



A good neighbor in our neighborhoods.

Contact Barb Wolf, VP Marketing & Product Development ▪ 312-491-7888 ▪ bwolf@PLSemail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLS Receives Activa Award from FiSCA for its Support of Chicago's Pacific Garden Mission

CHICAGO, IL—October 31, 2011: At its 23rd annual Conference & Exposition, Financial Service Centers of America (FiSCA), the industry's professional trade organization, honored PLS with its prestigious Activa Award. The award was presented to PLS for its ongoing support of Chicago's Pacific Garden Mission, which provides food, shelter, clothing, medical care and job training to hundreds of homeless adults and children.

The Activa Award is given annually to neighborhood financial service center providers who demonstrate outstanding examples of involvement and investment in the communities in which they do business. The Activa Award "emphasizes that actions speak louder than words," according to the plaque presented to honorees. It recognizes those "who gave of themselves and rendered countless manpower hours and funding to build a better community."

PLS began its association with the Pacific Garden Mission in November 2010, with the donation of turkeys for the Mission's Thanksgiving dinner. In December, PLS launched its "Blizzard of Holiday Cheer" employee gift pledge, through which team members made donations to purchase pillows, bedclothes and toys for use at the Mission—a donation total that was matched by the company.

In spring 2011 PLS made a \$7,500 donation to the Mission, which was matched by the Western Union Foundation's "Agent Giving Circle" program for a combined total of \$15,000.

Accepting the award on the final evening of FiSCA's 23rd annual Conference & Exposition in Orlando was Barbara Wolf, VP Marketing & Product Development, PLS. "On behalf of the more than 3,100 PLS team members, I'm honored to receive this prestigious award," said Wolf. "The Pacific Garden Mission is a longtime refuge for the most needy in our community. As a good neighbor, we're very thankful that we're able to help them in their work. We're looking forward to continuing and expanding our relationship with the Mission, to the mutual benefit of both parties."

PLS operates more than 300 financial services centers in nine states. The PLS mission is to provide innovative and convenient financial services delivered with the respect that hard-working consumers deserve.



A good neighbor in our neighborhoods.

About PLS: People. Location. Service.

The PLS Group, headquartered in Chicago, is comprised of more than 300 financial services centers in Alabama, Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, New York, Texas and Wisconsin, with more than 3,100 employees. PLS is one of the largest, fastest-growing and most distinguished organizations in the check cashing industry, and is a top performer for Western Union, a money transfer network.

PLS has been listed among *Inc.* magazine's "5000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in America" for the past three years, and for three consecutive years has been named one of the "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work for in Chicago" by the National Association of Business Resources. For the past four years, PLS has been named one of Chicago's Largest Privately Held Companies by *Crain's Chicago Business*®, and was a member of *Crain's* "Fast 50" (Fastest Growing Companies). Bob and Dan Wolfberg, PLS Presidents, were finalists for Ernst & Young's 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year Award. In 2011, Bob Wolfberg was recognized by Financial Service Centers of America (FiSCA) as its Financial Service Provider of the Year. The company has also been twice honored with the Activa Award from FiSCA in recognition of its charitable efforts.

The PLS Group serves customers through its **PLS Check Cashers** stores, which offer check cashing, prepaid Visa debit cards, money transfer services, money orders and bill payments; **PLS Loan Store** locations, which provide consumer short-term loans, auto insurance and tax-preparation services; and **PLS Motor Vehicle Services** facilities, which offer vehicle license and registration services.

About FiSCA

FiSCA, founded in 1987, is the national trade association for more than 6,500 individual financial service centers across the United States. FiSCA members provide a wide variety of financial services and products to their communities, including check cashing, money orders, money transfers, and electronic bill payment services, automatic teller machine access, government benefit and payroll payments, small dollar short-term loans, electronic tax preparation, prepaid debit cards, deposit acceptance services, public transportation fare and token sales, motor vehicle license plate and title distribution, postage stamp sales and numerous other services. For more information, please visit www.fisca.org.

About the Pacific Garden Mission

The **Pacific Garden Mission** is the oldest continuously operating rescue mission in the U.S. In addition to food, clothing, shelter and medical care, it offers ministry and job training to thousands in need throughout the Chicago area. The Pacific Garden Mission accepts no government funding; all of its operating expenses are covered by donations. To support the Pacific Garden Mission's work, or for more information, call 312-492-9410 or visit pgm.org

#