# Press Kit

Integrity Marketing Group Acquires Universe Financial Insurance Services





## Integrity Welcomes Universe Financial to Their Fast-Growing Partner Network

Universe Financial will gain access to Integrity's transformative insurtech resources, innovative tools and their leading platform of industry partners

**DALLAS - July 27, 2021 -** Integrity Marketing Group, LLC ("Integrity"), the nation's largest independent distributor of life and health insurance products, today announced it has entered into an agreement to acquire Universe Financial Insurance Services ("Universe Financial"), an independent marketing organization (IMO) based in Chicago, Illinois. As part of the acquisition, Ivan Vedrov, President of Universe Financial, will become a Managing Partner in Integrity. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"Being able to serve more Americans is at the core of our partnership with Universe Financial," said Bryan W. Adams, Co-Founder and CEO of Integrity. "Ivan is an incredibly hard worker who has built an impressive business in a short period of time thanks to his exceptional ability to recruit and train agents and take care of their clients. By joining Integrity, he can continue to focus on his considerable strengths while tapping into the wide range of Integrity resources that will help him grow his agency even faster than he could on his own."

Since 2018, Universe Financial has been helping Americans protect their families through life insurance products and annuities in the greater Chicago area. In 2021, Universe Financial expects to produce more than \$25 million of annualized paid premium in the mortgage protection, final expense and annuity markets while serving more than 25,000 Americans annually.

"When I was 21, I moved to the U.S. from Russia, with nothing but \$1,000 in my pocket, a hard-working attitude and the dream of a better future," shared Ivan Vedrov, President of Universe Financial. "When I discovered the insurance industry, I knew I'd found a way to secure my future."

"From these humble beginnings, I have built an agency I am proud of — but to achieve the next level of growth, I knew I needed to join forces with a strong partner like Integrity," continued Vedrov. "Integrity has done an incredible job innovating the insurance space. Our partnership with Integrity will allow us to grow our business exponentially while offering our agents Integrity's best-in-class technology, top lead generation tools and access to many of the most transformative products and resources in the industry."

"Ivan is a true American success story that proves with hard work and dedication you can accomplish anything you set your mind to," added Adams. "Ivan's passion for helping new agents entering into this business is inspiring and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together."

While advancing its strong development strategy, Universe Financial will now employ the complete range of Integrity's platform for support including sales, marketing, IT, human resources, legal services, compliance and other shared services. In addition, all Integrity

partners become eligible to participate in the <u>Integrity Employee Ownership Plan</u>, which provides ownership to its nearly 5,500 employees nationwide.

Universe Financial will join Integrity's increasingly diverse group of partners — industry leaders who collaborate to share wide-ranging best practices and expertise. These partners include <u>CSG Actuarial</u>, <u>ThomasARTS</u>, <u>Deft Research</u>, <u>Access Capital</u>, <u>Brokers International</u> and <u>Insurance Administrative Solutions'</u> third-party administrator, as well as leading call centers <u>Connexion Point</u>, <u>SeniorCare Benefits</u> and <u>Unified Health</u>.

"I couldn't be happier that Ivan and his team are joining Integrity," said Shawn Meaike, Managing Partner at Integrity and President of Family First Life. "With the vast offerings of the Integrity platform and Ivan's incredible work ethic and commitment to grow his business, there is no limit to the success Universe Financial Insurance Services will see in the future."

#### About Integrity Marketing Group

Integrity Marketing Group, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is the leading independent distributor of life and health insurance products focused on meeting Americans wherever they are — in person, over the phone and online. Integrity is innovating insurance by developing cutting-edge technology designed to simplify and streamline the healthcare experience for everyone. In addition, Integrity develops exclusive products with insurance carrier partners and markets these products through its distribution network that includes other large insurance agencies throughout the country. Integrity's almost 5,500 employees work with over 375,000 independent agents who service more than eight million clients annually. In 2021, Integrity expects to help insurance carriers place over \$7 billion in new sales. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.integritymarketing.com">www.integritymarketing.com</a>.

#### About Universe Financial Insurance Services

Universe Financial Insurance Services, also known as Family First Life Universe, is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois and is a leading insurance agency committed to protecting families across the nation. They ensure their agents are equipped for success by providing them with top tier sales training, compensation, and products to protect families. They specialize in final expense life insurance, mortgage protection, and fixed indexed annuities. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.ffluniverse.com">www.ffluniverse.com</a>.

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## Bryan W. Adams

Co-Founder & CEO



Bryan is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer for Integrity Marketing Group and leads the day-to-day operations of the company. Bryan also serves on the Board of Directors of Integrity.

Bryan is the founder of Legacy Safeguard, LLC a company dedicated with helping members leave a lasting legacy and being remembered long after they're gone. Bryan is considered one of the nation's leading experts in the senior market and speaks frequently across the country about the importance of helping families on one of the most difficult days of their lives. He consults with leading insurance companies to help them offer the best products to this market.

Prior to founding Integrity, Bryan was Vice President of Business Development at Directors Investment Group, Inc., a financial services company that operates several life insurance companies, a registered investment advisory firm, bank holding company and a mutual fund family. Advancing through a series of leadership roles in sales, marketing and product development, Bryan became the youngest Vice President in the company's history, where he oversaw all expansion efforts throughout the United States.

Bryan has a degree in Business Administration from Texas Tech University. Bryan and his family live in Highland Village, Texas.

### Ivan Vedrov

Managing Partner



Ivan Vedrov is the President of Universe Financial Insurance Services, also known as Family First Life Universe, and a Managing Partner at Integrity Marketing Group.

A few years after emigrating to the U.S. from Russia, Ivan was introduced to the insurance industry. He founded Universe Financial Insurance Services in 2018 and the company has experienced meteoric growth from the start. In 2020, his work ethic, coupled with the right attitude, led Ivan to be recognized as the first producer in Family First Life to earn a place in the Hall of Fame as a Personal Producer and as an agency in the same year.

Ivan enjoys going the extra mile for his clients and seeing agents grow in the industry by providing them with the right tools to succeed. He's also a passionate ice hockey enthusiast who loves spending time with his wife, Maryna, and their two children at their home in Naperville, Illinois.











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