

iShip&Pack on the Move: Expanding Beyond Pittsburgh

A story of pandemic-born resilience, expanded capabilities, and strategic multi-state expansion.

Building a Neighborhood Hub in Pittsburgh



Founded in Pittsburgh in 2020 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, iShip&Pack began with a clear and dedicated mission. Founder Aaron Gibson Jr. set out to establish a welcoming neighborhood location where local residents and businesses could access dependable shipping and essential business services. What originated as a vital community resource during a challenging economic period quickly matured into a widely recognized and trusted brand throughout the Squirrel Hill area.

The business took a significant step forward when Gibson acquired Challenge Printing, dramatically broadening the company's internal service capabilities. By bringing advanced capabilities in-house—including screen printing, embroidery, and direct-to-film (DTF) printing—iShip&Pack transformed from a standalone shipping vendor into a comprehensive, one-stop destination for both personal and commercial branding needs.

Expanding into Columbia, South Carolina

The launch of the Columbia, South Carolina store represents a key milestone for iShip&Pack, marking its first official venture outside Pennsylvania. This expansion emerged from years of deliberate conversations between Aaron Gibson Jr. and Cole Barefoot regarding how to introduce the brand to new markets. Following Barefoot's relocation to Columbia, the dynamic and rapidly growing local community presented the ideal environment for the company's next chapter.

Since opening its doors in mid-May, the Columbia storefront has experienced steady growth and enthusiastic community engagement. The location has received a particularly warm response from the area's population, including a notable number of former Pittsburgh residents who were eager to welcome a familiar brand from back home.

A Vision for Strategic Multi-State Growth

Building on the early success of the Columbia launch, Gibson and Barefoot have formulated a structured roadmap for regional growth. Following the initial grand opening in mid-May, the

company plans to establish a second South Carolina storefront by 2028, followed by a third location by 2030, laying the groundwork for broader multi-state development in the decade ahead.

By continuously pairing comprehensive everyday business services with premier custom printing solutions, iShip&Pack remains committed to the neighborhood-first philosophy that established its success in Pittsburgh, ensuring a strong foundation for continued growth across new regions.