



Vera Bradley Announces Fourth Quarter and Fiscal Year 2012 Results

- For the fourth quarter, net revenues increased 23% to \$134.5 million; Direct net revenues rose 46%, including an increase of 9.3% in comparable-store sales, and Indirect net revenues decreased 0.7%.
- Diluted EPS were \$0.50 for the fourth quarter, compared to \$0.35 for the same quarter of fiscal 2011, an increase of 43%.
- Full year net revenues increased 26% to \$460.8 million; Direct net revenues rose 49%, including an increase of 10.9% in comparable-store sales, and Indirect net revenues increased 10%.
- Diluted EPS were \$1.43 for fiscal 2012, compared to \$1.25 on a GAAP basis and \$1.20 on an adjusted basis for fiscal 2011, an increase of 14% and 19%, respectively.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., March 14, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Vera Bradley, Inc. (Nasdaq:VRA) today announced its financial results for the fourth quarter and fiscal year ended January 28, 2012.

"Fiscal 2012 represents another outstanding year for Vera Bradley, as reflected in our fourth quarter and full year results, thanks to our talented team and our dedicated retail partners," said Michael C. Ray, Vera Bradley's Chief Executive Officer. "The strength and appeal of our brand and our product portfolio, our significant multi-channel capabilities, and the ongoing loyalty of our customers, resulted in solid growth in all of our distribution channels during the year. Looking ahead, we remain excited about our prospects as we continue to execute our growth strategies, which include expanding our product offerings and growing in underpenetrated markets."

Fourth Quarter Results

The Company reported net revenues of \$134.5 million for the fourth quarter, compared to \$109.4 million in the same period of the prior year, an increase of \$25.1 million, or 23%. By segment, Direct revenues increased 46% to \$81.2 million, reflecting growth across all channels, including comparable-store sales increasing 9.3% and E-commerce revenue growth of 28%. Indirect revenues decreased 0.7% to \$53.3 million, primarily due to an effort to partner with our specialty retailers to ensure product was available well in advance of the holiday season. This resulted in more of these sales occurring in the third quarter rather than the fourth quarter. Gross profit for the quarter rose 23% to \$75.9 million, and gross margin remained relatively unchanged at 56.4% compared to 56.5% in the same period of the prior year.

Operating income increased 23.0% to \$32.7 million, or 24.3% of net revenues, in the fourth quarter, compared to operating income of \$26.5 million, or 24.3% of net revenues, in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2011.

Net income for the fourth quarter increased 41% from the prior year to \$20.1 million, or \$0.50 per diluted share, compared to \$14.2 million, or \$0.35 per diluted share in the same period of the prior year.

Fiscal Year 2012 Results

For the fiscal year ended January 28, 2012, net revenues increased 26% to \$460.8 million, from \$366.1 million in the comparable prior-year period. By segment, Direct revenues increased 49% to \$225.3 million, with comparable-store sales increasing 10.9% compared to fiscal 2011, and Indirect revenues increased 10% to \$235.6 million.

Gross profit for fiscal 2012 increased 23% to \$257.6 million resulting in a gross profit margin of 55.9% versus 57.1% in the prior year. The gross margin decline during fiscal 2012 was principally due to increases in cotton prices and labor costs.

Operating income for fiscal 2012 increased to \$96.2 million, or 20.9% of net revenues, compared to \$53.3 million in the prior year. Operating income for fiscal 2011 included \$21.9 million of compensation expense related to restricted-stock awards. Excluding these expenses, fiscal 2012 operating income increased 27.8% from adjusted operating income in fiscal 2011 of \$75.2 million, or 20.6% of net revenues.

Net income for fiscal 2012 was \$57.9 million, or \$1.43 per diluted share, compared to \$46.2 million, or \$1.25 per diluted share, in fiscal 2011. After adjusting fiscal 2011 for the previously discussed compensation expense and applying an assumed tax rate of 40%, adjusted net income for fiscal 2011 was \$44.2 million or \$1.20 per diluted share.

Cash flow from operations for fiscal 2012 of \$51.5 million enabled us to reduce long-term debt by \$41.8 million to \$25.1 million and end the year with cash and cash equivalents of \$4.9 million. Inventory at the end of fiscal 2012 was \$107.0 million, compared to \$96.7 million at the end of the prior year, reflecting growth of 11%, below the increase in net revenues of 26%.

Outlook

For the first quarter of fiscal 2013, the Company expects net revenues to be in the range of \$115 million to \$117 million and diluted earnings per share to be in the range of \$0.27 to \$0.29, based on diluted weighted-average shares outstanding of 40.5 million.

For full-year fiscal 2013, the Company now expects net revenues to be in the range of \$540 million to \$545 million and diluted earnings per share to be in the range of \$1.68 to \$1.71, based on diluted weighted-average shares outstanding of 40.5 million.

Call Information

A conference call to discuss fourth quarter and fiscal year 2012 results is scheduled for today, March 14, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time. A broadcast of the call will be available via Vera Bradley's Investor Relations section of its website, www.verabradley.com. In addition, a replay of the call will be available shortly after the conclusion of the call and remain available until March 28, 2012. To access the recording, listeners should dial (877) 870-5176, and enter the access code, 5960469.

About Vera Bradley, Inc.

Vera Bradley infuses color into all aspects of women's lives with vibrant handbags, accessories, luggage, eyewear, travel items and gifts. Founded in 1982 by Barbara Bradley Baekgaard and Patricia R. Miller, the brand inspires women to "be colorful" with designs that reflect their personal style. Today, you'll find Vera Bradley accessories in 48 retail stores in the U.S., 8 outlet stores, 3,300 specialty retailers and online at verabradley.com. Vera Bradley employs 2,000 and the company's fiscal 2012 sales were \$461 million. The company's commitment to breast cancer research continues to expand through the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. For more information about Vera Bradley (Nasdaq:VRA), visit www.verabradley.com/mediaroom.

Website Information

We routinely post important information for investors on our website www.verabradley.com in the "Investor Relations" section. We intend to use this website as a means of disclosing material, non-public information and for complying with our disclosure obligations under Regulation FD. Accordingly, investors should monitor the Investor Relations section of our website, in addition to following our press releases, SEC filings, public conference calls, presentations and webcasts. The information contained on, or that may be accessed through, our website is not incorporated by reference into, and is not a part of, this document.

Vera Bradley Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this release are "forward-looking statements" made pursuant to the safe-harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements reflect the Company's current expectations or beliefs concerning future events and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results to differ materially from those that we expected, including: possible adverse changes in general economic conditions and their impact on consumer confidence and spending; possible inability to predict and respond in a timely manner to changes in consumer demand; possible loss of key management or design associates or inability to attract and retain the talent required for our business; possible inability to maintain and enhance our brand; possible inability to successfully implement our growth strategies or manage our growing business; possible inability to successfully open new stores as planned; and possible inability to sustain levels of comparable-store sales. For a discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in our forward-looking statements, please refer to "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 29, 2011. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement. Financial schedules are attached to this release.

Vera Bradley, Inc.

Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets

(\$ in thousands)

**January 28, January 29,
2012 2011**

| Assets | (unaudited) | (audited) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 4,922 | \$ 13,953 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 38,097 | 34,300 |
| Inventories | 106,967 | 96,717 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 8,343 | 6,754 |
| Deferred income taxes | <u>8,010</u> | <u>8,743</u> |
| Total current assets | 166,339 | 160,467 |
| Property, plant, and equipment, net | 52,312 | 42,984 |
| Other assets | <u>862</u> | <u>2,588</u> |
| Total assets | <u><u>\$ 219,513</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 206,039</u></u> |

Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 27,276 | \$ 30,012 |
| Accrued employment costs | 15,738 | 17,892 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 15,297 | 10,551 |
| Income taxes payable | 1,705 | 10,010 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | <u>89</u> | <u>83</u> |
| Total current liabilities | 60,105 | 68,548 |
| Long-term debt | 25,095 | 66,934 |
| Deferred income taxes | 4,205 | 3,300 |
| Other long-term liabilities | <u>6,101</u> | <u>2,935</u> |
| Total liabilities | <u>95,506</u> | <u>141,717</u> |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Additional paid-in-capital | 73,590 | 71,923 |
| Retained earnings (accumulated deficit) | 50,320 | (7,601) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | <u>97</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Total shareholders' equity | <u>124,007</u> | <u>64,322</u> |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | <u><u>\$ 219,513</u></u> | <u><u>\$ 206,039</u></u> |

Vera Bradley, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Income
(\$ in thousands, except per share amounts)

| | <u>Thirteen Weeks Ended</u> | | <u>Fiscal Year Ended</u> | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <u>January 28, 2012</u> | <u>January 29, 2011</u> | <u>January 28, 2012</u> | <u>January 29, 2011</u> |
| | (unaudited) | (unaudited) | (unaudited) | (audited) |
| Net revenues | \$ 134,515 | \$ 109,385 | \$ 460,843 | \$ 366,057 |
| Cost of sales | <u>58,642</u> | <u>47,548</u> | <u>203,220</u> | <u>156,910</u> |
| Gross profit | 75,873 | 61,837 | 257,623 | 209,147 |
| Selling, general, and administrative expenses | 44,953 | 37,229 | 169,427 | 163,053 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Other income | 1,746 | 1,939 | 7,975 | 7,225 |
| Operating income | 32,666 | 26,547 | 96,171 | 53,319 |
| Interest expense, net | 214 | 398 | 1,147 | 1,625 |
| Income before income taxes | 32,452 | 26,149 | 95,024 | 51,694 |
| Income tax expense | 12,350 | 11,914 | 37,103 | 5,496 |
| Net income | <u>\$ 20,102</u> | <u>\$ 14,235</u> | <u>\$ 57,921</u> | <u>\$ 46,198</u> |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Basic weighted-average shares outstanding | 40,506,677 | 40,506,670 | 40,506,672 | 36,812,570 |
| Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding | 40,555,143 | 40,525,973 | 40,542,302 | 36,850,915 |
| Basic net income per share | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.35 | \$ 1.43 | \$ 1.25 |
| Diluted net income per share | 0.50 | 0.35 | 1.43 | 1.25 |

Vera Bradley, Inc.
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
(\$ in thousands)

| | <u>Fiscal Year Ended</u> | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>January 28,</u> | <u>January 29,</u> |
| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2011</u> |
| | (unaudited) | (audited) |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Net income | \$ 57,921 | \$ 46,198 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization of property, plant, and equipment | 9,457 | 8,411 |
| Provision for doubtful accounts | 553 | 256 |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant, and equipment | 51 | 278 |
| Write-off of debt-issuance costs | -- | 227 |
| Stock-based compensation | 1,591 | 15,889 |
| Deferred income taxes | 1,638 | (5,443) |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | (4,350) | (3,543) |
| Inventories | (10,199) | (30,182) |
| Other assets | 137 | (393) |
| Accounts payable | (2,736) | 10,791 |
| Income taxes payable | (8,305) | 10,010 |
| Accrued and other liabilities | 5,758 | 5,967 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | <u>51,516</u> | <u>58,466</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchases of property, plant, and equipment | (18,836) | (11,365) |
| Restricted cash on deposit | -- | 1,500 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>(18,836)</u> | <u>(9,865)</u> |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | |
| Payments on financial-institution debt | (76,200) | (68,923) |
| Borrowings on financial-institution debt | 34,450 | 105,673 |
| Payments on vendor-financed debt | (83) | (54) |
| Payments of debt-issuance costs | -- | (1,104) |
| Issuance of stock, net of costs | -- | 56,337 |
| Repurchase of stock | -- | (304) |

| | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Payments of distributions | -- | (132,782) |
| Other | 76 | -- |
| Net cash used in financing activities | <u>(41,757)</u> | <u>(41,157)</u> |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents | <u>46</u> | <u>--</u> |
| Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | \$ (9,031) | 7,444 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | <u>13,953</u> | <u>6,509</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | <u>\$ 4,922</u> | <u>\$ 13,953</u> |

Supplemental disclosure of cash-flow information

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Income taxes paid | <u>\$ 43,850</u> | <u>\$ 921</u> |
| Interest paid | <u>\$ 956</u> | <u>\$ 1,117</u> |

Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activity

| | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| Vendor-financed purchases of fixed assets | <u>\$ --</u> | <u>\$ 185</u> |
|---|--------------|---------------|

Vera Bradley, Inc.

Supplemental Information - Consolidated Statements of Income

Reconciliation of Operating Income, as reported to Operating Income, as adjusted

(\$ in thousands)

(unaudited)

Fiscal Year Ended

January 29,
2011

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Operating income, as reported | \$ 53,319 |
| <i>Adjustments</i> | |
| Compensation expense related to restricted-stock awards | <u>21,922</u> |
| Operating income, as adjusted | <u>\$ 75,241</u> |

Vera Bradley, Inc.

Supplemental Information - Consolidated Statements of Income

Reconciliation of Net Income, as reported to Net Income, as adjusted

(\$ in thousands, except per share amounts)

(unaudited)

Fiscal Year Ended

January 29,
2011

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Net income, as reported | \$ 46,198 |
| <i>Adjustments</i> | |
| Compensation expense related to restricted-stock awards | 21,922 |
| Adjustment to income taxes * | <u>(23,950)</u> |
| Net income, as adjusted | <u>\$ 44,170</u> |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Basic weighted-average shares outstanding | 36,812,570 |
| Diluted weighted-average shares outstanding | 36,850,915 |

Adjusted net income per share:

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Basic | \$ 1.20 |
| Diluted | \$ 1.20 |

* Assumes a combined federal, state, and local effective tax rate of 40%.

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