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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PLS, Western Union Foundation Contribute to Houston Children's Charity**

CHICAGO, IL—January 5, 2012: “Helping students start the school year properly equipped is an outstanding way to invest in their academic success,” said Bob Wolfberg, President, PLS. “Houston Children’s Charity’s ‘Back 2 School’ program provides school supplies to needy students throughout the Houston metro area. To assist them in this worthy cause, PLS is making a \$5,000 donation to Houston Children’s Charity.”

Houston Children’s Charity ([www.houstonchildrenscharity.org](http://www.houstonchildrenscharity.org)) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for underprivileged, abused and handicapped children who have been otherwise left behind. Its annual “Back 2 School” program helps needy families through the back-to-school process. Houston Children’s Charity distributes much-needed assistance (uniform vouchers, backpacks and school supplies) to many of Houston’s underprivileged children.

PLS ([www.PLSHome.com](http://www.PLSHome.com)) 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.

### **Doubling the impact through the Western Union Foundation**

“Houston Children’s Charity’s ‘Back 2 School’ program mirrors our own annual ‘Back to School’ promotion, which provides backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need,” noted Wolfberg. “We’re proud to support this important effort. And that’s why we invited the Western Union Foundation to get involved.”

The Western Union Foundation’s ([www.westernunionfoundation.org](http://www.westernunionfoundation.org)) “Agent Giving Circles” program assists Western Union Agents in supporting their local communities. PLS received dollar-for-dollar matching funds for its contribution to Houston Children’s Charity, for a combined total of \$10,000.

“PLS has been an active, contributing member of the community in Houston,” said Rob Koewler, Director of Strategic Accounts for Western Union. “We’re very pleased to match their donation to Houston Children’s Charity.”



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### **“Proactive help for Houston’s underprivileged children”**

“It is always beneficial and terribly heartwarming when corporations in the city take a proactive role in helping Houston’s underprivileged children,” said Laura Ward, Executive Director, Houston Children’s Charity. “We thank PLS and the Western Union Foundation for seeking an avenue in which to provide support.”

### **About PLS: People. Location. Service.**

The PLS Group ([www.PLSHome.com](http://www.PLSHome.com)), 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” ([www.inc.com/inc5000/list](http://www.inc.com/inc5000/list)) 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 for Business Resources ([www.101bestandbrightest.com](http://www.101bestandbrightest.com)). For the past four years, PLS has been named one of Chicago’s Largest Privately Held Companies by *Crain’s Chicago Business*<sup>®</sup> ([www.chicagobusiness.com](http://www.chicagobusiness.com)), and was listed among *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 ([www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com)). In 2011, Bob Wolfberg was recognized by Financial Service Centers of America [FiSCA ([www.fisca.org](http://www.fisca.org))] 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<sup>®</sup> 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 Houston Children’s Charity**

Houston Children's Charity is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for Greater Houston's underprivileged, abused and disabled children who have been otherwise left behind. Through an array of capital programs and operating support, Houston Children's Charity has provided \$6.8 million to program services for over 75 agencies. In addition, the Becker Emergency Fund has provided over \$60,000 to assist families in emergency crisis situations.



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The scope of our support is limited only by the availability of resources. Our goal, the rainbow that we chase, is to leave no legitimate request for assistance unanswered. For more information, visit [www.houstonchildrenscharity.org](http://www.houstonchildrenscharity.org)

### **About Western Union**

The Western Union Company is a leader in global payment services. Together with its Vigo, Orlandi Valuta, Pago Facil and Western Union Business Solutions branded payment services, Western Union provides consumers and businesses with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send and receive money around the world, to send payments and to purchase money orders. The Western Union, Vigo and Orlandi Valuta branded services are offered through a combined network of approximately 485,000 agent locations in 200 countries and territories. In 2010, The Western Union Company completed 214 million consumer-to-consumer transactions worldwide, moving \$76 billion of principal between consumers, and 405 million business payments. For more information, visit [www.westernunion.com](http://www.westernunion.com)

### **About the Western Union Foundation**

Through Western Union's *Our World, Our Family*<sup>®</sup> signature program, the Western Union Foundation supports initiatives to empower people through access to economic opportunity. Recognized by the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy in 2009, the program is a five-year, \$50 million commitment reflecting efforts made by Western Union employees, agents and partners around the world. Since its inception, the Western Union Foundation has awarded more than \$73.8 million in grants to more than 2033 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in 120 countries and territories. To learn more, visit [www.westernunionfoundation.org](http://www.westernunionfoundation.org)

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