



**A good neighbor in our neighborhoods.**

Contact Barb Wolf, VP Marketing & Products  
312-491-7888 • bwolf@PLSemail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PLS and the Western Union Foundation Join Forces to Honor Slain Boston Student**

CHICAGO, IL—April 17, 2013: PLS is donating \$5,000 to the Neighborhood House Charter School in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston, the school at which eight-year-old Martin Richard was a third-grade student. Martin lost his life in the Boston Marathon terrorist explosions that rocked the city on April 15.

The Western Union Foundation is matching PLS's donation, for a total contribution of \$10,000.

"We firmly believe in being good neighbors in our neighborhoods," said Bob Wolfberg, President, PLS. "We mourn the loss of young Martin Richard, and wish to honor his memory. The PLS contribution will establish a computer lab at the Neighborhood House Charter School in Martin's name."

PLS (PLShome.com) manages 20 consumer retail financial service centers in Boston, with many located in the Dorchester neighborhood.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Richard family, all the victims of this senseless act, and our neighbors in Boston," continued Wolfberg. "We salute the first responders and those who assisted in the aftermath, and we'll continue to help in the healing and recovery."

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 is a good neighbor in all of the communities in which it does business," said Rob Koewler, Director of National Accounts for Western Union. "When they approached us with their plan to assist the Neighborhood House Charter School, we agreed at once to match their donation. The Martin Richard Computer Lab will provide students with the tools they need to succeed."

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

PLS is one of America's most successful and fastest-growing consumer financial services retailers. The company is transforming the industry through its singular combination of



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affordably priced financial services delivered with exceptional customer service. The reason PLS exists can be simply stated: ***Why PLS? Because You Deserve Better!***<sup>®</sup> That's the promise the company makes to customers, communities and employees.

The PLS Group, headquartered in Chicago, operates or manages nearly 400 financial services centers in markets that span the U.S. from California to New York. PLS, with more than 3,800 employees, has annual revenue that exceeds \$250 million.

PLS is ranked among the **Top 100 Job-Creating Companies in the U.S.** by *Inc.* magazine ([www.inc.com/hire-power/list](http://www.inc.com/hire-power/list)), and is listed among *Inc.*'s **5000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in America** ([www.inc.com/inc5000/list](http://www.inc.com/inc5000/list)). The company 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)). PLS is ranked as one of **Chicago's Largest Privately Held Companies** by *Crain's Chicago Business* ([www.chicagobusiness.com](http://www.chicagobusiness.com)), and was listed among *Crain's Fast 50*. 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 honored with the **Activa Award** from FiSCA three times 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, direct deposit 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 Neighborhood House Charter School**

The Neighborhood House Charter School, located in Boston's Dorchester community, serves 400 students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. The school's mission is to offer a quality education to a diverse community of Boston children through a neighborhood-based school that integrates education with social services and health care programs, and to develop and share with other schools innovative practices that improve public education for all students. The school's philosophy, "Succeed Anywhere," describes its educational vision that every student will graduate with the necessary knowledge and skills to attend a quality high school focused on college preparation, the technical trades or the creative arts. For more information, or to make a contribution to the school, visit <http://www.neighborhoodhousecharterschool.org/>

### **About Western Union**



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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*® 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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