LIFE TIME FITNESS INC Form 10-K March 10, 2005

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# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K
FORM 10-K

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004

or

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission File No. 001-32230

### Life Time Fitness, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Minnesota

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 6442 City West Parkway

Eden Prairie, Minnesota

(Address of principal executive offices)

41-1689746

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) 55344

(Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: 952-947-0000

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock, \$.02 par value

New York Stock Exchange

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

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  $\beta$  No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of 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. o

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is an accelerated filer (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes o No b

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant as of June 30, 2004, the last business day of the registrant s most recently completed second fiscal quarter, was \$375,544,449, based on the closing sale price for the registrant s common stock on that date.

The number of shares outstanding of the Registrant s common stock as of March 1, 2005 was 33,820,179 common shares.

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#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of our Proxy Statement for the annual meeting of shareholders to be held May 5, 2005 are incorporated by reference in Part III.

#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information presented in this Annual Report on Form 10-K under the headings Item 1. Business and Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, including those discussed under Risk Factors on pages 27 31 of this Annual Report on Form 10-K, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected. Because actual results may differ, we caution you not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We are not obligated to update these forward-looking statements or publicly release the results of any revisions to them to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this Annual Report on Form 10-K or the reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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#### **PART I**

#### Item 1. Business.

### **Company Overview**

We operate distinctive and large sports and athletic, professional fitness, family recreation and resort/spa centers under the LIFE TIME FITNESS® brand. We design and develop our own centers, and we focus on providing our members and customers with products and services at a compelling value in the areas of exercise, education and nutrition.

As of March 10, 2005, we operated 40 centers primarily in suburban locations across eight states. In addition to traditional health club offerings, most of our centers include an expansive selection of premium amenities and services, such as indoor swimming pools with water slides, basketball and racquet courts, interactive and entertaining child centers, full-service spas and dining services and, in many cases, climbing walls and outdoor swimming pools. We believe our centers provide a unique experience for our members, resulting in a high number of memberships per center and attrition rates that were 4.8% better than the industry average in 2003.

Over the past 13 years, as we have opened new centers, we have refined the size and design of our centers. Of our 40 centers, we consider 31 to be of our large format design, and of these 31 centers, we consider 18 to be of our current model design. Although the size and design of our centers may vary, our business strategy and operating processes remain consistent across all of our centers. Each of our current model centers targets 11,500 memberships by offering approximately 105,000 square feet of health, fitness and family recreation programs and services. Most of the centers that we have opened since 2000 conform to our current model center, and each of these centers has delivered growth in membership levels, revenue and profitability across a range of geographic markets.

Throughout our history, we have consistently grown our business by opening new centers, increasing the number of memberships per existing center and focusing on the sale of additional programs and services in our centers. For each of the fiscal years from 2002 to 2004, we experienced annual revenue growth of 43%, 32% and 21%, respectively, with revenue of \$312.0 million in 2004; annual EBITDA growth of 35%, 63% and 20%, respectively, with EBITDA of \$96.3 million in 2004; and annual net income growth of 86%, 178% and 40%, respectively, with net income of \$28.9 million in 2004.

We were incorporated on October 15, 1990 as a Minnesota corporation under the name FCA, Ltd. and we began doing business under the name LIFE TIME FITNESS in July 1992. We changed our corporate name to Life Time Fitness, Inc. on December 8, 1998 to correspond with our brand name.

Our principal executive offices are located at 6442 City West Parkway, Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344, and our telephone number is (952) 947-0000. Our website is located at www.lifetimefitness.com. The information contained on our website is not a part of this annual report.

# **Our Competitive Strengths**

### We offer comprehensive and convenient programs and services.

Our large format centers offer high quality programs and services in a resort-like setting and are generally situated on a parcel of land of at least 10 acres. Unlike traditional health clubs, these centers typically offer large indoor and outdoor family recreation pools, climbing walls and basketball and racquet courts, in addition to approximately 400 pieces of cardiovascular and resistance training equipment and an extensive offering of health and fitness classes. Our staff of member-focused employees, each trained through our specifically designed program of classes, is committed

to providing an environment that is comfortable, friendly, inviting and clean. Our large format centers include luxurious reception areas and locker rooms, child care facilities with spacious play areas and computers, spas offering massage and beauty services and cafes with healthy product offerings throughout the day.

# We offer a value proposition that encourages membership loyalty.

The amenities and services we offer exceed most other health and fitness center alternatives available to our members. We offer different types of membership plans for individuals, couples and families. Our typical monthly membership dues range from \$40 to \$60 per month for an individual membership and from \$80 to \$130 per month for a couple or family membership. Each of our memberships includes all of the primary member s children under the age of 12 at no additional cost. We provide the majority of our members with a variety of complimentary services, including child care, lockers, towels, group fitness classes and our magazine, *Experience Life*. Our

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membership plans are month-to-month, cancelable at any time on one month s notice and include initial 30-day money back guarantees. Our value proposition and member-focused approach create loyalty among our members that reduces our attrition rate.

### We offer a product that is convenient for our members.

Our centers are generally situated in high-traffic suburban areas and are easily accessible and centrally located among the residential, business and shopping districts of the surrounding community. We design and operate our centers to accommodate a large and active membership base by providing access to the centers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, we provide sufficient lockers and equipment to allow our members to exercise with little or no waiting time, even at peak hours and when center membership levels are at targeted capacity. Our child care services are available to the majority of our members for up to two hours per day at no additional cost and most of our centers offer the convenience of spa and dining services under the same roof. Membership generally affords our members the right to utilize any of our centers.

### We have an established and profitable economic model.

Our economic model is based on and depends on attracting a large membership base within the first three years after a new center is opened, as well as retaining those members and maintaining tight expense control. For each of the fiscal years from 2002 to 2004, this economic model has resulted in annual revenue growth of 43%, 32% and 21%, respectively, with revenue of \$312.0 million in 2004; annual EBITDA growth of 35%, 63% and 20%, respectively, with EBITDA of \$96.3 million in 2004; and annual net income growth of 86%, 178% and 40%, respectively, with net income of \$28.9 million in 2004. We expect the typical membership base at our large format centers to grow from approximately 35% of targeted membership capacity at the end of the first month of operations to over 90% of our targeted membership capacity by the end of the third year of operations, which is consistent with our historical performance. Average targeted membership capacity is approximately 10,700 for all of our large format centers and 11,500 for our large format centers that are current model centers. Average revenue at our 20 large format centers that we opened in 2002 or earlier exceeded \$11.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2004. At these centers during the same period, EBITDA averaged approximately 40% of revenue, and net income averaged approximately 16% of revenue. Our investment for a large format center has averaged approximately \$17.7 million, which includes the purchase of land, the building and approximately \$2.5 million of exercise equipment, furniture and fixtures, and our typical investment for a current model center has averaged approximately \$2.5 million.

### We believe we have a disciplined and sophisticated site selection and development process.

We believe we have developed a disciplined and sophisticated process to evaluate metropolitan markets in which to build new centers, as well as specific sites for future centers within those markets. This multi-step process is based upon applying our experience and analysis to predetermined physical, demographic, psychographic and competitive criteria generated from profiles of already successful centers. We continue to modify these criteria based upon the performance of our centers. A formal business plan is developed for each proposed new center and the plan must pass multiple stages of management approval. By utilizing a wholly owned construction subsidiary, FCA Construction Holdings, LLC, that is dedicated solely to building our centers, we maintain maximum flexibility over the design process of our centers and control over the cost and timing of the construction process. As a result of our strict adherence to this disciplined process, we have never closed a center, and our large format centers produced, on average, EBITDA in excess of 21% of revenue and net income of less than 1% of revenue during their first year of operation.

# **Our Growth Strategy**

### Drive membership growth.

New Centers. Since the beginning of 1999, we have expanded our base of centers from nine to 40. We opened six large format centers in 2004, five of which are current model centers. We expect to open six current model centers in 2005, one of which is already open with the remaining five currently under construction. We expect to open seven current model centers in 2006, and we have identified sites for all seven of these centers. The new centers we plan to open will be built in both new and existing markets. We believe that, based upon our data, there is the potential for adding at least 220 additional current model centers throughout the U.S. in existing as well as new markets. We have built a corporate infrastructure that we believe will support our growth for the next several years.

Existing Centers. Of our 40 centers, the 10 that opened in 2003 and 2004 averaged 53.2% of targeted membership capacity as of December 31, 2004. We expect the continuing ramp in memberships at these centers to contribute

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significantly to our growth in 2005 as these centers move toward our goal of 90% of targeted membership capacity by the end of their third year of operations. We also plan to continue to drive membership growth at centers that are not yet at targeted capacity. In order to achieve this goal, we employ marketing programs to effectively communicate our value proposition to prospective members and have implemented a customer relationship management system that will allow us to better manage and increase prospective member conversion.

### Increase in-center products and services revenue.

From 2000 to 2004, revenue from the sale of in-center products and services grew from \$10.6 million to \$71.6 million and we increased in-center revenue per membership from \$163 to \$267. We believe the revenue from sales of our in-center products and services will grow at a faster rate than membership dues and enrollment fees. Our centers offer a variety of in-center products and services, including private and group sessions with highly skilled and professional personal trainers, relaxing LifeSpa salon and spa services, engaging member activities programs and a nutritional LifeCafe restaurant. We expect to continue to drive in-center revenue by increasing sales of our current in-center products and services and introducing new products and services to our members.

### **Our Industry**

We participate in the large and growing U.S. health and wellness industry, which we define to include health and fitness centers, fitness equipment, athletics, physical therapy, wellness education, nutritional products, athletic apparel, spa services and other wellness-related activities. According to International Health, Racquet & Sportclub Association, or IHRSA, the estimated market size of the U.S. health club industry, which is a relatively small part of the health and wellness industry, was approximately \$14.1 billion in revenues and 39.4 million memberships at the end of 2003 with approximately 26,000 clubs at the end of July 2004. According to IHRSA, the percentage of the total U.S. population with health club memberships increased from 7.4%, or 20.7 million memberships, in 1990 to 13.5%, or 33.8 million memberships, in 2001. IHRSA also reports that total U.S. health club memberships increased from 24.1 million memberships in 1995 to 39.4 million memberships in 2003, resulting in a compound annual growth rate of 6.3%. Over this same period, total U.S. health club industry revenues increased from \$7.8 billion to \$14.1 billion.

# Our Philosophy Developing a Healthy Way of Life Company

We strive to offer our members a healthy way of life in the areas of exercise, nutrition and education by providing high quality products and services both in and outside of our centers. We promote continuous education as an easy and inspiring part of every member s experience by offering free seminars on health, nutrition, stress reduction, time management and life extension to educate members on the benefits of a regular fitness program and a well-rounded lifestyle. Moreover, our centers offer interactive learning opportunities, such as personal training, group fitness sessions and member activities classes and programs. We believe that by helping our members experience the rewards of developing their bodies and challenging and investing in themselves, they will associate our company with healthy living.

# Our Sports and Athletic, Professional Fitness, Family Recreation and Resort/Spa Centers

### Size and Location

Our centers have evolved over the past several years. Out of our 40 centers, 31 are of our large format design and 18 of these 31 centers conform to our current model center. Our current model center is approximately 105,000 square feet and serves as an all-in-one sports and athletic club, professional fitness facility, family recreation center and spa and cafe. Our distinctive format is designed to provide an efficient and inviting use of space that accommodates our targeted capacity of 11,500 memberships and provides a premium assortment of amenities and services. Our 13

centers that have the large format design, but do not conform to our current model center, average approximately 84,000 square feet and have an average targeted capacity of 9,600 memberships. Generally, targeted capacity for a center is 1,100 memberships for every 10,000 square feet at a center. This targeted capacity is designed to maximize the customer experience based upon our historical understanding of membership usage. Our centers are centrally located in areas that offer convenient access from the residential, business and shopping districts of the surrounding community, and also provide free and ample parking.

#### Center Environment

Our sports and athletic, professional fitness, family recreation and resort/spa centers combine modern architecture and décor with state-of-the-art amenities to create an innovative and functional health and recreation destination for

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the entire family. All of our current model centers and most of our large format centers are scalable, freestanding buildings designed with open architecture and naturally illuminated atriums that create a spacious, inviting atmosphere. From the limestone floors, natural wood lockers and granite countertops to safe and bright child centers, each room is carefully designed to create an appealing and luxurious environment that attracts and retains members and encourages them to visit the center. Moreover, we have specific staff members who are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and neatness of the locker room areas, which contain approximately 800 lockers, throughout the day and particularly during the center s peak usage periods. We continually update and refurbish our centers to maintain a high quality fitness experience. Our commitment to quality and detail provides a similar look and feel at each of our large format centers.

### **Equipment and Programs**

The table below displays the wide assortment of amenities and services typically found at our centers, which are included in the cost of most of our memberships:

### Large Format Centers, including Current Model Centers

#### **Facilities**

Basketball/Volleyball Courts
Cardiovascular Training
Child Centers
Free Weights
Group Fitness Studios
Lap Pool
Racquetball/ Squash Courts
Resistance Training
Rock Climbing Cavern
Saunas
Two-story Waterslides
Whirlpools
Zero-depth Entry Swimming Pools

#### **Amenities and Services**

24-Hour Availability
360 Fitness Assessment
Child Care
Educational Seminars
Subscription to Experience Life
Towel Service
Use of Lockers
LifeCafe
LifeSpa Salon
Massage Therapy
Nutritional Products
Personal Training
Pool-side Bistro

#### **Activities and Events**

Adventure Travel
Aquatics
Athletic Leagues
Birthday Parties
Eastern/Martial Arts
Kid s Club
Pilates
Running Club
Scuba Lessons
Spinning
Sports-specific Training Camps
Summer Camps
Swimming Lessons
Yoga

### **Other Centers**

### **Facilities**

Cardiovascular Training
Child Centers
Free Weights
Group Fitness Studios
Lap Pool
Resistance Training
Saunas

### **Amenities and Services**

360 Fitness Assessment
Child Care
Educational Seminars
Subscription to Experience Life
Towel Service
Use of Lockers
Massage Therapy
Nutritional Products
Personal Training

### **Activities and Events**

Adventure Travel
Pilates
Running Club
Spinning
Yoga

Fitness Equipment and Facilities. To help a member lose weight, train for athletic events or develop and maintain a healthy way of living, our centers have up to 400 pieces of cardiovascular, free weight and resistance training equipment. Exercise equipment is arranged in spacious workout areas to allow for easy movement from machine to machine, thus providing a convenient and efficient workout. Equipment in these areas is arranged in long parallel rows that are clearly labeled by body part, allowing members to easily customize their exercise programs and reduce downtime during their workouts. Due to the large amount of equipment in each center, members rarely have to wait to use a machine. We have in-house technicians that service and maintain our equipment, which generally enables us to repair or replace any piece of equipment within 24 hours. In addition, we have a comprehensive system of large-screen televisions in the fitness area, and members can tune their personal headsets to a radio frequency to hear the audio for each television program.

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Our current model centers have full-sized indoor and outdoor recreation pools with zero depth entrances and water slides, lap pools, saunas, steam baths and whirlpools. These centers also have two regulation-size basketball courts that can be used for various sports activities, as well as other dedicated facilities for group fitness, rock climbing, racquetball and squash. In addition, four of our current model centers have tennis courts.

Personalized Services. We offer professional personal training programs that involve regular one-on-one sessions designed to help members achieve their personal fitness goals. Our personal trainers are required to be certified by the American Council on Exercise, one of two accredited certifying organizations in the fitness industry. On average, we employ over 25 personal trainers at a current model center. Our personal trainers also provide the education and nutritional information essential for a safe and effective exercise plan. In addition to one-on-one sessions, we offer other personalized small group activities. Many of our members realize the value of working with the same person over a long period of time to achieve their personal fitness goals and develop a strong relationship with their trainers.

Fitness Programs and Classes. Our centers offer fitness programs, including group fitness classes and health and wellness training seminars on subjects ranging from stress management to personal nutrition. Each current model center has two group fitness studios and makes use of the indoor and outdoor pool areas for classes. On average, we offer over 90 group fitness classes per week at each current model center, including spinning, Pilates, step workout, circuit training and yoga classes. The volume and variety of activities at each center allow each member of the family to enjoy the center, whether participating in personalized activities or with other family members in group activities.

Other Center Services. Our large format centers feature a LifeCafe, which offers fresh and healthy sandwiches, snacks and shakes to our members. Our LifeCafe offers members the choice of dining indoors, ordering their meals and snacks to go or, in each of our current model centers and certain of our other large format centers, dining outdoors at the poolside bistro. Our LifeCafes also carry our own line of nutritional products in addition to third-party nutritional products.

Our current model centers and almost all of our other large format centers also feature a LifeSpa, which is a full-service spa and salon located inside the centers. Our LifeSpas offer hair, body, skin care and massage therapy services, customized to each person s individual needs. The LifeSpas are located in separate, self-contained areas that provide a relaxing environment.

Almost all of our centers offer free on-site child care services for children ages three months to 11 years for up to two hours while members are using our centers. These services are included in the cost of a typical membership. The children s area includes games, educational toys, computers, maze structures and junior basketball courts. We hire experienced personnel that are dedicated to working in the child care centers to ensure that children have an enjoyable and safe experience.

All of our large format centers offer a variety of programs for children, including swimming lessons, activity programs, karate classes, sports programs and craft programs, all of which are open to both members and non-members. We also offer several children s camps during the summers and holidays. For adults, we offer various sports leagues and karate classes.

#### Membership

Our month-to-month membership plans typically include 24-hour access, free child care, free locker and towel service, a full range of educational programs and other premium amenities. Moreover, we offer an initial 30-day money back guarantee on upfront membership enrollment fees and the first month s membership dues, which is a longer period than required by state law and longer than offered by most other health clubs. We believe our customer service, broad appeal to multiple family members and attractive value proposition reduce our attrition rate. We

continually monitor member satisfaction through roundtable forums that enable us to collect feedback from our members and modify our offerings in response to the feedback.

As part of our value proposition, the majority of our new members are entitled to receive a free 360 Fitness Assessment, which consists of fitness testing, exercise history, percent body fat measurement and goal setting. Fitness clinics on different types of workouts and other courses in nutrition and stress management are also offered free of charge. The majority of our new members are encouraged to take advantage of free equipment orientations and a free introductory consultation with a personal trainer.

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We have a flexible membership structure, which includes different types of membership plans, the most common of which are the Fitness and Sports plans. Our Fitness membership plan is our standard plan and offers a member access to the majority of our centers. Our Sports membership plan offers all the benefits of our Fitness membership, plus access to all but one of our centers, while also offering discounts on our other center services and third-party facilities, such as participating golf courses, ski resorts and tennis clubs throughout the nation. In addition, the Sports membership plan entitles a member to free use of the center s racquetball and squash courts and climbing walls, as well as a free running club membership and discounts on certain personal training programs. Beginning in 2005, we started offering an Elite membership option at the majority of our centers, which offers all of the benefits of our Fitness and Sports memberships, access to all of our centers, nutritional products and fitness and nutritional assessments. An Athletic membership option is also offered at our executive center located in downtown Minneapolis, which is not accessible to our other members. The Athletic membership plan offers all of the benefits of our Fitness and Sports memberships, access to all of our centers and additional executive benefits. In certain centers we also offer an Express membership plan, which involves a lower membership fee than our Fitness membership plan, but restricts access to a single center and does not include a subscription to *Experience Life* magazine, an initial fitness assessment or access to the child center.

We have always offered a convenient month-to-month membership, with no long-term contracts, a low, one-time enrollment fee and an initial 30-day money back guarantee. Depending upon the market area and the membership plan, new members typically pay a one-time enrollment fee of \$125 to \$300 for individual members, plus \$60 to \$100 for each additional family member over the age of 12. Members typically pay monthly membership dues ranging from \$40 to \$60 for individuals and \$80 to \$130 for couples or families. Our memberships include all of the primary member s children under the age of 12 at no additional cost. As a result, our current model centers that have a targeted 11,500 membership capacity average approximately 2.4 people per membership.

# Usage

Our centers are generally open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and our current model centers average approximately 68,000 visits per month. We typically experience the highest level of member activity at a center during the 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. time periods on weekdays and during the 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. time period on weekends. Our centers are staffed accordingly to provide each member with a positive experience during peak and non-peak hours.

#### **New Center Site Selection and Construction**

Site Selection. Our management devotes significant time and resources to analyzing each prospective site on the basis of predetermined physical, demographic, psychographic and competitive criteria in order to achieve maximum return on our investment. Our ideal site for a current model center is a tract of land with at least 10 acres and a relatively flat topography affording good access and proper zoning. We target market areas that have at least 150,000 people within a five-mile radius that meet certain demographic criteria regarding income, education, age and household size. We focus mainly on markets that will allow us to operate multiple centers that create certain efficiencies in marketing and branding activities; however, we select each site based on whether that site can support an individual center on a stand-alone basis.

After we identify a potential site, we develop a business plan for the center on the site that requires approvals from all areas of operations and the finance committee of our board of directors. We believe that our structured process provides discipline and reduces the likelihood that we would develop a site that the market cannot support. As a result of our strict adherence to this disciplined process, we have never closed a center, and our large format centers produced, on average, EBITDA in excess of 21% of revenue and net income of less than 1% of revenue during their first year of operation. We did, however, recognize an asset impairment charge in 2002 related to our only executive

facility, which is located in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a restaurant that we operate in the same building. The center is one of only two centers that are located in urban areas and it differs significantly from our standard model.

Construction. We have an experienced in-house construction team that is solely dedicated to overseeing the construction of each center through opening. Our architects have developed a prototypical set of design and construction plans and specifications that can be easily adapted to each new site to build our current model centers. They also assist in obtaining bids and permits in connection with constructing each new center. We have dedicated internal personnel who work on expediting the permit process and scheduling the project. Our bid phase specialists obtain referrals for local subcontractors and monitor project costs, and they also coordinate compliance with safety

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requirements and prepare site documentation. Our project management group oversees the construction of each new center and works with our architects to review bids and monitor quality. Our construction procurement group bids each component of our projects to ensure cost-effective pricing and, by using the same materials at each center to maintain a consistent look and feel, we are generally able to purchase materials in sufficient quantities to receive favorable pricing. Our construction team also has a dedicated safety consultant and controller. Each center has an on-site construction manager responsible for coordinating the entire project. By utilizing our own dedicated design and construction group, we are able to maximize our flexibility in the design process and retain control over the cost and timing of the construction process.

# **Marketing and Sales**

Overview of Marketing. Our centralized marketing agency is responsible for generating membership leads for our sales force, supporting our corporate business and promoting our brand. Our marketing agency consists of four fully integrated divisions, which are planning and analysis, creative development and production, public relations and communications and web development. By centralizing our marketing effort, we bring our marketing experience and strategy to each new market we enter in a coordinated manner. We also market to corporations and, in some situations, we offer discounted enrollment fees for persons associated with these corporations.

Overview of Sales. We have a trained, commissioned sales staff in each center that is responsible for converting the leads generated by our centralized marketing agency into new memberships. During the pre-opening and grand opening phases described below, we have up to 12 sales representatives on staff at a center. As the center matures, we reduce the number of sales representatives on staff to between six and eight professionals. Our sales staff also uses our customer relationship management system to introduce and sell additional products to members and manage existing member relationships.

*Pre-Opening Phase*. Our pre-opening marketing program is one of the reasons why our large format centers have attracted sufficient membership to generate, on average, EBITDA in excess of 21% of revenue and net income of less than 1% of revenue during their first year of operation. We generally begin selling memberships up to nine months prior to a center s scheduled opening. New members are attracted during this period primarily through targeted direct mail, print advertising, corporate sales and referral promotions. To further attract new members during this period, we offer discounted enrollment fees and distribute free copies of our *Experience Life* magazine to households in the immediate vicinity of the new center. Membership enrollment activity is tracked to gauge the effectiveness of each marketing medium, which can be adjusted as necessary throughout the pre-opening process.

Grand Opening Phase. We deploy a marketing program during the first month of a center s operation that builds on our pre-opening efforts. The reach and frequency of the advertising campaign culminate when all households within a five-mile radius receive poster mailings. Simultaneously, prospective members receive special invitations to grand opening activities and educational seminars designed to assist them in their orientation to the center. Our corporate clients receive special enrollment opportunities, as well as invitations to open house activities.

Membership Growth Phase. After the grand opening phase, marketing activities and costs decrease as drive-by visibility and word-of-mouth marketing become more influential. The goal of each center is to achieve consistent membership growth until targeted capacity is reached. Once the center has reached its targeted capacity, marketing efforts are directed at keeping membership levels stable and at selling other in-center services to existing members. Marketing plans for each center are formulated on an annual basis and reviewed monthly by marketing and center-level sales personnel. At monthly intervals, a comprehensive situation analysis is performed to ensure sales and retention objectives are meeting the goals of the center—s business plan.

### Leveraging the LIFE TIME FITNESS Brand

We are building a national brand by delivering products and services in the areas of exercise, education and nutrition at an attractive price. We are further strengthening the LIFE TIME FITNESS brand by growing our *Experience Life* magazine, our line of nutritional products and our internationally-recognized and award winning triathlon.

*Education*. We work to educate people by offering educational information and tips on our website, www.lifetimefitness.com, and by distributing *Experience Life* to each of our members. Our website offers various educational features, including healthy cooking recipes, health news and exercise tips. The website also has interactive functions that allow a user to ask exercise or fitness questions and create an ongoing personalized nutrition program that meets the user s weight-loss and nutrition objectives.

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Our Experience Life magazine includes an average of 98 full-color pages of health tips and insights, articles featuring quality-of-life topics and advertisements and has a current circulation of approximately 500,000 copies to all of our members, non-member subscribers, households in new market areas and selected major bookstores nationwide. Experience Life averages 36 pages of advertising per issue and is expected to be published 10 times in 2005. In 2004, the Minnesota Magazine Publishing Association named Experience Life a Gold medal winner for Best Regular Column; a Silver medal winner for Overall Excellence, Best Single Topic Issue, and Best Overall Design; and a Bronze medal winner for Best Use of Visuals.

Athletic Events. Our annual LIFE TIME FITNESS Triathlon attracted participants from 40 states and 16 countries in 2004, as well as national sponsors. The LIFE TIME FITNESS Triathlon offers an invitation-only professional division that allows male and female professionals to compete directly against each other for the sport s largest purse. In addition to significant selected local media coverage, the LIFE TIME FITNESS Triathlon was broadcast nationally by NBC in 2003 and 2004 and will be broadcast by NBC again in 2005. Competitor Magazine honored the 2003 LIFE TIME FITNESS Triathlon as its 2003 Event of the Year. In addition to the Triathlon, we organize several shorter run/walks during the year, such as the 5K Reindeer Run in most of the cities where we have centers and the Torchlight Run in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Nutritional Products. We offer a line of nutritional products, including multi-vitamins, energy bars, powder drink mixes, ready-to-drink beverages and supplements. Our products use high quality ingredients and are available in our LifeCafes and through our website. Our current nutritional product line focuses on four areas, which are daily health, weight management, energy and athletic performance. Our weight management products, which have never included ephedra, work safely and effectively to manage weight. Our formulations are created and tested by a team of external physicians and experts and each formulation undergoes extensive testing. We use experienced and professional third-parties to manufacture our nutritional products and commission independent testing to ensure that the product labels accurately list the ingredients delivered in the products.

### **Our Employees**

Most of our current model centers are staffed with an average of 270 full-time and part-time employees, of which approximately 12 are in management positions, all of whom are trained to provide members with a positive experience. Our personal trainers, massage therapists, physical therapists and cosmetologists are required to maintain a professional license or one of their industry s top certifications, as the case may be. Each center typically has a general manager, an operations manager and a sales manager to ensure a well-managed center and a motivated work force.

All center employees are required to participate in a training program that is specifically designed to promote a friendly, personable environment at each center and a consistent standard of performance across all of our centers. Employees also receive ongoing mentoring, and continuing education is required before they are permitted to advance to other positions within our company.

As of December 31, 2004, we had approximately 8,400 employees, including approximately 5,400 part-time employees. We are not a party to a collective bargaining agreement with any of our employees. Although we experience turnover of non-management personnel, historically we have not experienced difficulty in obtaining adequate replacement personnel. In general, we believe relations with our employees are good.

#### **Information Systems**

In addition to our standard operating and administrative systems, we utilize an integrated and flexible member management system to manage the flow of member information within each of our centers and between centers and

our corporate office. We have designed and developed the system to allow us to collect information in a secure and easy-to-use environment. Our system enables us to, among other things, enroll new members with a paperless membership agreement, acquire and print digital pictures of members and capture and maintain specific member information, including frequency of use. The system allows us to streamline the collection of membership dues electronically, thereby offering additional convenience for our members while at the same time reducing our corporate overhead and accounts receivable exposure. We have deployed a customer relationship management system to enhance our marketing campaigns and management oversight regarding daily sales and marketing activities.

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### Competition

There are a number of health club industry participants that compete directly and indirectly with us that may have significantly greater financial resources, higher revenues and greater economies of scale. However, due to the innovative nature of our complete product and service offering, we believe that there are no competitors in this industry offering the same experience and services we offer at a comparable value. We consider the following groups to be the primary competitors in the health and fitness industry:

health club operators, including Bally Total Fitness Holding Corporation, 24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc., Town Sports International, Inc., LA Fitness, The Sports Club Company, Inc. and The WellBridge Company doing business under various names such as Northwest Athletic Club;

the YMCA and similar non-profit organizations;

physical fitness and recreational facilities established by local governments, hospitals and businesses;

local salons, cafes and businesses offering similar ancillary services;

amenity and condominium clubs;

racquet, tennis and other athletic clubs;

country clubs;

weight reducing salons; and

the home-use fitness equipment industry.

Competition in the health club industry varies from market to market and is based on several factors, including the breadth of product and service offerings, the level of enrollment fees and membership dues, the flexibility of membership options and the overall quality of the offering. We believe that our comprehensive product offering and focus on customer service provide us with a distinct competitive advantage.

Our nutrition and education products and services compete against large, established companies and organizations that have more experience selling retail products. We may not be able to compete effectively against these established companies.

# **Government Regulation**

All areas of our operations and business practices are subject to regulation at federal, state and local levels. The general rules and regulations of the Federal Trade Commission and other consumer protection agencies apply to our advertising, sales and other trade practices, including, but not limited to, our line of nutritional products. State statutes and regulations affecting the health club industry have been enacted or proposed that prescribe certain forms for, and regulate the terms and provisions of, membership contracts, including:

giving the member the right under various state cooling-off statutes to cancel, in most cases, within three to ten days after signing, his or her membership and receive a refund of any enrollment fee paid;

requiring an escrow for funds received from pre-opening sales or the posting of a bond or proof of financial responsibility; and

establishing maximum prices and terms for membership contracts and limitations on the financing term of contracts.

As we pursue our business initiatives of selling nutritional products, dietary supplements and sports drinks, we may become further subject to the extensive federal and state regulations governing the manufacture and sale of supplement and food products in the U.S. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Trade Commission are increasingly scrutinizing claims made for supplement and food products, especially claims relating to weight loss. We work with the manufacturers of our food and supplement products to ensure that appropriate regulatory notices have been provided, where necessary, and that product labeling conforms to regulatory requirements. The failure of these manufacturers to comply with applicable regulations, or negligence or other misconduct on their part, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition or results of operations. We require our manufacturing partners to warrant to us that the products are safe and effective. In most cases, the manufacturer agrees to indemnify us for losses we suffer arising from claims related to the product and in many

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cases we are named as an additional insured on the manufacturer s insurance policy. In addition, we carry our own products liability insurance coverage.

All laws, rules and regulations are subject to varying interpretations by a large number of state and federal enforcement agencies and the courts. We maintain internal review procedures in order to comply with these requirements and believe our activities are in substantial compliance with all applicable statutes, rules and decisions.

#### **Trademarks and Trade Names**

We own several trademarks and service marks registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, referred to as the USPTO, including LIFE TIME FITNESS®, EXPERIENCE LIFE® and LEANSOURCE®. We have also registered our logo, our design depicting six circles of fitness activities and our LIFE TIME FITNESS Triathlon logo. We have several applications pending with the USPTO for trademark registrations. We also registered or have applications pending in certain foreign countries for the LIFE TIME FITNESS mark. In addition to our trademarks, we filed a patent application for one of our nutritional products.

We believe our trademarks and trade names have become important components in our marketing and branding strategies. We believe that we have all licenses necessary to conduct our business. In particular, we license the mark LIFE TIME in connection with our nutritional products so that we can market and distribute them under the LIFE TIME FITNESS brand.

#### **Available Information**

Our website is www.lifetimefitness.com. We make available, free of charge, through our website our Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, our Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such material with, or furnish it to, the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC ).

#### Item 2. Properties.

Our corporate headquarters, located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is approximately 61,150 square feet, of which approximately 49,000 square feet is currently under lease until October 2007 and approximately 12,150 square feet is currently under lease until October 2008.

As of March 10, 2005, we operated 40 centers, of which we leased 13 sites, were parties to long-term ground leases for four sites and owned 23 sites. We expect to open six current model centers on sites we own in various markets in 2005, one of which is already open, with the remaining five currently under construction. Excluding renewal options, the terms of leased centers, including ground leases, expire at various dates from 2005 through 2041. The majority of our leases have renewal options and a few give us the right to purchase the property. The table below contains information about our current center locations:

		Center		Date
Location	Owned/Leased	Format	Feet(1)	Opened
Brooklyn Park, MN	Leased	Other	26,982	July 1992
Eagan, MN	Owned	Large	64,415	

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				September 1994
				September
Woodbury, MN(2)	Leased	Large	73,050	1995
				September
Roseville, MN	Leased	Other	14,000	1995
				November
Highland Park, MN	Leased	Other	25,827	1995
Coon Rapids, MN(3)	Leased	Other	90,262	May 1996
				November
Bloomington, MN	Owned	Other	47,307	1996
	Leased			
Plymouth, MN	(Ground)	Large	109,558	June 1997
				December
St. Paul, MN	Leased	Other	85,630	1997
				January
Troy, MI	Owned	Large	93,579	1999
Apple Valley, MN	Leased	Other	10,375	June 1999
	Leased			
Columbus, OH	(Ground)	Large	98,047	July 1999
Indianapolis, IN	Owned	Large	90,956	August 1999
				October
Novi, MI	Owned	Large	90,956	1999
				January
Centreville, VA	Owned	Large	90,956	2000
Shelby Township, MI	Owned	Large	101,680	March 2000
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Nomed/Leased   Format   Feet(1)   Opened   Minncapolis, MN (center and restaurant)   Leased   Other   72,54   July 2000   October   Schaumburg, IL   Owned   Large/Current   108,890   2000   July 2			Center	Square	Date
Minneapolis, MN (center and restaurant)         Leased         Other         72,547         July 2000 October 2000           Schaumburg, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2000           Warrenville, IL         Owned         Large/Current         114,993         2001           Bloomingdale, IL(4)         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Algonquin, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Orland Park, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Orland Park, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Fairfax City, VA         Leased         Large         67,467         2001           Champlin, MN         (Ground)         Large         16,948         2001           February         Burr Ridge, IL         Owned         Large/Current         105,562         2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large         80,853         Junc 2002           Old Orchard (Skokie), IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Rochester Hills, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890	Location	Owned/Leaced		Foot(1)	
Schaumburg, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         200c           Warrenville, IL         Owned         Large/Current         114,993         2001           Bloomingdale, IL(4)         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2001           Algonquin, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Orland Park, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Pairfax City, VA         Leased         Large         67,467         2001           Champlin, MN         (Ground)         Large         61,948         2001           February         Leased         Large/Current         105,562         2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large/Current         105,562         2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large/Current         108,890         August 2002           Old Orchard (Skokic), IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2003           Rochester Hills, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Fempe, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           Gilbert, AZ				` '	-
Schaumburg, IL         Owned Arrenville, IL         Large/Current (II, 99)         2000 January (2001)           Warrenville, IL         Owned Arge/Current (II, 99)         2001         February (2001)         August 2001         October (2001)         August 2001         October (2001)         August 2001         October (2001)         <	winneapons, why (center and restaurant)	Leased	Other	12,541	•
Warrenville, IL         Owned         Large/Current         114,993         2001           Bloomingdale, IL(4)         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2001           Algonquin, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Orland Park, IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2001           Fairfax City, VA         Leased         Large         67,467         2001           Champlin, MN         (Ground)         Large         61,948         2001           February         Burr Ridge, IL         Owned         Large/Current         105,562         2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large         80,853         June 2002           Old Orchard (Skokie), IL         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         August 2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large/Current         108,890         August 2002           Canton Township, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         August 2002           Canton Township, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Tempe, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003	Schaumburg, IL	Owned	Large/Current	108,890	2000
Bloomingdale, IL(4)	Warrenville, IL	Owned	Large/Current	114,993	2001
Algonquin, IL	Bloomingdale II (4)	Owned	Large/Current	108 890	•
Orland Park, IL         Owned Leased Leased Large         Large/Current Leased Leased         Large Pote Doctober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Leased Large Doctober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Leased Leased Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Leased Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Cotober Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Pottober Pairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Leased Current Pairfax City, VA         Pairfax City, VA <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>•</td><td>,</td><td></td></t<>			•	,	
Pairfax City, VA	· ·		•	•	•
Fairfax City, VA         Leased Leased Leased (Ground)         Large (Ground)         67,467 (Dottober October Octob	Offund Funk, IE	Owned	Dai ger Carrent	100,070	•
Leased   Champlin, MN   Circum   Large   Cotober   Champlin, MN   Circum   Large   Current   Cotober   February	Fairfax City VA	Leased	Large	67 467	
Champlin, MN	Tuniux Oity, 171		Luige	07,107	
Pebruary   Burr Ridge, IL	Champlin MN		Large	61 948	
Burr Ridge, IL         Owned Leased         Large/Current         105,562         2002           Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large         80,853         June 2002           Old Orchard (Skokie), IL         Owned         Large/Current         105,910         August 2002           September         September         September         November           Canton Township, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Rochester Hills, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Tempe, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           Gilbert, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           New Hope, MN         Leased         Other         44,156         2003           New Hope, MN         Leased         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           Willowbrook, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         June 2004           Garland, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         July 2004           Sugarland, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2004           Flower Mound, TX	Champin, Wit	(Ground)	Luige	01,510	
Leased   Caround   Carou	Rurr Ridge II	Owned	Large/Current	105 562	•
Savage, MN         (Ground)         Large Large/Current         80,853 (Dune 2002)         June 2002 (Dune 2002)           Canton Township, MI(2)         Leased Large/Current         105,010 (Dune 2002)         2002 (Dune 2002)           Rochester Hills, MI(2)         Leased Large/Current         108,890 (Dune 2002)         November (Dune 2002)           Tempe, AZ         Owned Large/Current         108,890 (Dune 2003)         April 2003 (Dotober 2003)           Gilbert, AZ         Owned Large/Current         108,890 (Dune 2003)         October 2003 (Dotober 2003)           New Hope, MN         Leased Other (Dune 2004)         44,156 (Dune 2003)         2003 (Dotober 2003)           Plano, TX         Owned Large/Current (Dune 2004)         108,890 (Dune 2004)         June 2004 (Dune 2004)           Garland, TX         Owned Large/Current (Dune 2004)         108,890 (Dune 2004)         July 2004 (Dotober 2004)           Sugarland, TX         Owned Large/Current (Dune 2004)         October 2004 (Dotober 2004)         October 2004 (Dotober 2004)           Flower Mound, TX         Owned Large/Current (Dune 2004)         Dune 2004 (Dotober 2004)         October 2004 (Dotober 2004)           Flower Mound, TX         Owned Large/Current (Dune 2004)         Dune 2004 (Dotober 2004)         October 2004 (Dotober 2004)           Flower Mound, TX         Owned (Dune 2004)         Large (Durrent 2004)<	Buil Rage, IE		Large, Carrent	105,502	2002
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Canton Township, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         105,010         2002           Rochester Hills, MI(2)         Leased         Large/Current         108,890         2002           Tempe, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         April 2003           Gilbert, AZ         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           New Hope, MN         Leased         Other         44,156         2003           Plano, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           Willowbrook, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2003           Willowbrook, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         July 2004           Garland, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         July 2004           Sugarland, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2004           Flower Mound, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2004           November           North Dallas, TX         Leased         Large         68,982         2004           November         Colleyville, TX         Owned         Large/Current         108,890         2004	2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 -	2 11 22 2		,	•
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North Dallas, TX Leased Large 68,982 2004 November Colleyville, TX Owned Large/Current 108,890 2004	Flower Mound, TX	Owned	Large/Current	108,890	2004
Colleyville, TX Owned Large/Current 108,890 November 2004			-		November
Colleyville, TX Owned Large/Current 108,890 November 2004	North Dallas, TX	Leased	Large	68,982	2004
			-		November
Commerce Township, MI Owned Large/Current 108.890 March 2005	Colleyville, TX	Owned	Large/Current	108,890	2004
2 mg/	Commerce Township, MI	Owned	Large/Current	108,890	March 2005

<sup>(1)</sup> In a few of our centers, we sublease space to third parties who operate our LifeCafe or climbing wall or to hospitals that use the space to provide physical therapy. The square footage figures include those subleased areas. The square footage figures exclude areas used for tennis courts and outdoor swimming pools. These figures are approximations.

- (2) We are the sole lessee of the center pursuant to the terms of a sale-leaseback transaction.
- (3) The square footage figure excludes approximately 24,000 square feet that we sublease to third parties.
- (4) This is a joint venture project in which we have a one-third interest.

# Item 3. Legal Proceedings.

Although we may be subject to litigation from time to time in the ordinary course of our business, we are not party to any pending legal proceedings that we believe will have a material adverse impact on our business or our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

None.

# **PART II**

Item 5. Market for Registrant s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchaser of Equity Securities.

### **Market Information**

Our common stock began trading on June 30, 2004 on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol LTM in connection with our initial public offering. Prior to June 30, 2004, there was no public market for our common

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stock. The following table sets forth, for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2004, the high and low prices of our common stock beginning on June 30, 2004.

	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2004:		
Second Quarter (June 30, 2004)	\$ 21.25	\$ 20.39
Third Quarter (July 1, 2004 September 30, 2004)	\$ 26.95	\$ 20.85
Fourth Quarter (October 1, 2004 December 31, 2004)	\$ 27.22	\$ 22.54

#### **Holders**

As of March 1, 2005, there were approximately 84 record holders of our common stock.

#### **Dividends**

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common stock. We currently intend to retain all future earnings for the operation and expansion of our business and do not anticipate declaring or paying any cash dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. In addition, the terms of our revolving credit facility and certain of our debt financing agreements prohibit us from paying dividends without the consent of the lenders. The payment of any dividends in the future will be at the discretion of our board of directors and will depend upon our results of operations, earnings, capital requirements, contractual restrictions, outstanding indebtedness and other factors deemed relevant by our board.

#### Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

You should read the selected consolidated financial data below in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes and with Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations. The consolidated statement of operations data for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002 and the consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that are included elsewhere in this report. The consolidated statement of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2001 and the consolidated balance sheet data as of December 31, 2002 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements that have been previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The consolidated statement of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2000 and the balance sheet data as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 are unaudited, have been derived from our internal records, have been prepared on the same basis as the audited consolidated financial statements and, in the opinion of management, present fairly our consolidated financial position as of such dates and our consolidated results of operations for such periods. Historical results are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations to be expected for future periods. See Note 2 to our consolidated financial statements for a description of the method used to compute basic and diluted net earnings (loss) per share.

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	For the Year Ended December 31, 2004 2003 2002 2001 2000						2000			
	(I	n thousai	nds,	except pe	r sh	are, center	and	d members	ship	data)
Statement of Operations Data:										
Revenue										
Center revenue										
Membership dues	\$ 2	208,893	\$	171,596	\$	132,124	\$	94,652	\$	65,601
Enrollment fees		19,608		19,198		17,204		12,443		8,385
In-center revenue (1)		71,583		55,633		39,630		26,332		19,088
Total center revenue	3	300,084		246,427		188,958		133,427		93,074
Other revenue		11,949		10,515		6,208		3,240		1,403
Total revenue Operating expenses	3	312,033		256,942		195,166		136,667		94,477
Sports, fitness and family recreation center										
operations	1	164,764		131,825		102,343		74,025		51,106
Advertising and marketing		12,196		11,045		11,722		6,350		6,136
General and administrative		21,596		18,554		14,981		12,305		9,996
Other operating		18,256		16,273		10,358		4,458		3,337
Depreciation and amortization		29,655		25,264		20,801		17,280		10,291
Impairment charge (2)		•		ŕ		6,952		•		•
Total operating expenses	2	246,467		202,961		167,157		114,418		80,866
Income from operations		65,566		53,981		28,009		22,249		13,611
Interest expense, net	(	(17,573)		(19,132)		(14,950)		(12,035)		(7,861)
Loss from extinguishment of debt (3)								(2,911)		
Equity in earnings (loss) of affiliate (4)		1,034		762		333		(301)		(347)
Income before income taxes		49,027		35,611		13,392		7,002		5,403
Provision for income taxes		20,119		15,006		5,971		3,019		1,681
Net income		28,908		20,605		7,421		3,983		3,722
Accretion of redeemable preferred stock		3,570		6,987		7,085		6,447		3,490
reconstruction of the second o		-,		-,		.,		, ,		2,020
Net income (loss) applicable to common shareholders	\$	25,338	\$	13,618	\$	336	\$	(2,464)	\$	232
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$	1.02	\$	0.85	\$	0.02	\$	(0.20)	\$	0.02
Weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares outstanding	Ψ	1.02	Ψ	0.02	Ψ	0.02	Ψ	(0.20)	Ψ	0.02
basic		24,727		16,072		15,054		12,360		10,602
Diluted earnings (loss) per share Weighted average number of common and common equivalent shares outstanding	\$	0.87	\$	0.72	\$	0.02	\$	(0.20)	\$	0.02
diluted (5)		33,125		28,612		16,430		12,360		12,251

**Balance Sheet Data (end of period):** 

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Cash and cash equivalents Working capital Total assets Total debt Total redeemable preferred stock Total shareholders equity	\$ 10,211 (71,952) 572,087 209,244 250,634	\$ 18,446 (15,340) 453,346 233,232 106,165 32,792	\$ 8,860 (29,819) 419,024 231,320 99,179 18,547	\$ 2,208 (30,242) 346,815 176,727 96,973 13,014	\$ 5,192 (25,057) 264,516 128,710 75,719 10,826
Cash Flow Data: Net cash provided by operating activities Net cash used in investing activities Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	\$ 80,431	\$ 52,576	\$ 43,558	\$ 32,609	\$ 16,350
	(146,080)	(24,476)	(31,350)	(63,928)	(56,875)
	57,414	(18,514)	(5,556)	28,245	44,964
Other Data: Comparable center revenue growth (6) Average revenue per membership (7) Average in-center revenue per membership (8) EBITDA (9) EBITDA margin (10) Capital expenditures (11)	9.7%	13.2%	22.3%	12.4%	16.1%
	\$ 1,119	\$ 1,089	\$ 989	\$ 878	\$ 794
	267	242	207	173	163
	96,255	80,007	49,143	36,317	23,555
	30.8%	31.1%	25.2%	26.6%	24.9%
	\$ 156,819	\$ 81,846	\$ 87,432	\$ 94,923	\$ 105,763
Operating Data (12): Centers open at end of period Number of memberships at end of period	39 299,538 15	33 249,192	29 215,387	24 173,875	18 133,480

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- (1) In-center revenue includes revenue generated at our centers from fees for personal training, group fitness training and other member activities, sales of products offered at our LifeCafe, sales of products and services offered at our LifeSpa, tennis and renting space in certain of our centers.
- (2) For the year ended December 31, 2002, we recorded an asset impairment charge of \$7.0 million related to our only executive facility, which is located in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a restaurant that we operate separately in the same building. The center is one of only two of our centers that are located in urban areas. This executive facility and restaurant differ significantly from our standard model and the initial cash flow results have not been as high as projected. Additionally, this facility and restaurant are located in a more costly geographic area of downtown Minneapolis. The charge represents the difference between the fair value of the assets as determined by discounted estimated future cash flows and the carrying amount of the assets.
- (3) A loss on the extinguishment of debt of \$2.9 million was recorded for the year ended December 31, 2001. The charge consisted of early extinguishment fees and the write-off of loan costs related to the original debt in connection with the refinancing of 10 of our centers.
- (4) In 1999, we formed Bloomingdale LIFE TIME Fitness, L.L.C., referred to as Bloomingdale LLC, with two unrelated organizations for the purpose of constructing, owning and operating a center in Bloomingdale, Illinois. Each member made an initial capital contribution of \$2.0 million and owns a one-third interest in Bloomingdale LLC. The center commenced operations in February 2001. The terms of the relationship among the members are governed by an operating agreement. Bloomingdale LLC is accounted for as an investment in an unconsolidated affiliate and is not consolidated in our financial statements.
- (5) The diluted weighted average number of common shares outstanding is the weighted average number of common shares plus the weighted average conversion of any dilutive common stock equivalents, such as redeemable preferred stock, the assumed weighted average exercise of dilutive stock options using the treasury stock method, and unvested restricted stock awards using the treasury stock method. For the year ended December 31, 2002, only the shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options were dilutive. For the year ended December 31, 2003, the shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options and the conversion of redeemable preferred stock were dilutive. For the year ended December 21, 2004, the shares issuable upon the exercise of stock options, the conversion of redeemable preferred stock and the vesting of all restricted stock awards were dilutive. The number of shares excluded from the computation of diluted earnings per share was 0, 0 and 11,323,000 for the years ended December 31, 2004, 2003 and 2002, respectively.

The following table summarizes the weighted average common shares for basic and diluted earnings per share computations:

	December 31,							
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000			
		(1	(n thousands)					
Weighted average number of common shares								
outstanding basic	24,727	16,072	15,054	12,360	10,602			
Effect of dilutive stock options	1,943	1,522	1,376					
Effect of dilutive restricted stock awards	2							
Effect of dilutive redeemable preferred shares								
outstanding	6,453	11,018						
Weighted average number of common shares								
outstanding diluted	33,125	28,612	16,430	12,360	10,602			

- (6) Membership dues, enrollment fees and in-center revenue for a center are included in comparable center revenue growth beginning on the first day of the thirteenth full calendar month of the center s operation.
- (7) Average revenue per membership is total center revenue for the period divided by an average number of memberships for the period, where average number of memberships for the period is derived from dividing the sum of the total memberships outstanding at the end of each month during the period by the total number of months in the period.

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- (8) Average in-center revenue per membership is total in-center revenue for the period divided by the average number of memberships for the period, where the average number of memberships for the period is derived from dividing the sum of the total memberships outstanding at the end of each month during the period by the total number of months in the period.
- (9) EBITDA consists of net income plus interest expense, net, provision for income taxes and depreciation and amortization. This term, as we define it, may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure used by other companies and is not a measure of performance presented in accordance with GAAP. We use EBITDA as a measure of operating performance. EBITDA should not be considered as a substitute for net income, cash flows provided by operating activities or other income or cash flow data prepared in accordance with GAAP. The funds depicted by EBITDA are not necessarily available for discretionary use if they are reserved for particular capital purposes, to maintain debt covenants, to service debt or to pay taxes. Additional details related to EBITDA are provided in Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations Non-GAAP Financial Measures.

The following table provides a reconciliation of net income, the most directly comparable GAAP measure, to EBITDA:

	For the Year Ended December 31,						
	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000		
		(	In thousands	)			
Net income	\$ 28,908	\$ 20,605	\$ 7,421	\$ 3,983	\$ 3,722		
Interest expense, net	17,573	19,132	14,950	12,035	7,861		
Provision for income taxes	20,119	15,006	5,971	3,019	1,681		
Depreciation and amortization	29,655	25,264	20,801	17,280	10,291		
EBITDA	\$ 96,255	\$80,007	\$49,143	\$ 36,317	\$ 23,555		

- (10) EBITDA margin is the ratio of EBITDA to total revenue.
- (11) Capital expenditures represent investments in our new centers, costs related to updating and maintaining our existing centers and other infrastructure investments. For purposes of deriving capital expenditures from our cash flows statement, capital expenditures include our purchases of property and equipment and property and equipment purchases financed through notes payable and capital lease obligations.
- (12) The operating data being presented in these items include the center owned by Bloomingdale LLC. The data presented elsewhere in this section exclude the center owned by Bloomingdale LLC.

### Item 7. Management s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.

The following discussion of our historical results of operations and our liquidity and capital resources should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and related notes that appear elsewhere in this report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, including those discussed in Risk Factors beginning on page 27 of this report.

#### Overview

We operate sports and athletic, professional fitness, family recreation and resort/spa centers. As of March 10, 2005, we operated 40 centers primarily in suburban locations across eight states under the LIFE TIME FITNESS brand. We commenced operations in 1992 by opening centers in the Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota area. During this period of initial growth, we refined the format and model of our center while building our membership base, infrastructure and management team. As a result, several of the centers that opened during our early years have designs that differ from our current model center.

We compare the results of our centers based on how long the centers have been open at the most recent measurement period. We include a center for comparable center revenue purposes beginning on the first day of the

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thirteenth full calendar month of the center s operation, prior to which time we refer to the center as a new center. As we grow our presence in existing markets by opening new centers, we expect to attract some memberships away from our other existing centers already in those markets, reducing revenue and initially lowering the memberships of those existing centers. In addition, as a result of new center openings in existing markets, and because older centers will represent an increasing proportion of our center base over time, our comparable center revenue increases may be lower in future periods than in the past. Of the six new centers we plan to open in 2005, we expect that four will be in existing markets. We do not expect that operating costs of our planned new centers will be higher than centers opened in the past, and we also do not expect that the planned increase in the number of centers will have a material adverse effect on the overall financial condition or results of operations of existing centers. Another result of opening new centers is that our center operating margins may be lower than they have been historically while the centers build membership base. We expect both the addition of pre-opening expenses and the lower revenue volumes characteristic of newly-opened centers to affect our center operating margins at these new centers. Our categories of new centers and comparable centers do not include the center owned by Bloomingdale LLC because it is accounted for as an investment in an unconsolidated affiliate and is not consolidated in our financial statements.

We measure performance using such key operating statistics as average revenue per membership, including membership dues and enrollment fees, average in-center revenue per membership and center operating expenses, with an emphasis on payroll and occupancy costs, as a percentage of sales and comparable center revenue growth. We use center revenue and EBITDA margins to evaluate overall performance and profitability on an individual center basis. In addition, we focus on several membership statistics on a center-level and system-wide basis. These metrics include growth of center membership levels and growth of system-wide memberships, percentage center membership to target capacity, center membership usage, center membership mix among individual, couple and family memberships and center attrition rates.

We have three primary sources of revenue. First, our largest source of revenue is membership dues and enrollment fees paid by our members. We recognize revenue from monthly membership dues in the month to which they pertain. We recognize revenue from enrollment fees over the expected average life of the membership, which is 36 months. Second, we generate revenue, which we refer to as in-center revenue, at our centers from fees for personal training, group fitness training and other member activities, sales of products at our LifeCafe, sales of products and services offered at our LifeSpa and renting space in certain of our centers. And third, we have expanded the LIFE TIME FITNESS brand into other wellness-related offerings that generate revenue, which we refer to as other revenue, including our media, nutritional products and athletic events businesses. Our primary media offering is our magazine, *Experience Life*. Other revenue also includes our restaurant located in the building where we operate a center designed as an urban executive facility in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations expenses consist primarily of salary, commissions, payroll taxes, benefits, real estate taxes and other occupancy costs, utilities, repairs and maintenance, supplies, administrative support and communications to operate our centers. Advertising and marketing expenses consist of our marketing department costs and media and advertising costs to support center membership growth and our media, nutritional product and athletic event businesses. General and administrative expenses include costs relating to our centralized support functions, such as accounting, information systems, procurement and member relations, as well as our real estate and development team and other members of senior management. Our other operating expenses include the costs associated with our media, nutritional products and athletic events businesses, our restaurant and other corporate expenses, as well as gains or losses on our dispositions of assets. Our total operating expenses may vary from period to period depending on the number of new centers opened during that period and the number of centers engaged in pre-sale activities.

Our primary capital expenditures relate to the construction of new centers and updating and maintaining our existing centers. The land acquisition, construction and equipment costs for a current model center total, on average,

approximately \$22.5 million, which could vary considerably based on variability in land cost and the cost of construction labor, as well as whether or not a tennis area is included. The current average cost decreased slightly during 2004 as a result of efficiencies gained in the Texas markets, including lower land costs and construction costs. We perform maintenance and make improvements on our centers and equipment every year. We conduct a more thorough remodeling project at each center approximately every five years.

# **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S., or GAAP, requires us to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and

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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. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In recording transactions and balances resulting from business operations, we use estimates based on the best information available. We use estimates for such items as depreciable lives, volatility factors in determining fair value of option grants, tax provisions and provisions for uncollectible receivables. We also use estimates for calculating the amortization period for deferred enrollment fee revenue and associated direct costs, which are based on the weighted average expected life of center memberships. We revise the recorded estimates when better information is available, facts change or we can determine actual amounts. These revisions can affect operating results. We have identified below the following accounting policies that we consider to be critical.

Revenue recognition. We receive a one-time enrollment fee at the time a member joins and monthly membership dues for usage from our members. The enrollment fees are non-refundable after 30 days. Enrollment fees and related direct expenses, primarily commissions, are deferred and recognized on a straight-line basis over an estimated membership period of 36 months, which is based on historical membership experience. In addition, monthly membership dues paid in advance of a center opening are deferred until the center opens. We only offer members month-to-month memberships and recognize as revenue the monthly membership dues in the month to which they pertain.

We provide services at each of our centers, including personal training, LifeSpa, LifeCafe and other member services. The revenue associated with these services is recognized at the time the service is performed. Personal training revenue received in advance of training sessions and the related direct expenses, primarily commissions, are deferred and recognized when services are performed. Other revenue, which includes revenue generated from our nutritional products, media, athletic events and restaurant, is recognized when realized and earned. For nutritional products, revenue is recognized net of sales returns and allowances. Media advertising revenue is recognized over the duration of the advertising placement. For athletic events, revenue is generated primarily through sponsorship sales and registration fees. Athletic event revenue is recognized upon the completion of the event. In certain instances in our media and athletic events businesses, we recognize revenue on barter transactions. We recognize barter revenue equal to the lesser of the value of the advertising or promotion given up or the value of the asset received. Restaurant revenue is recognized at the point of sale to the customer.

*Pre-opening operations.* We generally operate a preview center up to nine months prior to the planned opening of a center during which time memberships are sold as construction of the center is being completed. The revenue and direct membership acquisition costs (primarily sales commissions) incurred during the period prior to a center opening are deferred and amortization begins when the center opens; however, the related advertising, office and rent expenses incurred during this period are expensed as incurred.

Impairment of long-lived assets. The carrying value of our long-lived assets is reviewed annually and whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such carrying values may not be recoverable. We consider a history of consistent and significant operating losses to be our primary indicator of potential impairment. Assets are grouped and evaluated for impairment at the lowest level for which there are identifiable cash flows, which is generally at an individual center level or the separate restaurant. The determination of whether an impairment has occurred is based on an estimate of undiscounted future cash flows directly related to that center or the separate restaurant, compared to the carrying value of the assets. If an impairment has occurred, the amount of impairment recognized is determined by estimating the fair value of the assets and recording a loss if the carrying value is greater than the fair value.

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### **Results of Operations**

The following table sets forth our statement of operations data as a percentage of total revenues for the periods indicated:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2004	2003	2002
Revenue			
Center revenue Membership dues	66.9%	66.8%	67.7%
Enrollment fees	6.4	7.4	8.8
In-center revenue	22.9	21.7	20.3
Total center revenue	96.2	95.9	96.8
Other revenue	3.8	4.1	3.2
Total revenue	100.0	100.0	100.0
Operating expenses			
Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations	52.8	51.3	52.4
Advertising and marketing	3.9	4.3	6.0
General and administrative	6.9	7.2	7.7
Other operating	5.9	6.4	5.2
Depreciation and amortization	9.5	9.8	10.7
Impairment charge			3.6
Total operating expenses	79.0	79.0	85.6
Income from operations	21.0	21.0	14.4
Interest expense, net	5.6	7.4	7.7
Equity in earnings of affiliate	0.3	0.3	0.2
Total other income	5.3	7.1	7.5
Income before income taxes	15.7	13.9	6.9
Provision for income taxes	6.4	5.9	3.1
Net income	9.3%	8.0%	3.8%

### Year Ended December 31, 2004 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2003

*Total revenue*. Total revenue increased \$55.1 million, or 21.4%, to \$312.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 from \$256.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Total center revenue grew \$53.7 million, or 21.8%, to \$300.1 million from \$246.4 million, driven by a 9.7% increase in comparable center revenue, opening of six new centers in 2004 and the full-year contribution of four centers opened in 2003. Of the \$53.7 million increase in total center revenue,

69.5% was from membership dues, which increased \$37.3 million.

29.8% was from in-center revenue, which increased \$16.0 million primarily as a result of our members increased use of personal training services and our LifeCafes and LifeSpas. As a result of this in-center revenue growth and our focus on broadening our offerings to our members, average in-center revenue per membership increased from \$242 to \$267 for the year ended December 31, 2004.

0.7% was from enrollment fees, which increased \$0.4 million. Enrollment fee revenue associated with new members at open centers was offset by a decreasing amount of recognized deferred enrollment fees as a result of our opening six new centers in 2001, five new centers in 2002 and four new centers in 2003.

Other revenue grew \$1.4 million, or 13.6%, to \$11.9 million from \$10.5 million, which was primarily due to increased advertising sales in our media business.

Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations expenses. Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations expenses were \$164.8 million, or 54.9% of total center revenue (or 52.8% of total revenue), for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$131.8 million, or 53.5% of total center revenue (or 51.3% of total revenue), for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$32.9 million increase primarily consisted of an increase of \$22.0 million in payroll-related costs to support increased memberships at new and existing centers and increased sales of in-center products and services. Additionally, occupancy costs increased \$7.2 million, including \$4.8 million in

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expenses related to a sale-leaseback transaction with respect to two of our current model centers that was entered into on September 30, 2003. As a percent of total center revenue, these expenses increased due to higher presale expenses from opening six centers in 2004 compared to four centers in 2003, as well as the increase in occupancy costs related to the sale-leaseback transaction.

Advertising and marketing expenses. Advertising and marketing expenses were \$12.2 million, or 3.9% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$11.0 million, or 4.3% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003. The \$1.2 million increase was primarily due to a national advertising campaign for our nutritional products, including a major U.S. magazine advertising placement, and as a result of the simultaneous pre-opening sales and marketing campaigns for the six centers that opened in 2004 compared to four centers that opened in 2003. As a percentage of total revenue, these expenses decreased due to more cost-effective marketing campaigns at our centers and efficiencies due to multiple openings in our Texas markets during 2004.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses were \$21.6 million, or 6.9% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$18.6 million, or 7.2% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$3.0 million increase was primarily due to increased costs to support the growth in membership and the center base during 2004 and costs associated with being a public company. As a percentage of total revenue, general and administrative expenses decreased primarily due to economies of scale achieved in shared service functions, including member relations, information technology and procurement, as our membership and center base expanded.

Other operating expenses. Other operating expenses were \$18.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$16.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$2.0 million increase was primarily due to branding initiatives related to our media, nutritional product and athletic event businesses.

Depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization was \$29.7 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$25.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$4.4 million increase was due to the opening of six centers during the year, as well as the full-year effect of depreciation for those centers opened in 2003.

Interest expense, net. Interest expense, net of interest income, was \$17.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$19.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$1.5 million decrease was primarily the result of a sale-leaseback transaction which reduced our average debt balances, interest income generated from the proceeds of our initial public offering, and our increased cash flows from operating activities allowing us to limit our borrowing during 2004.

*Provision for income taxes*. The provision for income taxes was \$20.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$15.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2003. This \$5.1 million increase was due to an increase in income before income taxes of \$13.4 million, partially offset by a decrease in the effective tax rate to 41.0% for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to 42.1% for the year ended December 31, 2003.

*Net income.* As a result of the factors described above, net income was \$28.9 million, or 9.3% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2004 compared to \$20.6 million, or 8.0% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003.

## Year Ended December 31, 2003 Compared to Year Ended December 31, 2002

*Total revenue*. Total revenue increased \$61.8 million, or 31.7%, to \$256.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 from \$195.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Total center revenue grew \$57.5 million, or 30.4%, to \$246.4 million from \$189.0 million, driven by a 13.2% increase in comparable center revenue and the opening of four new centers in 2003 and the full-year contribution of centers opened in 2002. Of the \$57.5 million increase in total center revenue,

- 68.7% was from membership dues, which increased \$39.5 million.
- 3.5% was from enrollment fees, which increased \$2.0 million as a result of membership growth in existing centers and the opening of the four new centers. Total net memberships grew by approximately 33,800 during the year.
- 27.8% was from in-center revenue, which increased \$16.0 million primarily as a result of our members increased use of personal training services and our LifeCafes and LifeSpas. As a result of this in-center

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revenue growth and our focus on broadening our offerings to our members, average in-center revenue per membership increased from \$207 to \$242 for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Other revenue grew \$4.3 million, or 69.4%, to \$10.5 million from \$6.2 million, which was primarily due to the increased sales of our nutritional products.

Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations expenses. Sports, fitness and family recreation center operations expenses were \$131.8 million, or 53.5% of total center revenue (or 51.3% of total revenue), for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$102.3 million, or 54.2% of total center revenue (or 52.4% of total revenue), for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$29.5 million increase primarily consisted of an increase of \$15.8 million in payroll-related costs and an increase of \$6.0 million in utilities and occupancy costs, both to support increased memberships at new and existing centers and increased sales of in-center products and services. As a percentage of total revenue, these expenses decreased primarily due to the leveraging of payroll, utilities and occupancy costs over a growing membership base and an expanded number of centers.

Advertising and marketing expenses. Advertising and marketing expenses were \$11.0 million, or 4.3% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$11.7 million, or 6.0% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2002. As a percentage of total revenue and in aggregate dollars, these expenses decreased primarily due to lower advertising expenditures at existing centers and the opening of fewer centers during 2003.

General and administrative expenses. General and administrative expenses were \$18.6 million, or 7.2% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$15.0 million, or 7.7% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$3.6 million increase was primarily due to increased payroll expenses to support the growth in membership and the center base during 2003. As a percentage of total revenue, general and administrative expenses decreased primarily due to economies of scale achieved in shared service functions, including member relations, accounting and procurement, as our membership and center base expanded.

Other operating expenses. Other operating expenses were \$16.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$10.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$5.9 million increase was primarily due to branding initiatives related to our media, nutritional product and athletic event businesses, as well as a \$0.5 million increase in losses recognized on the disposal of assets from updating and refurbishing certain centers.

Depreciation and amortization. Depreciation and amortization was \$25.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$20.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$4.5 million increase was due to the opening of four centers during the year, as well as the full-year effect of depreciation for those centers opened in 2002.

Interest expense, net. Interest expense, net of interest income, was \$19.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$15.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$4.2 million increase was primarily due to the increase in outstanding debt related to the five centers that opened during 2002 and the opening of four additional centers in 2003.

*Provision for income taxes*. The provision for income taxes was \$15.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$6.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2002. This \$9.0 million increase was due to an increase in income before income taxes of \$22.2 million, partially offset by a decrease in the effective tax rate to 42.1% for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to 44.6% for the year ended December 31, 2002.

*Net income.* As a result of the factors described above, net income was \$20.6 million, or 8.0% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2003 compared to \$7.4 million, or 3.8% of total revenue, for the year ended December 31, 2002.

# **Interest in an Unconsolidated Affiliated Entity**

In 1999, we formed Bloomingdale LIFE TIME Fitness, L.L.C., referred to as Bloomingdale LLC, with two unrelated organizations for the purpose of constructing, owning and operating a sports and athletic, professional fitness, family recreation and resort/spa center in Bloomingdale, Illinois. The terms of the relationship among the members are governed by an operating agreement, referred to as the Operating Agreement, which expires on the earlier of December 1, 2039 or the liquidation of Bloomingdale LLC. On December 1, 1999, Bloomingdale LLC entered into a management agreement with us, pursuant to which we agreed to manage the day-to-day operations of the center, subject to the overall supervision by the Management Committee of Bloomingdale LLC, which is comprised of six members, two from each of the three members of the joint venture. We have no unilateral control

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of the center, as all decisions essential to the accomplishments of the purpose of the joint venture require the approval of a majority of the members. Bloomingdale LLC is accounted for as an investment in an unconsolidated affiliate and is not consolidated in our financial statements. Additional details related to our interest in Bloomingdale LLC are provided in Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements.

#### **Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

We use the terms EBITDA and EBITDA margin. EBITDA consists of net income plus interest expense, net, provision for income taxes and depreciation and amortization. This term, as we define it, may not be comparable to a similarly titled measure used by other companies and is not a measure of performance presented in accordance with GAAP.

We use EBITDA and EBITDA margin as measures of operating performance. EBITDA should not be considered as a substitute for net income, cash flows provided by operating activities, or other income or cash flow data prepared in accordance with GAAP. The funds depicted by EBITDA are not necessarily available for discretionary use if they are reserved for particular capital purposes, to maintain compliance with debt covenants, to service debt or to pay taxes.

We believe EBITDA is useful to an investor in evaluating our operating performance and liquidity because:

it is a widely accepted financial indicator of a company s ability to service its debt and we are required to comply with certain covenants and borrowing limitations that are based on variations of EBITDA in certain of our financing documents;

it is widely used to measure a company s operating performance without regard to items such as depreciation and amortization, which can vary depending upon accounting methods and the book value of assets, and to present a meaningful measure of corporate performance exclusive of our capital structure and the method by which assets were acquired; and

it helps investors to more meaningfully evaluate and compare the results of our operations from period to period by removing from our operating results the impact of our capital structure, primarily interest expense from our outstanding debt, and asset base, primarily depreciation and amortization of our properties.

Our management uses EBITDA:

as a measurement of operating performance because it assists us in comparing our performance on a consistent basis, as it removes from our operating results the impact of our capital structure, which includes interest expense from our outstanding debt, and our asset base, which includes depreciation and amortization of our properties;

in presentations to the members of our board of directors to enable our board to have the same consistent measurement basis of operating performance used by management; and

as the basis for incentive bonuses paid to selected members of senior and center-level management. We have provided reconciliations of EBITDA to net income in footnote 9 under 
Item 6. Selected Financial Data.

# **Seasonality of Business**

Seasonal trends have a limited effect on our overall business. Generally, we have experienced greater membership growth at the beginning of the year and we have not experienced an increased rate of membership attrition during any particular season of the year. During the summer months, we have experienced a slight increase in operating expenses due to our outdoor aquatics operations.

# **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

### Liquidity

Historically, we have satisfied our liquidity needs through various debt arrangements, sales of equity and cash from operations. Principal liquidity needs have included the development of new sports, fitness and family recreation centers, debt service requirements and expenditures necessary to maintain and update our existing centers and their related fitness equipment. We believe that we can satisfy our current and longer-term debt service obligations and capital expenditure requirements with cash flow from operations, by the extension of the terms of or refinancing our existing debt facilities, through sale-leaseback transactions and by continuing to raise long-term debt or equity

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capital, although there can be no assurance that such actions can or will be completed. Our business model operates with negative working capital because we carry minimal accounts receivable due to our ability to have monthly membership dues paid by electronic draft, we defer enrollment fee revenue and we fund the construction of our new centers under standard arrangements with our vendors that are paid with proceeds from long-term debt.

# **Operating Activities**

As of December 31, 2004, we had total cash and cash equivalents of \$10.2 million and \$12.1 million of restricted cash that serves as collateral for certain of our debt arrangements. We also had \$16.7 million available under the terms of our revolving credit facility and \$75.0 million available under our construction facility as of December 31, 2004.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$80.4 million for 2004 compared to \$52.6 million for 2003. The increase of \$27.8 million was primarily due to a \$16.3 million increase in net income adjusted for non-cash charges and in cash provided by net operating assets and liabilities in 2004 compared to 2003. The cash provided by net operating assets and liabilities was a result of an increased number of centers and memberships and included increases in deferred revenues and accrued expenses.

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$52.6 million for 2003 compared to \$43.6 million for 2002. The increase of \$9.0 million was primarily due to a \$20.9 million increase in net income adjusted for non-cash charges, which was offset by an increase in cash used for net operating assets and liabilities in 2003 compared to 2002. The cash used for net operating assets and liabilities was primarily due to increases in prepaid insurance expenses, lease deposits and income taxes receivable.

#### **Investing Activities**

Investing activities consist primarily of purchasing real property, constructing new sports, fitness and family recreation centers and purchasing new fitness equipment. In addition, we make capital expenditures to maintain and update our existing centers. We finance the purchase of our property and equipment by cash payments or by financing through notes payable or capital lease obligations. For current model centers, our investment has averaged approximately \$22.5 million, which includes the purchase of land, the building and approximately \$2.5 million of exercise equipment, furniture and fixtures.

Our total capital expenditures were as follows:

	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2004	2003	2002
	(In thousands)		
Cash purchases of property and equipment	\$ 156,674	\$ 41,315	\$ 27,508
Non-cash property and equipment purchases financed through notes payable		28,668	47,224
Non-cash property and equipment purchases financed through capital lease			
obligations	145	11,863	12,700
Total capital expenditures	\$ 156,819	\$ 81,846	\$ 87,432

The following schedule reflects capital expenditures by type of expenditure:

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	For the Year Ended December 31,		
	2004	2003	2002
	(In thousands)		
Capital expenditures for new construction Capital expenditures for maintenance and updating existing centers and	\$ 138,958	\$ 69,068	\$ 81,304
corporate infrastructure	17,861	12,778	6,128
Total capital expenditures	\$ 156,819	\$ 81,846	\$ 87,432

At December 31, 2004, we had purchased the real property for the six new current model centers that we plan to open in 2005 and one of the new current model centers that we plan to open in 2006, and we had entered into agreements to purchase real property for the development of four of the new centers that we plan to open in 2006.

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We expect our capital expenditures to be approximately \$180 to \$185 million in 2005, of which we expect approximately \$18 to \$20 million to be for the maintenance of existing centers and corporate infrastructure.

In September 2003, we entered into a sale-leaseback transaction with respect to two of our current model centers. Pursuant to the terms of this transaction, we sold the centers for \$42.9 million and simultaneously entered into an operating lease of the centers for a period of 20 years.

### Financing Activities

We have several secured credit facilities. We have a \$55.0 million revolving credit facility led by Antares Capital Corporation that expires on June 30, 2005. Availability under this facility is determined based upon a multiple of a variation of EBITDA as defined in the credit agreement. Additionally, we are restricted in our borrowings and in general under the revolving credit facility by certain financial covenants, including capital expenditure levels and maintaining leverage ratios, fixed charge and interest coverage ratios and a loan to value ratio. Our 2004 maintenance capital expenditures were limited, as of December 31, 2004, to \$20.0 million. As of December 31, 2004, we were required to maintain a senior leverage ratio not in excess of 2.75 to 1.00, a total leverage ratio not in excess of 4.5 to 1.0, a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.15 to 1.00, an interest coverage ratio of at least 3.0 to 1.0, an adjusted total leverage ratio not in excess of 4.0 to 1.0 and a loan to value ratio not in excess of 0.5 to 1.0. The revolving credit facility also contains covenants that, among other things, restrict our ability to incur certain additional debt, pay dividends, create certain liens and engage in certain transactions. We are in compliance in all material respects with our covenants and we do not expect the limits on our borrowing ability to prevent us from obtaining the funds we need under the revolving credit facility. As security for our obligations under the revolving credit facility, we have granted a security interest in all of our personal property. Interest accrues at the rate of either the prime rate plus 2.5% or LIBOR plus 4.0%, as we elect from time to time. As of December 31, 2004, we had \$30.3 million outstanding, \$8.0 million in committed letters of credit and \$16.7 million available for additional borrowings under this facility.

We also have a \$75.0 million construction credit facility led by U.S. Bank, National Association. Pursuant to the terms of the construction credit facility, the lending group has committed to make up to seven individual loans, the purpose of which is to fund the construction costs related to completing the construction of certain centers. The current commitment to lend expires on January 1, 2006. Borrowings under this facility are limited to the lesser of 55.0% of the total land and construction cost, or 75.0% of the appraised value, of the specific centers currently under construction and are due and payable no later than three years from the closing date of each individual loan. As security for the obligations owing under the construction credit facility, we have granted mortgages on each of the specific centers that are financed by means of the construction credit facility. Funds are available only after we have first contributed our portion, which is approximately 45.0%, of the total project cost to the construction of the specific project and then only for reimbursement of project construction costs actually incurred. Interest accrues at a rate of prime plus 0.5%. At December 31, 2004, we had no amounts outstanding under this facility.

We have financed 13 of our centers with Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America pursuant to the terms of individual notes. The obligations related to 10 of the notes are being amortized over a 20-year period, while the obligations related to the other three notes are being amortized over a 15-year period. The remaining obligations under these notes are due in full in June 2011, and are secured by mortgages on each of the centers specifically financed, and we maintain a letter of credit in the amount of \$5.0 million in favor of the lender. The interest rate payable under these notes has been fixed at 8.25%. The loan documents provide that we will be in default if Mr. Akradi ceases to be Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer for any reason other than due to his death or incapacity or as a result of his removal pursuant to our articles of incorporation or bylaws. As of December 31, 2004, \$132.0 million remained outstanding on the notes.

We have financed our centers in Champlin and Savage, Minnesota separately. These obligations bear interest at a fixed rate of 6.0% and are being amortized over a 15-year period. The obligation related to our Champlin center is due in full in January 2007 and the obligation for our Savage center is due in full in August 2007. As security for the obligations, we have granted mortgages on these two centers. At December 31, 2004, \$5.3 million was outstanding with respect to these obligations.

We have financed our center in Plymouth, Minnesota. This obligation bears interest at a variable rate of 0.5% plus the prime rate and is being amortized over a 15-year period. We are restricted under this obligation by a requirement that we maintain a total leverage ratio not in excess of 4.5 to 1.0 and a fixed charge coverage ratio not in excess of 1.15 to 1.0. The loan documents also contain covenants that, among other things, restrict our ability to pay dividends

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and engage in certain transactions. We are in compliance with our covenants in all material respects. As security for the obligation, we have granted a mortgage on this center. The obligation for our Plymouth center is due in full in February 2007. As of December 31, 2004, a total of \$3.3 million was outstanding with respect to this obligation.

In May 2001, we financed one of our Minnesota centers pursuant to the terms of a sale-leaseback transaction that qualified as a capital lease. Pursuant to the terms of the lease, we agreed to lease the center for a period of 20 years. At March 31, 2004, the present value of the future minimum lease payments due under the lease amounted to \$6.9 million.

We have financed our purchase of most of our equipment through capital lease agreements with an agent and lender, on behalf of itself and other lenders. The terms of such leases are typically 60 months and our interest rates range from 7.1% to 12.8%. As security for the obligations owing under the capital lease agreements, we have granted a security interest in the leased equipment to the lender or its assigns. At December 31, 2004, \$25.9 million was outstanding under these leases.

### **Contractual Obligations**

The following is a summary of our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2004:

		Payı	ments due by p	period	
	Less than		More than		
	Total	1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	5 years
			(In thousands)	)	
Long-term debt obligations	\$ 176,406	\$ 35,949	\$ 19,367	\$ 15,104	\$ 105,986
Interest	117,586	15,141			