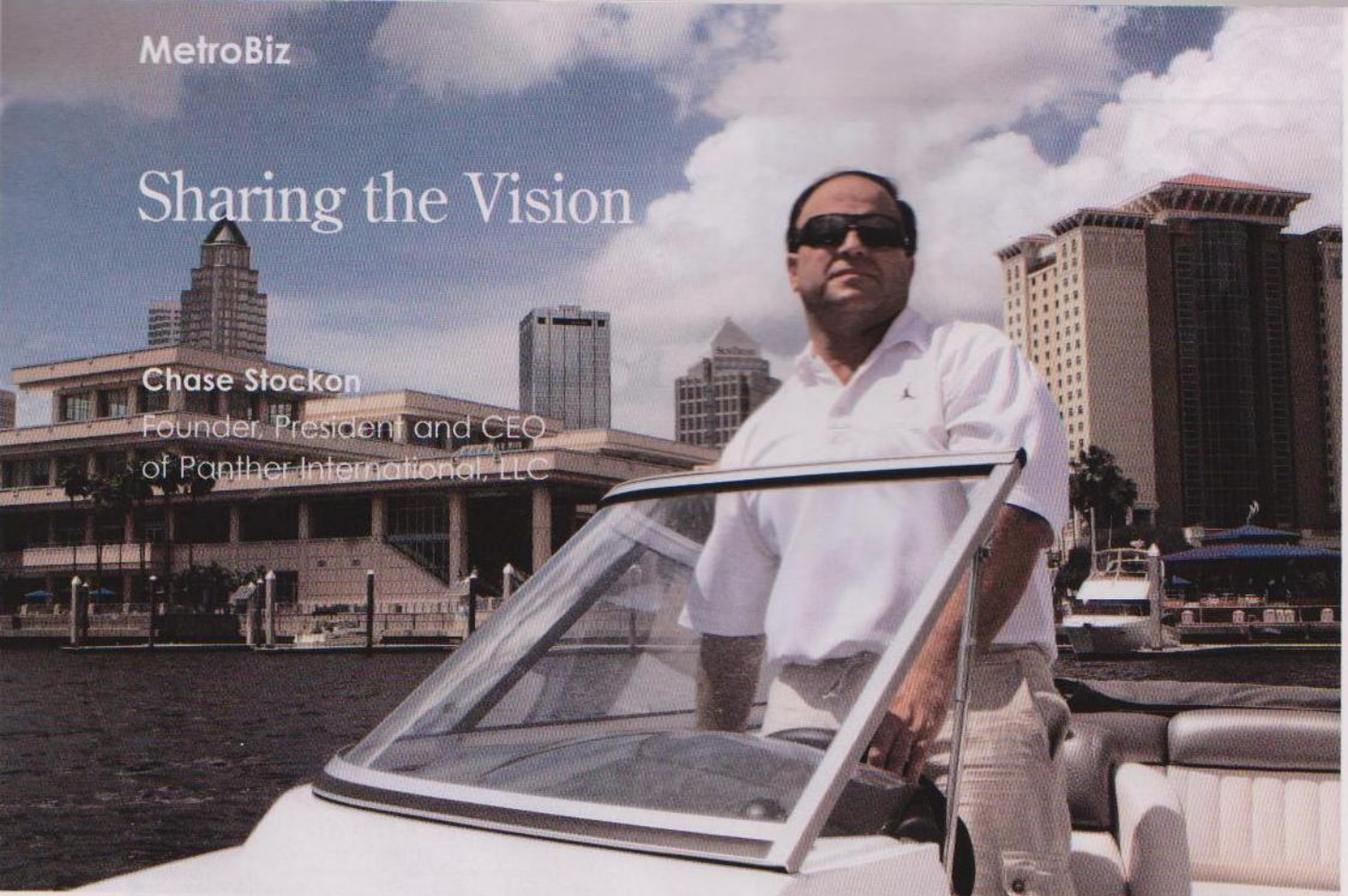


# Sharing the Vision

## Chase Stockon

Founder, President and CEO  
of Panther International, LLC



In 1994, Chase Stockon, president and CEO of Panther International, LLC, chose Tampa to start his business, relying on his personal ethics for success. The company began working with community organizations from the outset to share their talent, simply because it's the right thing to do. Now celebrating its fifteenth anniversary, Panther continues the tradition.

As the software development company, which specializes in grant and loan management, approaches the milestone, Stockon and his team focus on their clients and the Tampa Bay community.

"I chose Tampa over five other cities—I'm tied to it," said Stockon. "It has a small town feel with large town amenities. It's the smallest town with professional sports, a world class performing arts center and a high quality of life."

Panther works mainly with government clients, so its corporate efforts are not usually local, but since the company is based here, Stockon is committed to local philanthropic efforts. "We believe

it's a balance personally and corporately to do a lot of local community stuff because we live here and we believe in the community," said Stockon. "There is usually some personal touch in our community involvement. We are a firm believer of time, talent and treasure. Our people give time, I have given my talent and some organizations just need money."

Panther has filled the needs of human services and board positions of numerous organizations, such as The Spring, Alpha House and the Florida Aquarium. Stockon has served as chairman of the board for the Florida Aquarium, regional chairman for Leadership Florida and many others. "These incredible organizations sometimes just need assistance with budget and infrastructure," said Stockon. "People need business to stay in business."

Although Stockon's business keeps him busy, he said his kids and family come first, and the family makes time for activities together. "We are big boaters, but my biggest thing is cars," said

Stockon. He has always been interested in cars and said his kids love to hang out in his shop and like riding in the cars. "I'm in the process of rebuilding a '33 Ford hot rod, and I spend a lot of time on my Porsche, an '88 turbo Carrera Cabriolet, probably too much time."

Stockon said he owes his success to his vision and fairness. "I'm a very long-term thinker," he said. "We have to be because our market has a long sales cycle. Our long term vision allows for consistency over time." These attributes benefit every aspect of the company, said Stockon. "Doing what is right is important," he said. "Consistency and fairness helps the employees, the clients and the product."

Stockon said they do get some recognition from clients for their community efforts, but that their work is for a different reason. "It makes me and all our people feel good," said Stockon. "If I was unemployed, I'd still be doing it—that's who I am."

—Christine Labit