

Fact Sheet

- Jill Blashack Strahan is an inspirational speaker, Founder & CEO of Tastefully Simple and author of *Simply Shine: Stories That Stirred the Fire*.
- Born and raised in rural Minnesota, Jill grew up on her family's farm, where she was deeply influenced by her father's entrepreneurial spirit.
- Jill founded Tastefully Simple in 1995. Today she oversees the company as CEO, primarily focusing on marketing, sales and image development.
- In just 13 years, she developed Tastefully Simple into a \$100 million-plus company with more than 350 employees and over 26,000 consultants (2010).
- When Tastefully Simple was still in its infancy, Jill experienced personal tragedy with the deaths of her husband and brother. These potentially paralyzing events inspired her to live life with more intent and follow her dreams.
- Jill has been recognized as a leading entrepreneur, mentor and businessperson with many honors and media features, including:
 - 2010 Twin Cities Business "200 Minnesotans You Should Know"
 - 2009 Minnesota Business Professionals of America – Outstanding Business Executive of the Year Award
 - 2008 Minneapolis/St. Paul Women in Business Industry Leader Honoree
 - 2007 Feature recognition in *Reader's Digest* and *More* magazines
 - 2007 Minnesota Entrepreneurs, Inc. Entrepreneur of the Year
 - 2006 *Twin Cities Business* Hall of Fame
 - 2005 *Inc.* magazine's list of CEO All-Stars
 - 2005 *Fast Company* magazine's 25 Top Women Business Builders
 - 2004 Small Business Administration Entrepreneurial Success Award
 - 2003 Ernst & Young® Entrepreneur of the Year National Finalist
 - 2000 Ernst & Young Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year for Minnesota & the Dakotas
- Jill's book, *Simply Shine: Stories That Stirred the Fire*, was published in 2007.
- In 2008, Jill began sharing her powerful and uplifting message with the nation as an inspirational speaker.
- Jill makes her home in Alexandria, Minnesota, with her husband, Gary, and her son, Zach.
- Blashack Strahan is pronounced "BLY-zek STRAY-han."