# PLACE <br> |COMPANY OVERVIEW asof Q4|FY 2021 



## SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

## Forward Looking Statements

This presentation contains or may contain forward-looking statements made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including but not limited to statements relating to the Company's strategic initiatives and adjusted net income per diluted share. Forward-looking statements typically are identified by use of terms such as "may," "will," "should," "plan," "project," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate" and similar words, although some forward-looking statements are expressed differently. These forward-looking statements are based upon the Company's current expectations and assumptions and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and performance to differ materially. Some of these risks and uncertainties are described in the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in the "Risk Factors" section of its annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 2021. Included among the risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results and performance to differ materially are the risk that the Company will be unsuccessful in gauging fashion trends and changing consumer preferences, the risks resulting from the highly competitive nature of the Company's business and its dependence on consumer spending patterns, which may be affected by changes in economic conditions, the risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business or the economy in general (including decreased customer traffic, schools adopting remote and hybrid learning models, closures of businesses and other activities causing decreased demand for our products and negative impacts on our customers' spending patterns due to decreased income or actual or perceived wealth, and the impact of the CARES Act and other legislation related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and any changes to the CARES Act or such other legislation), the risk that the Company's strategic initiatives to increase sales and margin are delayed or do not result in anticipated improvements, the risk of delays, interruptions and disruptions in the Company's global supply chain, including resulting from COVID-19 or other disease outbreaks, or foreign sources of supply in less developed countries, more politically unstable countries, or countries where vendors fail to comply with industry standards or ethical business practices, including the use of forced, indentured or child labor, the risk that the cost of raw materials or energy prices will increase beyond current expectations or that the Company is unable to offset cost increases through value engineering or price increases, various types of litigation, including class action litigations brought under consumer protection, employment, and privacy and information security laws and regulations, the imposition of regulations affecting the importation of foreign-produced merchandise, including duties and tariffs, and the uncertainty of weather patterns. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date they were made. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

## COMPANY OVERVIEW

## About Our Business

- \#1 pure play children's specialty apparel retailer in North America, offering apparel, footwear, and accessories in sizes 0-22
- Accelerated structural reset to digital first retailer since the onset of the pandemic, has established a new baseline positioning us to deliver double digit EPS and double digit operating margin for Fiscal 2022 and beyond
- Strength of design, merchandising, and sourcing teams produces a superior product offering
- Experienced and talented management team, with an average tenure of over seven years, focused on execution and operational excellence
- Strong brand awareness and market share leader in specialty apparel children's retail


## Size and Scale of Our Operations ${ }^{1}$

672 stores in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico
Rapidly expanding e-commerce presence in the U.S. and Canada representing 45\% of sales for Fiscal 2021

211 international points of distribution in 16 countries


[^0]
## INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## Realizing the benefits of a multi-year business transformation strategy

## How We Serve Our Customer

- Consistently deliver trend-right product with an attractive value proposition leveraging deep knowledge of core customer
- Industry-leading digital penetration, with focus on mobile-first enabled transactions and optimizing interactions with our customers through enhanced brand marketing and personalization
- Areas of focus: 1) customer insights, 2) customer strategy and 3) digital delivery, including continuing to acquire and retain omni-channel customers to drive higher digital penetration


## Store Portfolio

- Accelerated our fleet optimization by 5 years since the onset of the pandemic, resulting in a structural reset of occupancy expenses and a more profitable store fleet
- 256 store closures since the onset of the pandemic, including 78 in fiscal 2021, and targeting approximately 40 additional closures in fiscal 2022. 527 store closures since the fleet optimization initiative was announced in 2013
- We are planning for near-term annual digital penetration of approximately 50\% in Fiscal 2022 and expect approximately 75\% of our total revenues to be generated outside of our mall stores in fiscal 2022


## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES: THE PATH AHEAD

## The pandemic accelerated our long-standing transformation strategy by approximately five years with respect to digital transformation and fleet optimization

1 OUR \#1 PRIORITY REMAINS SUPERIOR PRODUCT

- Our market share position, consistent styling, and strong value proposition give us confidence that our brands can thrive in all economic environments


## SCALING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

- Supported by accelerated investments from fiscal 2017 to 2019, we achieved one of the highest digital penetrations in the retail industry at $45 \%$ of revenue for fiscal 2021
- We are implementing key initiatives to scale and optimize our infrastructure to support increased digital traffic given the continued rapid shift in our customers' shopping patterns to online shopping, in particular digital transactions using a mobile device which represented 70 percent of our digital transactions in fiscal 2021, a shift that has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic


## ACCELERATING FLEET OPTIMIZATION

- A long-term strategic focus on optimum lease term flexibility enabled us to significantly and strategically accelerate store closures, without financial penalty, to address the pandemic-driven and accelerated consolidation of the brick and mortar channel and structurally reset our occupancy expenses
- The Company ended the quarter with 672 stores and square footage of 3.2 million, a square footage decrease of $10 \%$ compared to the prior year and a decrease of $26 \%$ since the onset of the pandemic
- Our fleet optimization initiative has greatly reduced our reliance on our brick and mortar channel and we expect our mall-based store portfolio to represent less than $25 \%$ of revenue for fiscal 2022


## SUPERIOR PRODUCT

Highly talented design, merchandising, and sourcing teams are core strengths, delivering a superior product offering

- Consistently strong customer response to differentiated product offering in all economic environments
- Trend-right and age-appropriate assortments and brands
- Better able to service our customer by being in stock in key basic styles and sizes
- Balancing fashion and fashion basics with more frequent, wear now deliveries
- Relaunched the iconic Gymboree brand in February 2020 to better serve the needs of moms looking for elevated, playful collections for "bow-to-toe" outfitting
- Launched Sugar \& Jade in November 2021, a new online tween fashion brand that targets opportunities in our total addressable market



## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Our long-standing digital transformation strategy enabled us to achieve an industry-leading digital penetration of $45 \%$ since the onset of the pandemic

- The pre-existing conditions in our industry - the shift to online shopping and the consolidation of brick and mortar stores - have been in place for some time
- The continued impact of COVID-19 has resulted in further acceleration of the shift to digital, putting pressure on the already-stressed brick and mortar channel, resulting in an opportunity to strategically accelerate store closures
- The strategic decision to invest \$50M in 2017-2019 to accelerate our digital transformation and build our omni-channel capabilities from the ground up, provided us with the platform and infrastructure to operate at a high level during the pandemic with



## STORE FLEET OPTIMIZATION

## Our strong transfer rate for permanently closed stores reinforces our decision to strategically accelerate store closures in 2020 and 2021

- Accelerated our fleet optimization by 5 years since the onset of the pandemic, resulting in a structured reset of our occupancy expenses and significantly more profitable store fleet
- Our sales transfer rate increased from 20\% in fiscal 2019 to approximately $30 \%$ in fiscal 2020 and has further increased to $32 \%$ in fiscal 2021
- 256 store closures since the onset of the pandemic, including 78 in fiscal 2021, and targeting approximately 40 additional closures in fiscal 2022. 527 store closures since the fleet optimization initiative was announced in 2013
- Average lease term of less than 2 years, with over $75 \%$ of our portfolio coming due for lease action through the end of fiscal 2023


PLACE

## FISCAL 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Strong recovery from the pandemic, with net sales $+26 \%$ to Fiscal 2020
- Record profitability in Fiscal 2021, achieving a $15.1 \%$ operating margin and $\$ 13.40$ in EPS, driven by:
- A reset of our pricing and promotion strategy, resulting in significant double digit AUR increases in both our digital and stores channels
- Achieved a full year digital penetration of $45 \%$, supported by our investments in top-of-funnel and brand awareness marketing
- Accelerated our fleet optimization by 5 years since the onset of the pandemic, resulting in a structural reset of occupancy expenses through favorable lease negotiations and permanent store closures, resulting in a more profitable store fleet
- Significant reductions in our per order e-commerce fulfillment costs due to our continuing optimization initiatives

- Launched Sugar \& Jade in November 2021


## FISCAL 2021 HIGHLIGHTS (CONT.)

- Resumed our capital return program and returned $\$ 86$ million through share repurchases in Fiscal 2021
- Refinanced our revolving credit facility and term loan in the fourth quarter of Fiscal 2021, resulting in lower interest rates, more favorable reporting requirements, and increased flexibility under covenants, and paid down our term loan by \$29 million
- Published a comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance report, including 22 public goals across our global operations
- Partnered with Plan International to establish an early childhood development center in adjacent to an industrial park in Ethiopia
- Launched AfterPay, a leading Buy Now, Pay Later option



## FOURTH QUARTER 2021 ADJUSTED RESULTS

Our operating results reflect gross margin, operating margin, and EPS at record levels. Our record results were primarily driven by strong customer response to our product assortment, significantly higher merchandise margins in our digital, stores, and wholesale channels resulting from our strategic pricing and promotional reset, leverage of fixed expenses resulting from the increase in net sales, as well as lower e-commerce fulfillment costs partially offset by higher occupancy expenses due to rent abatements of \$12.9 million recognized in the fourth quarter of 2020. Comparable retail sales were up $\mathbf{1 3 . 3 \%}$ for the quarter.


[^1]
## FOURTH QUARTER 2021 RESULTS




- Net Sales increased by 7\% versus 2020, driven by strong customer response to our product assortment and significant increases in AUR and ADS, due to the strategic reset of our pricing and promotions, partially offset by the impact of permanent store closures
- Adjusted Operating Income, a record, was driven by higher merchandise margins in our stores, digital, and wholesale channels, as well as strong expense leverage, and lower e-commerce fulfillment costs, resulting from our continuing cost optimization initiatives
- Adjusted EPS was \$3.02, a record, and increased \$2.01 over the comparable quarter last year


## FISCAL 2021 ADJUSTED RESULTS

Our operating results reflect gross margin, operating margin, and EPS all at record levels. Our record results were primarily driven by significantly higher merchandise margins in our digital and stores channels resulting from our strategic pricing and promotional reset, lower occupancy expenses resulting from our permanent store closures and favorable negotiations, and lower e-commerce fulfillment costs, resulting from our continuing cost optimization initiatives as well as leverage of fixed expenses resulting from the increase in net sales. Fiscal 2021 comparable retail sales were up 31.3\%.

|  | FY 2021 | $\begin{aligned} & \% \text { of } \\ & \text { Sales } \end{aligned}$ | FY 2020 | $\begin{aligned} & \% \text { of } \\ & \text { Sales } \end{aligned}$ | Increase/(Decrease) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (52 Weeks) |  | (52 Weeks) |  | \% | BPS |
| Net Sales | \$1,915 |  | \$1,523 |  | 26\% |  |
| Gross Profit | 796 | 41.6\% | 409 | 26.8\% | 95\% | 1,480 |
| SG\&A | 452 | 23.6\% | 402 | 26.4\% | 12\% | (280) |
| Depreciation | 56 | 2.9\% | 63 | 4.2\% | -12\% | (130) |
| Operating Income | 289 | 15.1\% | (57) | -3.7\% | 609\% | 1,880 |
| Interest | 15 | 0.8\% | 12 | 0.8\% | 26\% | 0 |
| Income Before Taxes | 274 | 14.3\% | (69) | -4.5\% | 499\% | 1,880 |
| Income Tax | 74 |  | (15) |  | 589\% |  |
| Net Income | \$199 | 10.4\% | (\$53) | -3.5\% | 473\% | 1,390 |
| Diluted EPS | \$13.40 |  | (\$3.65) |  | 467\% |  |
| Shares | 15 |  | 15 |  | 2\% |  |
| EBITDA | \$344 | 18.0\% | \$7 | 0.4\% | 5044\% | 1,760 |

[^2]
## FISCAL 2021 RESULTS




- Net Sales increased by $26 \%$ versus 2020 and $2 \%$ versus our 2019 net sales, despite having significantly fewer stores, a reduction in mall operating hours, and half of our Canadian stores closed for the majority of the first half. Our net sales were positively impacted by the unprecedented level of stimulus and enhanced child tax credit payments to our customers resulting from the government pandemic relief legislation
- Adjusted Operating Income, a record, was driven by higher merchandise margins in both channels resulting from our strategic pricing and promotion changes, lower occupancy expenses due to favorable lease negotiations and permanent store closures, lower ecommerce fulfillment costs, resulting from our continuing cost optimization initiatives, as well as strong expense leverage
- Adjusted EPS was $\$ 13.40$, a record, an increase of $\$ 17.05$ over the comparable period last year


## BALANCE SHEET AND CASH FLOW

| BALANCE SHEET (YEAR-END) | 2021 | 2020 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash \& ST Invest | \$55 | \$64 |
| Accounts Receivable | 22 | 40 |
| Inventory | 429 | 388 |
| Revolver | 175 | 170 |
| Accounts Payable | 184 | 252 |
| Term Loan | 50 | 78 |
| CASH FLOW (FISCAL YEAR) | 2021 | 2020 |
| Operating Cash Flow | \$133 | (\$36) |
| Capital Expenditures | (29) | (31) |
| Free Cash Flow | \$104 | (\$66) |
| Share Repurchases | \$86 | \$15 |

- Cash and short term investments of $\$ 55$ million versus $\$ 64$ million last year with $\$ 175$ million outstanding on our Revolver, compared to \$170 million outstanding last year
- Refinanced our Revolver and Term Loan, with lower interest rates, extended 5-year terms, reduced reporting requirements, and increased flexibility under the covenants. Paid down \$29 million on the term loan as part of the refinancing
- Inventory increased $10 \%$, with over $26 \%$ of our inventory in-transit
- Accounts Payable decreased $27 \%$, resulting from the normalization of vendor payment terms, extended at the onset of the pandemic in 2020
- Generated $\$ 133$ million in operating cash flow in Fiscal 2021
- $\quad \mathbf{8 6 M}$ in capital returned to shareholders in fiscal 2021


## CAPITAL ALLOCATION

## Consistent track record of returning excess cash to shareholders

- Temporarily suspended payment of dividends and share repurchase program in Q1 2020 as a result of COVID-19 pandemic
- In November 2021, our Board approved a new $\$ 250$ million share repurchase authorization which affirms our commitment to our long-standing capital return program
- Repurchased \$41 million of stock, representing 507 thousand shares, during the fourth quarter, leaving us with \$257 million available on our current authorization
- For the full year, we repurchased 1.0 million shares for $\$ 86$ million of stock


Shares Outstanding (mm)

## FISCAL 2022 OUTLOOK

- Accelerated structural reset to digital first retailer, has established a new baseline positioning us to deliver double digit EPS and double digit operating margin in Fiscal 2022 and beyond
- Strong customer acquisition and marketing mix optimization strategy, fueled by over 70\% mobile web penetration, and supported by customer segmentation data, to deliver enhanced personalized content
- Significant channel migration with industry-leading 45\% digital penetration, resulting in an increase in spend per customer
- Improved price realization, supported by increased investment in brand awareness
- Strong Gymboree brand momentum
- Accelerated growth opportunity with Amazon
- Sugar \& Jade brand opportunity
- Fleet optimization benefits, resulting from our structural reset of occupancy expenses and fewer and more profitable stores
- Continued e-commerce fulfillment optimization, resulting in lower costs per order
- Lower incentive compensation accruals
- Lower interest expense
- Benefit of continuing share repurchases
- Cotton costs at decade highs. Increase in excess of $\mathbf{5 0 \%}$ in the past 12 months
- Loss of AGOA trade preferences in Ethiopia-- $\mathbf{\$ 1 5}$ million in annualized impact
- Highest level of inflation in $\mathbf{4 0}$ years
- Lapping COVID-19 stimulus relief programs, including enhanced child tax credits
- Continuing factory delays and late deliveries
- Higher inbound transportation costs and capacity constraints
- Uncertainty surrounding COVID-19


## THE CHILDREN'S PLACE \| HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

TCP’s Holiday PJ Brand Campaign generated strong brand awareness, while establishing The Children's Place as the leader in matching family Holiday sleepwear.

During Q4, the campaign:


Garnered over 806M+ impressions via editorial placements

## BRAND SOCIAL PRESENCE

Our Family of Brands have an avid customer following as demonstrated through strong social engagement and video completion rates across our key social platforms; Instagram, TikTok \& Facebook.


Adapted to new social algorithms and best practices demonstrated by high video completion rates and over 19M+ video views across Instagram and TikTok for all Brands


Emerged into new social platforms, like
TikTok, and grew social following and
engagement rates by over 500\%


Drove over 98M+ impressions across
The Children's Place, Inc. Family of Brands' social channels

## SUGAR \& JADE | BRAND LAUNCH

Our new tween brand launch, Sugar \& Jade, was celebrated by the editorial, influencer and brand ambassador community.

Launch drove the following brand buzz:


## CHILDRENS PLACE SPRING 2022 COLLECTION



## GYMBOREE SPRING COLLECTION



## SUGAR \& JADE SPRING COLLECTION



## SPRING 2022



## ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL \& GOVERNANCE



## ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL \& GOVERNANCE

We are focused on mitigating our environmental impact, fostering an equitable and inclusive workplace, and protecting the human rights and well-being of the people who make our product

## ENVIRONMENT



Climate + Energy: Reducing GHG
emissions across our operations and global supply chain.

Raw Materials: Increasing the use of more sustainable materials in our products.

Water Stewardship: Working with vendors to reduce water consumption in manufacturing and processing.

Chemical Management: Supporting implementation of responsible chemical management and wastewater systems.

Waste: Diverting the amount of our waste sent to landfill.

Circularity: Helping to avert product and material disposal through reuse and recycling.

## SOCIAL: PEOPLE



Workplace Health \& Safety:
Safeguarding our associates and customers.
Talent: Investing in the people that make our business possible.

Diversity, Equity \& Inclusion: Building an inclusive environment where all people feel welcomed and valued.


Community: Supporting children and families in need.


Supply Chain Compliance: Helping to improve the lives of third-party factory workers and protect their rights in the workplace.

Worker Well-Being: Moving beyond the factory walls to improve the well-being of workers and their families.
governance


Board Composition: Continuing Board refreshment, prioritizing diversity and relevant experience.

Board Oversight and Risk Management: Expanding Committee responsibilities to enhance oversight of ESG.

Ethics \& Integrity: Operating in an ethical and responsible manner in all aspects of our business.

Cybersecurity \& Privacy: Protecting the information we receive about our customers, associates and other third-party partners

## ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL \& GOVERNANCE

We continue to focus on our strategic areas where we believe we can have the most impact in order to achieve our ESG goals

## Highlights

- Publicly set 2022 ESG goals, including science-based scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets; use of responsibility sourced cotton and other sustainable raw materials in our products, and reductions in water and chemical usage.
- Completed LED installations to increase lighting efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at our Alabama Distribution Center
- Joined Textile Exchange, an organization focused on accelerating the use of preferred fibers across the textile industry to further support our efforts with responsibility sourced raw materials
- Developed and launched our first comprehensive factory Worker Well-Being
 Guide which provides tools and resources for partners to implement programs within their operations
- Continued to engage with external partners and experts to further establish quantitative ESG goals and to assess and refine our long term ESG approach

OUR INITIATIVE PARTNERS

| O Sustainable | better cotton |
| :---: | :---: |
| (79) simaname mexame |  |

## HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

## We invest in our associates, support the well-being of the people who make our product and give back through philanthropic activities



Workplace Health \& Safety: Safeguarding our associates and customers, including through increased safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic


Diversity, Equity \& Inclusion: Building an inclusive environment where all people feel welcomed and valued


Talent:
Investing in the people that make our business possible

Our focus on talent acquisition and development programs helps us grow and sustain diverse representation across our workforce

- Diverse teams operating in an inclusive environment enhances our business results
- We are building a diverse pipeline of entry level talent through our internship program by partnering with organizations and academic institutions such as Black Retail Action Group and Howard University
- Building an inclusive culture through awareness, education and training on DE\&I for associates
- Committed to the development, advancement retention and reward of top talent: $\sim 50 \%$ of all open roles filled through internal promotions in fiscal year 2020

> Over $50 \%$ of our Board of Directors and senior leadership team are women

$87 \%$ of our associates are women
$87 \%$ of new hires and $90 \%$ of promotions during fiscal 2020 were women
$64 \%$ of our associates identify as racially or ethnically diverse
Racially or ethnically diverse associates represented $70 \%$ of new hires and 62\% of promotions during fiscal 2020

Published EEO-1 data in November 2021, available in our ESG report at http://corporate.childrensplace.com under the ESG tab

## THANK YOU




[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ As of January 29, 2022

[^1]:    *Adjusted measures are non-GAAP and exclude expenses and income which we believe are not indicative of the performance of the core business. A reconciliation of GAAP and non-GAAP measures is provided in the Company's earnings releases which are available at http://investor.childrensplace.com.
    ** Our comparable retail sales do not exclude temporarily closed stores impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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