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Competing to Do Good: Over 550 winter coats gathered to help Chicagoans keep warm this winter

OAK BROOK, IL, December 21, 2010 – Three Oak Brook-based companies, Tandem HR, Benefits Solutions Group and Alliance Workplace Solutions - founded by Bruce Leon – native Chicago entrepreneur, participated in a coat drive to gathering over 550 coats for the Chicago Chesed Fund. The coats, collected in November and December by 65 employees, will be delivered to the Chicago Chesed Fund office on December 23 – just in time to be put to good use by a community experiencing a frigid winter.

The three companies encouraged employees to reach beyond their walls to participate in the coat drive by placing them in teams of 5 and awarding gift cards to those that participated and a paid day off to the team who collected the most coats.

“We turned a young competitive workforce into a community project. The employees typically participate in various recreational leagues – why not team build and help those less fortunate this winter?” asked Leon, no stranger to community giving. Leon participates as a volunteer Board member for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Arie Crown Hebrew Day School, Hanna Sachs, and the ATT Foundation.

A strong believer in giving back to the community, Leon instituted policy at his three companies that encourages employees to volunteer time and money by matching donations, giving paid time off to volunteer and donating money to charities in which employees donate time.

“The Chicago Chesed Fund does great things in the community in which I live. I challenge all business owners to use this type of team building activity to get involved in your community,” Leon states. The Chicago Chesed Fund is headquartered in a 44,000-square foot warehouse in Lincolnwood, Illinois. Since 1987 their mission is to provide food, clothing, furniture, foreclosure and eviction prevention, emergency utility payments and a whole lot more to those in need, all with sensitivity, dignity and privacy. And today, the need is greater than ever before. Consider assisting Tandem HR, Benefits Solutions Group, Alliance Workplace Solutions in their efforts to support the Chicago Chesed Fund this winter. Visit www.ChicagoChesedfund.org for more details.

Laurie Babendir, Office Manager at Chicago Chesed Fund, expressed her appreciation for Tandem’s efforts, “Over five hundred and fifty coats- and all from one place- amazing! Last week families were still coming in asking for coats, so these coats will be just in time. New this year, we started offering adult coats along with children’s. Parents who come for jackets for their kids will now be able to select coats for themselves, as well. We are so grateful to partner with Tandem HR in supplying warm coats for so many people.”

Tandem HR is a professional employer organization (PEO) providing a single source solution of integrated services which enables business owners and senior management a scalable, cost-effective Fortune 500 caliber HR infrastructure at a fraction of the cost. Our core competency is helping our clients get their maximum return on investment outsource in human resources including employee benefits, payroll and workers’ compensation and other strategic services, such as, recruitment, risk management, and training and development. We do so with the help of sister companies, Benefits Solutions Group (a benefits brokerage firm) and Alliance Workplace Solutions (a voluntary benefits firm). For more information on Tandem HR, visit www.TandemHR.com or call 630.928.0510.

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