13,400)          |
| Net unrealized gains / (losses) | \$ (52,800)       | \$ (59,800)       | \$ (6,600)        |

The Company's realized gains and losses recognized on sales of available-for-sale marketable securities are as follows:

|                               | Year Ended        |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                               | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
| Realized gains                | \$ 13,400         | \$ 40,900         | \$ 25,200         |
| Realized losses               | (36,200)          | (32,200)          |                   |
| Net realized gains / (losses) | \$ (22,800)       | \$ 8,700          | \$ 25,200         |

Amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income into earnings is determined by using the average cost of the security when sold. Gross realized gains (losses) reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss into earnings are included in Interest and Other Income (Expense) and the related tax benefits (expenses) are included in the Provision for Income Taxes lines of the Consolidated Statements of

Operations.

#### 4. Investment in Leasing Operations:

Investment in leasing operations consists of the following:

|  | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Direct financing and sales-type leases:                    |                   |                   |
| Minimum lease payments receivable                          | \$ 37,181,600     | \$ 40,739,900     |
| Estimated residual value of equipment                      | 4,511,000         | 4,347,100         |
| Unearned lease income net of initial direct costs deferred | (4,999,700)       | (6,061,100)       |
| Security deposits  | (3,640,500)       | (3,253,200)       |
| Equipment installed on leases not yet commenced            | 6,754,200         | 8,364,100         |
| Total investment in direct financing and sales-type leases | 39,806,600        | 44,136,800        |
| Allowance for credit losses                                | (859,100)         | (386,000)         |
| Net investment in direct financing and sales-type leases   | 38,947,500        | 43,750,800        |
| Operating leases:  |                   |                   |
| Operating lease assets                                     | 1,083,300         | 806,100           |
| Less accumulated depreciation and amortization             | (1,043,300)       | (536,400)         |
| Net investment in operating leases                         | 40,000            | 269,700           |
| Total net investment in leasing operations                 | \$ 38,987,500     | \$ 44,020,500     |

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As of December 26, 2015, the \$39.0 million total net investment in leases consists of \$17.7 million classified as current and \$21.3 million classified as long-term. As of December 27, 2014, the \$44.0 million total net investment in leases consists of \$19.8 million classified as current and \$24.2 million classified as long-term.

As of December 26, 2015, leased assets with three customers approximated 17%, 12% and 11%, respectively, of the Company's total assets. As of December 27, 2014, leased assets with two customers approximated 15% and 10%, respectively, of the Company's total assets.

Future minimum lease payments receivable under lease contracts and the amortization of unearned lease income, net of initial direct costs deferred, is as follows as of December 26, 2015:

| Fiscal Year | Direct Financing and Sales-Type Leases |                        | Operating Leases                     |
|-------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             | Minimum Lease<br>Payments Receivable   | Income<br>Amortization | Minimum Lease<br>Payments Receivable |
| 2016        | \$ 22,732,100                          | \$ 3,695,800           | \$ 13,300                            |
| 2017        | 11,800,100                             | 1,188,500              |                                      |
| 2018        | 2,647,400                              | 115,400                |                                      |
| 2019        | 2,000                                  |                        |                                      |
| 2020        |  |                        |                                      |
| Thereafter  | \$ 37,181,600                          | \$ 4,999,700           | \$ 13,300                            |

The activity in the allowance for credit losses for leasing operations during 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively, is as follows:

|                                    | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance at beginning of period     | \$ 386,000        | \$ 822,700        | \$ 775,800        |
| Provisions charged to expense      | (149,700)         | 62,900            | (44,700)          |
| Recoveries                         | 632,200           | 106,900           | 127,500           |
| Deductions for amounts written-off | (9,400)           | (606,500)         | (35,900)          |
| Balance at end of period           | \$ 859,100        | \$ 386,000        | \$ 822,700        |

The Company's investment in direct financing and sales-type leases ( Investment In Leases ) and allowance for credit losses by loss evaluation methodology are as follows:

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|   | December 26, 2015       |                                | December 27, 2014       |                                |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | Investment<br>In Leases | Allowance for<br>Credit Losses | Investment<br>In Leases | Allowance for<br>Credit Losses |
| Collectively evaluated for loss potential | \$ 39,806,600           | \$ 859,100                     | \$ 44,136,800           | \$ 386,000                     |
| Individually evaluated for loss potential |                         |                                |                         |                                |
| Total                                     | \$ 39,806,600           | \$ 859,100                     | \$ 44,136,800           | \$ 386,000                     |



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The Company's key credit quality indicator for its investment in direct financing and sales-type leases is the status of the lease, defined as accruing or non-accrual. Leases that are accruing income are considered to have a lower risk of loss. Non-accrual leases are those that the Company believes have a higher risk of loss. The following table sets forth information regarding the Company's accruing and non-accrual leases. Delinquent balances are determined based on the contractual terms of the lease.

|                               | 0-60 Days                  |  | 61-90 Days                 |       | December 26, 2015<br>Over 90 Days<br>Delinquent and |             | Total         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------|---|-------------|---------------|
|                               | Delinquent<br>and Accruing |  | Delinquent<br>and Accruing |       | Accruing  | Non-Accrual |               |
| Middle-Market                 | \$ 38,616,600              |  | \$                         |       | \$  | \$          | \$ 38,616,600 |
| Small-Ticket                  | 1,185,800                  |  |                            | 4,200 |   |             | 1,190,000     |
| Total Investment in<br>Leases | \$ 39,802,400              |  | \$ 4,200                   |       | \$  | \$          | \$ 39,806,600 |

|                               | 0-60 Days                  |  | 61-90 Days                 |  | December 27, 2014<br>Over 90 Days<br>Delinquent and |             | Total         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|---|-------------|---------------|
|                               | Delinquent<br>and Accruing |  | Delinquent<br>and Accruing |  | Accruing  | Non-Accrual |               |
| Middle-Market                 | \$ 42,948,000              |  | \$                         |  | \$  | \$          | \$ 42,948,000 |
| Small-Ticket                  | 1,188,800                  |  |                            |  |   |             | 1,188,800     |
| Total Investment in<br>Leases | \$ 44,136,800              |  | \$                         |  | \$  | \$          | \$ 44,136,800 |

**5. Receivables:**

The Company's current receivables consisted of the following:

|         | December 26, 2015 |  | December 27, 2014 |  |
|---------|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Trade   | \$ 7,600          |  | \$ 18,000         |  |
| Royalty | 1,242,800         |  | 1,198,000         |  |
| Other   | 166,500           |  | 112,200           |  |
|         | \$ 1,416,900      |  | \$ 1,328,200      |  |

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The activity in the allowance for doubtful accounts for trade receivables is as follows:

|                                    | December 26, 2015 |         | December 27, 2014 |         | December 28, 2013 |         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Balance at beginning of year       | \$                | 1,600   | \$                | 4,300   | \$                | 17,300  |
| Provisions charged to expense      |                   | 1,500   |                   | (200)   |                   | (3,800) |
| Deductions for amounts written-off |                   | (2,900) |                   | (2,500) |                   | (9,200) |
| Balance at end of year             | \$                | 200     | \$                | 1,600   | \$                | 4,300   |

As part of its normal operating procedures, the Company requires Standby Letters of Credit as collateral for a portion of its trade receivables.

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**6. Shareholders Equity (Deficit):**

*Dividends*

In 2015, the Company declared and paid quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.27 per share (\$1.2 million).

In 2014, the Company declared and paid quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.23 per share (\$1.2 million) and a \$5.00 per share special cash dividend (the 2014 Special Dividend ). The 2014 Special Dividend totaled \$25.8 million and was financed by a combination of cash on hand as well as net borrowings under the Line of Credit. (See Note 7 Debt ).

In 2013, the Company declared and paid quarterly cash dividends totaling \$0.19 per share (\$0.96 million).

*Repurchase of Common Stock*

In April 2015, the Company's Board of Directors authorized the repurchase of up to 875,000 shares of our common stock for a price of \$84.72 per share through a tender offer (the Tender Offer ). The Tender Offer began on the date of the announcement, April 15, 2015 and expired on May 13, 2015. Upon expiration, the Company accepted for payment 875,000 shares for a total purchase price of approximately \$74.3 million, including fees and expenses related to the Tender Offer. The Tender Offer was financed by a combination of cash on hand as well as net borrowings under the Line of Credit and Notes Payable. (See Note 7 Debt ).

In addition to the Tender Offer, during 2015, the Company repurchased 6,518 shares for an aggregate purchase price of \$0.6 million or \$90.85 per share. In 2014, the Company repurchased 166,030 shares for an aggregate purchase price of \$11.6 million or \$69.65 per share. In 2013, the Company repurchased 28,422 shares for an aggregate purchase price of \$1.9 million or \$65.26 per share.

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Under a previous Board of Directors authorization, as of December 26, 2015 the Company has the ability to repurchase an additional 160,182 shares of its common stock. Repurchases may be made from time to time at prevailing prices, subject to certain restrictions on volume, pricing and timing.

### *Stock Option Plans*

The Company had authorized up to 750,000 shares of common stock be reserved for granting either nonqualified or incentive stock options to officers and key employees under the Company's 2001 Stock Option Plan (the 2001 Plan). The 2001 Plan expired on February 20, 2011. The Company has authorized up to 500,000 shares of common stock to be reserved for granting either nonqualified or incentive stock options to officers and key employees under the Company's 2010 Stock Option Plan (the 2010 Plan).

Grants under the 2001 Plan and 2010 Plan are made by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors at a price of not less than 100% of the fair market value on the date of grant. If an incentive stock option is granted to an individual who owns more than 10% of the voting rights of the Company's common stock, the option exercise price may not be less than 110% of the fair market value on the date of grant. The term of the options may not exceed 10 years, except in the case of nonqualified stock options, whereby the terms are established by the Compensation Committee. Options may be exercisable in whole or in installments, as determined by the Compensation Committee.

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The Company also sponsors a Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (the Nonemployee Directors Plan ), and has reserved a total of 350,000 shares for issuance to directors of the Company who are not employees.

Stock option activity under the 2001 Plan, 2010 Plan and Nonemployee Directors Plan (collectively, the Option Plans ) as of December 26, 2015 was as follows:

|                                  | Number of<br>Shares | Weighted Average<br>Exercise Price | Weighted Average<br>Remaining<br>Contractual Life<br>(years) | Intrinsic Value |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Outstanding at December 29, 2012 | 613,727             | \$ 31.46                           | 7.06   | \$ 16,010,000   |
| Granted                          | 96,250              | 71.39                              |  |                 |
| Exercised                        | (176,700)           | 18.82                              |  |                 |
| Forfeited                        | (6,565)             | 42.20                              |  |                 |
| Outstanding at December 28, 2013 | 526,712             | 42.87                              | 7.33   | 26,446,700      |
| Granted                          | 97,000              | 73.31                              |  |                 |
| Exercised                        | (21,012)            | 19.89                              |  |                 |
| Forfeited                        | (5,000)             | 56.85                              |  |                 |
| Outstanding at December 27, 2014 | 597,700             | 48.50                              | 6.93   | 20,973,700      |
| Granted                          | 79,400              | 91.46                              |  |                 |
| Exercised                        | (8,360)             | 38.46                              |  |                 |
| Outstanding at December 26, 2015 | 668,740             | \$ 53.73                           | 6.41   | \$ 25,582,300   |
| Exercisable at December 26, 2015 | 440,577             | \$ 41.76                           | 5.29   | \$ 22,123,700   |

The fair value of options granted under the Option Plans during 2015, 2014 and 2013 were estimated on the date of the grant using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions and results:

|                               | Year Ended        |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                               | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
| Risk free interest rate       | 1.71%             | 1.75%             | 1.60%             |
| Expected life (years)         | 6                 | 6                 | 6                 |
| Expected volatility           | 30.15%            | 33.2%             | 32.9%             |
| Dividend yield                | 1.36%             | 1.66%             | 1.65%             |
| Fair value per option granted | \$ 24.88          | \$ 21.02          | \$ 20.36          |



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Options outstanding as of December 26, 2015 are exercisable as follows:

| Range of<br>Exercise Price | Number<br>Outstanding | Options Outstanding  |                                       | Options Exercisable   |                                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                            |                       | Weighted Average<br>Remaining<br>Contractual Life<br>(Years) | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise Price | Number<br>Exercisable | Weighted<br>Average<br>Exercise Price |
| \$ 12.75 - \$ 18.40        | 52,261                | 3.03   | \$ 13.97                              | 52,261                | \$ 13.97                              |
| 20.32 - 31.19              | 104,674               | 3.35   | 25.20                                 | 104,674               | 25.20                                 |
| 32.92 - 51.17              | 128,519               | 5.60   | 40.82                                 | 117,203               | 39.82                                 |
| 53.34 - 80.32              | 256,136               | 7.46   | 62.87                                 | 142,564               | 58.85                                 |
| 82.72 - 91.93              | 127,150               | 9.01   | 88.18                                 | 23,875                | 82.72                                 |
|                            | 668,740               | 6.41   | \$ 53.73                              | 440,577               | \$ 41.76                              |

The total intrinsic value of options exercised during 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$0.4 million, \$1.2 million and \$8.7 million, respectively. The total fair value of shares vested during 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$6.2 million, \$5.1 million and \$3.9 million, respectively.

During 2015, 2014 and 2013, option holders surrendered 587, 0 and 1,207 shares, respectively, of previously owned common stock as payment for option shares exercised as provided for by the Option Plans. All unexercised options at December 26, 2015 have an exercise price equal to the fair market value on the date of the grant.

Compensation expense of \$1,694,800, \$1,417,200 and \$1,153,600 relating to the vested portion of the fair value of stock options granted was expensed to Selling, General and Administrative Expenses in 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. As of December 26, 2015, the Company had \$4.0 million of total unrecognized compensation expense related to stock options that is expected to be recognized over the remaining weighted average vesting period of approximately 2.5 years.

**7. Debt:***Line of Credit*

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As of December 26, 2015, there was \$42.4 million in borrowings outstanding under the Company's revolving credit facility with The PrivateBank and Trust Company and BMO Harris Bank N.A. (the Line of Credit) bearing interest ranging from 2.60% to 3.50%.

During 2014, the Line of Credit was amended to, among other things, amend certain financial covenant calculations to remove the effect of the 2014 Special Dividend in such calculations, to reduce the applicable margin on the interest rate options, and to extend the termination date from February 29, 2016 to February 28, 2018.

In April 2015, the Line of Credit was amended to, among other things:

- Provide the consent of the lenders for the Tender Offer;
- Increase the aggregate commitments from \$35.0 million to \$60.0 million to partially fund the Tender Offer;



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- Extend the termination date from February 28, 2018 to May 14, 2019;
- Amend the tangible net worth covenant calculation to remove the effect of the Tender Offer and amend the leverage ratio to allow for an increase in the maximum of such ratio for a period of approximately two years from the effective date of the amendment;
- Provide for a change in the applicable margin on the interest rate options based upon the leverage ratio;
- Provide for additional LIBOR interest periods of six months and twelve months and remove the fixed rate interest options; and
- Permit the Company to sell up to \$30 million in term notes to Prudential Investment Management, Inc., its affiliates and managed accounts ( Prudential ) to partially fund the Tender Offer.

The Line of Credit has been and will continue to be used for general corporate purposes. During 2015, the Line of Credit was used to finance in part the Tender Offer (as indicated above). During 2014, the Line of Credit was used to finance in part the 2014 Special Dividend (as indicated above). Borrowings under the Line of Credit are subject to certain borrowing base limitations, and the Line of Credit is secured by a lien against substantially all of the Company's assets, contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of debt service coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Line of Credit). As of December 26, 2015, the Company was in compliance with all of its financial covenants and the Company's additional borrowing availability under the Line of Credit was \$17.6 million.

The Line of Credit allows the Company to choose between two interest rate options in connection with its borrowings. The interest rate options are the Base Rate (as defined) and the LIBOR Rate (as defined) plus an applicable margin as of December 26, 2015 of 0% and 2.25%, respectively. Interest periods for LIBOR borrowings can be one, two, three, six or twelve months, as selected by the Company. The Line of Credit also provides for non-utilization fees of 0.25% per annum on the daily average of the unused commitment.

***Notes Payable***

In May 2015, the Company entered into a \$25.0 million Note Agreement (the Note Agreement ) with Prudential. Proceeds from the Note Agreement of \$25.0 million were used to finance in part the Tender Offer (as indicated above).

The final maturity of the notes is 10 years. Interest at a rate of 5.50% per annum on the outstanding principal balance is payable quarterly, along with required prepayments of the principal of \$500,000 quarterly for the first five years, and \$750,000 quarterly thereafter until the principal is paid in full. The notes may be prepaid, at the option of the Company, in whole or in part (in a minimum amount of \$1.0 million), but prepayments require payment of a Yield Maintenance Amount, as defined in the Note Agreement.

The Company's obligations under the Note Agreement are secured by a lien against substantially all of the Company's assets (as the notes rank *pari passu* with the Line of Credit), and the Note Agreement contains customary financial conditions and covenants, and requires maintenance of minimum levels of fixed charge coverage and tangible net worth and maximum levels of leverage (all as defined within the Note Agreement). As of December 26, 2015, the Company was in compliance with all of its financial covenants.

In connection with the Note Agreement, the Company incurred \$112,800 in debt issuance costs, of which unamortized amounts are presented as a direct deduction from the carrying amount of the related liability.

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**8. Accrued Liabilities:**

Accrued liabilities at December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014 are as follows:

|  | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accrued salaries, wages, commissions and bonuses | \$ 414,300        | \$ 696,800        |
| Accrued vacation                                 | 221,000           | 208,800           |
| Accrued interest                                 | 283,800           | 43,400            |
| Other  | 956,600           | 810,200           |
|  | \$ 1,875,700      | \$ 1,759,200      |

**9. Discounted Lease Rentals:**

The Company utilized certain lease receivables and underlying equipment as collateral to borrow from financial institutions at a weighted average rate of 3.22% at December 26, 2015 on a non-recourse basis. As of December 26, 2015, all of the liability balance is current.

**10. Income Taxes:**

A reconciliation of the expected federal income tax expense based on the federal statutory tax rate to the actual income tax expense is provided below:

|  | Year Ended        |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
| Federal income tax expense at statutory rate (35%)     | \$ 12,328,700     | \$ 11,406,100     | \$ 10,356,500     |
| Change in valuation allowance                          | (4,400)           | (25,800)          | 7,300             |
| State and local income taxes, net of federal benefit   | 956,000           | 897,800           | 886,200           |
| Permanent differences, including stock option expenses | 158,100           | 144,500           | 113,000           |
| Other, net   | (13,300)          | 99,700            | (4,700)           |
| Actual income tax expense                              | \$ 13,425,100     | \$ 12,522,300     | \$ 11,358,300     |

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Components of the provision for income taxes are as follows:

|   | <b>Year Ended</b>        |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | <b>December 26, 2015</b> | <b>December 27, 2014</b> | <b>December 28, 2013</b> |
| <b>Current:</b>                         |                          |                          |                          |
| Federal                                 | \$ 13,486,500            | \$ 10,567,100            | \$ 10,013,500            |
| State                                   | 1,654,800                | 1,456,400                | 1,468,600                |
| Foreign                                 | 425,900                  | 386,900                  | 375,400                  |
| <b>Current provision</b>                | <b>15,567,200</b>        | <b>12,410,400</b>        | <b>11,857,500</b>        |
| <b>Deferred:</b>                        |                          |                          |                          |
| Federal                                 | (1,983,200)              | 134,200                  | (449,300)                |
| State                                   | (158,900)                | (22,300)                 | (49,900)                 |
| <b>Deferred provision</b>               | <b>(2,142,100)</b>       | <b>111,900</b>           | <b>(499,200)</b>         |
| <b>Total provision for income taxes</b> | <b>\$ 13,425,100</b>     | <b>\$ 12,522,300</b>     | <b>\$ 11,358,300</b>     |

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The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to the net deferred income tax assets and liabilities are presented below:

|   | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Deferred tax assets:                                    |                   |                   |
| Accounts receivable and lease reserves                  | \$ 345,200        | \$ 169,600        |
| Accrued restructuring charge                            |                   | 64,200            |
| Non-qualified stock option expense                      | 1,926,400         | 1,382,400         |
| Deferred franchise and software license fees            | 810,900           | 720,900           |
| Trademarks  | 85,700            | 91,100            |
| Lease deposits  | 1,373,000         | 1,228,300         |
| Loss from and impairment of equity and note investments | 4,051,400         | 4,055,800         |
| Valuation allowance                                     | (4,051,400)       | (4,055,800)       |
| Other   | 372,800           | 420,100           |
| Total deferred tax assets                               | 4,914,000         | 4,076,600         |
| Deferred tax liabilities:                               |                   |                   |
| Lease revenue and initial direct costs                  | (8,277,600)       | (9,579,400)       |
| Depreciation and amortization                           | (251,200)         | (254,100)         |
| Total deferred tax liabilities                          | (8,528,800)       | (9,833,500)       |
| Total net deferred tax liabilities                      | \$ (3,614,800)    | \$ (5,756,900)    |

During the years ended December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013, \$26,300, \$91,100 and \$413,600 respectively, was directly credited to stockholders' equity to account for excess tax benefits related to stock option exercises.

The Company has assessed its taxable earnings history and prospective future taxable income. Based upon this assessment, the Company has determined that it is more likely than not that its deferred tax assets will be realized in future periods and no valuation allowance is necessary, except for the deferred tax assets related to the loss from and impairment of equity and note investments (which are capital losses for tax purposes). As a result, valuation allowances of \$4.1 million and \$4.1 million as of December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, respectively, have been recorded.

The amount of unrecognized tax benefits, including interest and penalties, as of December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, was \$489,200 and \$465,500, respectively, primarily for potential state taxes.

The Company recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties as income tax expense for all periods presented. The Company had accrued approximately \$19,300 and \$16,500 for the payment of interest and penalties at December 26, 2015 and

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December 27, 2014, respectively.

The following table summarizes the activity related to the Company's unrecognized tax benefits:

|  | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--------------|
| Balance at December 28, 2013   | \$ 383,700   |
| Increases related to current year tax positions                      | 136,500      |
| Additions for tax positions of prior years                           | 1,600        |
| Expiration of the statute of limitations for the assessment of taxes | (72,800)     |
| Balance at December 27, 2014   | 449,000      |
| Increases related to current year tax positions                      | 114,700      |
| Subtractions for tax positions of prior years                        | (8,000)      |
| Expiration of the statute of limitations for the assessment of taxes | (85,800)     |
| Balance at December 26, 2015   | \$ 469,900   |

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The Company and its subsidiaries file income tax returns in the U.S. federal, numerous state and certain foreign jurisdictions. With few exceptions, we are no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2011. We expect various statutes of limitation to expire during the next 12 months. Due to the uncertain response of taxing authorities, a range of outcomes cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

**11. Commitments and Contingencies:**

*Employee Benefit Plan*

The Company provides a 401(k) Savings Incentive Plan which covers substantially all employees. The plan provides for matching contributions and optional profit-sharing contributions at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Employee contributions are fully vested; matching and profit sharing contributions are subject to a five-year service vesting schedule. Company contributions to the plan for 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$324,600, \$297,400 and \$281,900, respectively.

*Operating Leases*

As of December 26, 2015, the Company rents its corporate headquarters in a facility with a lease that expires in August 2019 as well as satellite office space in California with a lease that expires in January 2019. These leases require the Company to pay maintenance, insurance, taxes and other expenses in addition to minimum annual rent. Total rent expense under operating leases, inclusive of maintenance, insurance, taxes and other expenses, was \$1,063,900 in 2015, \$1,026,800 in 2014 and \$883,800 in 2013. As of December 26, 2015, minimum rental commitments under noncancelable operating leases, exclusive of maintenance, insurance, taxes and other expenses, are as follows:

|            |    |           |
|------------|----|-----------|
| 2016       | \$ | 691,200   |
| 2017       |    | 705,000   |
| 2018       |    | 718,800   |
| 2019       |    | 451,100   |
| 2020       |    |           |
| Thereafter |    |           |
| Total      | \$ | 2,566,100 |

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For leases that contain predetermined fixed escalations of the minimum rent, we recognize the related rent expense on a straight-line basis from the date we take possession of the property to the end of the initial lease term. We record any difference between the straight-line rent amounts and amounts payable under the leases as part of deferred rent, in accrued liabilities or other liabilities, as appropriate.

Cash or lease incentives received upon entering into certain leases ( tenant allowances ) are recognized on a straight-line basis as a reduction to rent from the date we take possession of the property through the end of the initial lease term. We record the unamortized portion of tenant allowances as a part of deferred rent, in accrued liabilities or other liabilities, as appropriate.

At December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, total deferred rent included in our consolidated balance sheets was \$0.8 million and \$1.0 million, respectively, of which \$0.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively was included in other liabilities.



Table of Contents**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

***Litigation***

The Company is exposed to a number of asserted and unasserted legal claims encountered in the normal course of business. Management believes that the ultimate resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the consolidated financial position or results of operations of the Company.

**12. Segment Reporting:**

The Company currently has two reportable business segments, franchising and leasing. The franchising segment franchises value-oriented retail store concepts that buy, sell, trade and consign merchandise. The leasing segment includes (i) Winmark Capital Corporation, a middle-market equipment leasing business and (ii) Wirth Business Credit, Inc., a small-ticket financing business. Segment reporting is intended to give financial statement users a better view of the how the Company manages and evaluates its businesses. The Company's internal management reporting is the basis for the information disclosed for its business segments and includes allocation of shared-service costs. Segment assets are those that are directly used in or identified with segment operations, including cash, accounts receivable, prepaids, inventory, property and equipment and investment in leasing operations. Unallocated assets include corporate cash and cash equivalents, marketable securities, long-term investments, current and deferred tax amounts and other corporate assets. Inter-segment balances and transactions have been eliminated. The following tables summarize financial information by segment and provide a reconciliation of segment contribution to operating income:

|  | Year Ended        |                   |                   |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 | December 28, 2013 |
| <b>Revenue:</b>                            |                   |                   |                   |
| Franchising                                | \$ 47,882,100     | \$ 44,931,400     | \$ 41,207,100     |
| Leasing                                    | 21,565,700        | 16,247,300        | 14,524,100        |
| Total revenue                              | \$ 69,447,800     | \$ 61,178,700     | \$ 55,731,200     |
| <b>Reconciliation to operating income:</b> |                   |                   |                   |
| Franchising segment contribution           | \$ 26,891,000     | \$ 23,631,800     | \$ 21,867,700     |
| Leasing segment contribution               | 10,199,700        | 9,427,500         | 7,912,300         |
| Total operating income                     | \$ 37,090,700     | \$ 33,059,300     | \$ 29,780,000     |
| <b>Depreciation:</b>                       |                   |                   |                   |
| Franchising                                | \$ 341,600        | \$ 325,100        | \$ 339,600        |
| Leasing                                    | 91,000            | 86,900            | 91,900            |
| Total depreciation                         | \$ 432,600        | \$ 412,000        | \$ 431,500        |

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|                      | As of             |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                      | December 26, 2015 | December 27, 2014 |
| Identifiable assets: |                   |                   |
| Franchising          | \$ 3,100,900      | \$ 3,258,300      |
| Leasing              | 39,687,400        | 44,870,800        |
| Unallocated          | 4,618,000         | 6,598,700         |
| Total                | \$ 47,406,300     | \$ 54,727,800     |

Revenues are all generated from United States operations other than franchising revenues from Canadian operations of \$2.9 million, \$2.9 million and \$2.7 million in each of fiscal 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively. All long-lived assets are located within the United States.

Table of Contents**WINMARK CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES**

## Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 26, 2015, December 27, 2014 and December 28, 2013

**13. Quarterly Financial Data (Unaudited):**

The Company's unaudited quarterly results for the years ended December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014 were as follows:

|                             |         | First<br>Quarter | Second<br>Quarter | Third<br>Quarter | Fourth<br>Quarter | Total         |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>2015</b>                 |         |                  |                   |                  |                   |               |
| Total Revenue               | \$      | 21,024,100       | \$ 15,476,700     | \$ 15,999,500    | \$ 16,947,500     | \$ 69,447,800 |
| Income from Operations      |         | 9,974,100        | 8,084,200         | 9,341,800        | 9,690,600         | 37,090,700    |
| Net Income                  |         | 6,054,300        | 4,751,400         | 5,339,600        | 5,654,400         | 21,799,700    |
| Net Income Per Common Share | Basic   | \$ 1.21          | \$ 1.04           | \$ 1.29          | \$ 1.37           | \$ 4.89       |
| Net Income Per Common Share | Diluted | \$ 1.17          | \$ 1.00           | \$ 1.23          | \$ 1.31           | \$ 4.69       |
| <b>2014</b>                 |         |                  |                   |                  |                   |               |
| Total Revenue               | \$      | 14,552,600       | \$ 14,038,900     | \$ 16,404,400    | \$ 16,182,800     | \$ 61,178,700 |
| Income from Operations      |         | 7,434,500        | 7,092,600         | 9,177,700        | 9,354,500         | 33,059,300    |
| Net Income                  |         | 4,551,900        | 4,280,800         | 5,623,000        | 5,610,800         | 20,066,500    |
| Net Income Per Common Share | Basic   | \$ .88           | \$ .84            | \$ 1.12          | \$ 1.12           | \$ 3.96       |
| Net Income Per Common Share | Diluted | \$ .86           | \$ .82            | \$ 1.09          | \$ 1.09           | \$ 3.85       |

The total of basic and diluted earnings per common share by quarter may not equal the totals for the year as there are changes in the weighted average number of common shares outstanding each quarter and basic and diluted earnings per common share are calculated independently for each quarter.

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Directors and Shareholders

Winmark Corporation

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Winmark Corporation (a Minnesota corporation) and subsidiaries (the Company ) as of December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, and the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity (deficit), and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 26, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Winmark Corporation and subsidiaries as of December 26, 2015 and December 27, 2014, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 26, 2015 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company adopted new accounting guidance in 2015 related to the presentation of deferred income taxes.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2015, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO), and our report dated March 8, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
March 8, 2016



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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

Board of Directors and Shareholders

Winmark Corporation

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of Winmark Corporation (a Minnesota corporation) and subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 26, 2015, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2015, based on criteria established in the 2013 *Internal Control Integrated Framework* issued by COSO.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements of the Company as of and for the year ended December 26, 2015, and our report dated March 8, 2016 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
March 8, 2016

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**ITEM 9: CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

None.

**ITEM 9A: CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

*Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act)). Based on that evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that, as of the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures are effective as of December 26, 2015.

*Management's Annual Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(f). Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on our evaluation under the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework (2013), our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 26, 2015.

Due to its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate due to changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies and procedures may deteriorate.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 26, 2015 has been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is included under Item 8 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

*Changes in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting*



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During the most recent fiscal quarter ended December 26, 2015, there was no change in our internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) under the Exchange Act) that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

### **ITEM 9B: OTHER INFORMATION**

All information required to be reported in a report on Form 8-K during the fourth quarter covered by this Form 10-K has been reported.

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**PART III**

**ITEM 10: DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The sections entitled Election of Directors, Executive Officers, Audit Committee, Majority of Independent Directors; Committees of Independent Directors, Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance, and Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, appearing in our proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on April 27, 2016 are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 11: EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The sections entitled Executive Compensation, 2015 Director Compensation, Compensation Committee Report and Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation appearing in our proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on April 27, 2016 are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12: SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

The sections entitled Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners, Directors and Executive Officers and Securities Authorized for Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans appearing in our proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on April 27, 2016 are incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 13: CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The sections entitled Transactions with Related Persons, Promoters and Certain Control Persons, Review, Approval or Ratification of Transactions with Related Persons and Majority of Independent Directors; Committees of Independent Directors appearing in our proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held on April 27, 2016 is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14: PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES**

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The section entitled "Principal Accounting Fees and Services" appearing in our proxy statement for the annual meeting of stockholders to be held April 27, 2016 is incorporated herein by reference.

### PART IV

#### ITEM 15: EXHIBITS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES

The following documents are filed as a part of this Report:

1. Financial Statements

The financial statements filed as part of this report are listed on the Index to Consolidated Financial Statements on page 27.

2. Financial Statement Schedules

All schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulations of the SEC have been omitted as not required or not applicable, or the information required has been included elsewhere by reference in the consolidated financial statements and related items.

3. Exhibits

See Exhibit Index immediately following the signature page.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

**WINMARK CORPORATION**

By: /s/ BRETT D. HEFFES  
 Brett D. Heffes  
 Chief Executive Officer

Date: March 8, 2016

KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Brett D. Heffes and Anthony D. Ishaug and each of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any amendments to this Form 10-K, and to file the same, with exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney-in-fact or his substitute or substitutes, may do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacity and on the dates indicated.

| <b>SIGNATURE</b>                                 | <b>TITLE</b>  | <b>DATE</b>   |
|--|---|---------------|
| /s/ BRETT D. HEFFES<br>Brett D. Heffes           | Chief Executive Officer and Director<br>(principal executive officer)                 | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ ANTHONY D. ISHAUG<br>Anthony D. Ishaug       | Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer<br>(principal financial and accounting officer) | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ JOHN L. MORGAN<br>John L. Morgan             | Executive Chairman of the Board   | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ STEVEN C. ZOLA<br>Steven C. Zola             | Vice Chairman and Director  | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ LAWRENCE A. BARBETTA<br>Lawrence A. Barbetta | Director  | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ JENELE C. GRASSLE<br>Jenele C. Grassle       | Director  | March 8, 2016 |
| /s/ KIRK A. MACKENZIE<br>Kirk A. MacKenzie       | Director  | March 8, 2016 |

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/s/ PAUL C. REYELTS  
Paul C. Reyelts

Director

March 8, 2016

/s/ MARK L. WILSON  
Mark L. Wilson

Director

March 8, 2016

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**WINMARK CORPORATION**

**FORM 10-K FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 26, 2015**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 3.1                       | Articles of Incorporation, as amended (Exhibit 3.1)(1)  |
| 3.2                       | By-laws, as amended and restated to date (Exhibit 3.2)(2)   |
| 10.1                      | Asset Purchase Agreement dated January 24, 1992 with Sports Traders, Inc. and James D. Van Buskirk ( Van Buskirk ) concerning acquisition of wholesale business, including amendment dated March 11, 1992 (Exhibit 10.6 (a))(1) |
| 10.2                      | Retail store agreement dated January 24, 1992 with Van Buskirk (Exhibit 10.6 (b))(1)  |
| 10.3                      | Amended and Restated Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (Exhibit 10.3)(3)(4)   |
| 10.4                      | Employment Agreement with John L. Morgan, dated March 22, 2000 (Exhibit 10.1)(3)(5)   |
| 10.5                      | First Amendment to Employment Agreement with John L. Morgan dated February 18, 2001 (Exhibit 10.26)(3)(6)   |
| 10.6                      | 2001 Stock Option Plan, including forms of stock option agreements (Exhibit 10.27)(3)(6)  |
| 10.7                      | Second Amendment to Employment Agreement with John L. Morgan dated March 23, 2006 (Exhibit 10.1)(3)(7)  |
| 10.8                      | Third Amendment to Employment Agreement with John L. Morgan dated December 15, 2006 (Exhibit 10.1)(3)(8)  |
| 10.9                      | Amendment No. 1 to the 2001 Stock Option Plan (Exhibit 10.13) (3) (2)   |
| 10.10                     | Multi-Tenant Office Lease with Utah State Retirement Investment Fund for Corporate Headquarters dated September 28, 2008 (Exhibit 10.1)(9)  |
| 10.11                     | 2010 Stock Option Plan, including forms of stock option agreements (Exhibit 10.18) (3) (10)   |
| 10.12                     | Credit Agreement, dated July 13, 2010, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (Exhibit 10.2)(11)  |
| 10.13                     | Amendment No. 1 to Credit Agreement, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries, The PrivateBank and Trust Company, and BMO Harris Bank N.A., dated January 30, 2012 (Exhibit 10.1)(12)                                     |
| 10.14                     | Amendment No. 2 to Credit Agreement, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries, The PrivateBank and Trust Company, and BMO Harris Bank N.A., dated February 29, 2012 (Exhibit 10.1)(13)                                    |
| 10.15                     | Lease Amending Agreement No. 1 to Multi-Tenant Office Lease by and between Winmark Corporation and AX Waterford L.P. dated October 21, 2013 (Exhibit 10.1)(14)  |
| 10.16                     | Amendment No. 3 to Credit Agreement, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries, The PrivateBank and Trust Company, and BMO Harris Bank N.A., dated February 21, 2014 (Exhibit 10.1)(15)                                    |
| 10.17                     | First Amendment to the 2010 Stock Option Plan (Exhibit 10.1) (3)(16)  |
| 10.18                     | First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Stock Option Plan for Nonemployee Directors (Exhibit 10.2) (3)(16)  |
| 10.19                     | Non-Competition Agreement, dated January 26, 2015, by and among Steven C. Zola, Winmark Corporation and Winmark Capital Corporation (Exhibit 10.1) (3)(17)  |
| 10.20                     | Amendment No. 4 to Credit Agreement, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries, The PrivateBank and Trust Company, and BMO Harris Bank N.A., dated April 14, 2015 (Exhibit (b)(2))(18)                                     |

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| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| 10.21                 | Amended and Restated Security Agreements, dated May 14, 2015, among Winmark Corporation, each of its subsidiaries and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (Exhibit 10.4)(19)  |
| 10.22                 | Amended and Restated Pledge Agreement, dated May 14, 2015, among Winmark Corporation and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (Exhibit 10.5)(19)   |
| 10.23                 | Trademark Security Agreement, dated May 14, 2015, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries and The PrivateBank and Trust Company (Exhibit 10.6)(19)   |
| 10.24                 | Intercreditor and Collateral Agency Agreement, dated May 14, 2015, among The PrivateBank and Trust Company, BMO Harris Bank N.A. and Prudential Investment Management, Inc., its affiliates and managed accounts (Exhibit 10.7)(19)   |
| 10.25                 | Note Agreement, dated May 14, 2015, among Winmark Corporation and its subsidiaries and Prudential Investment Management, Inc., its affiliates and managed accounts (Exhibit 10.8)(19)   |
| 21.1                  | Subsidiaries: Grow Biz Games, Inc., a Minnesota corporation; Winmark Capital Corporation, a Minnesota corporation and Wirth Business Credit, Inc., a Minnesota corporation  |
| 23.1*                 | Consent of GRANT THORNTON LLP; Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  |
| 24.1                  | Power of Attorney (Contained on signature page to this Form 10-K)   |
| 31.1*                 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  |
| 31.2*                 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  |
| 32.1*                 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  |
| 32.2*                 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer under Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002  |
| 101                   | Interactive Data Files Pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T: Financial statements from the annual report on Form 10-K of Winmark Corporation and Subsidiaries for the year ended December 26, 2015, formatted in XBRL: (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) Consolidated Statements of Operations, (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income, (iv) Consolidated Statements of Shareholders Equity (Deficit), (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (vi) Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. |

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\* Filed Herewith

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- (1) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Registration Statement on Form S-1, effective August 24, 1993 (Reg. No. 33-65108).
- (2) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2006.
- (3) Indicates management contracts, compensation plans or arrangements required to be filed as exhibits.
- (4) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 27, 2009.
- (5) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended March 25, 2000.
- (6) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2000.
- (7) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005.
- (8) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 20, 2006.
- (9) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 2, 2008.
- (10) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 26, 2009.
- (11) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 26, 2010.
- (12) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 31, 2012.
- (13) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 1, 2012.
- (14) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 23, 2013.
- (15) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 21, 2014.
- (16) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal quarter ended June 28, 2014.
- (17) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 26, 2015.
- (18) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Schedule TO filed on April 15, 2015.
- (19) Incorporated by reference to the specified exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 18, 2015.