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OPUS GIVES BIRCH COMMUNITY SERVICES ITS LARGEST EVER CASH DONATION

Real estate developer contributes \$120,000 to food banks across the country

PORTLAND, ORE. (Jan. 3, 2006) – Opus Northwest, L.L.C., announced today that it is making contributions totaling \$120,000 to six area food banks in Portland, Ore., Denver, Kansas City, Mo., St. Louis, St. Paul, Minn. and Seattle. Birch Community Services, Inc., located in Portland, will receive \$20,000, the largest cash donation the organization has ever received, to help provide food and necessities to needy families.

Birch Community Services, Inc. has grown during the last 13 years from one small donation to a 22,000-square-foot warehouse facility that distributed \$12 million worth of product in its last fiscal year. With the help of many talented volunteers, founder Barry Birch and his wife Suzanne as executive director, Birch's facility serves 670 families within the greater Portland area and provides food and other essential items to potentially more than 10,000 people in need every week through its partnering agencies.

"We have never received a cash donation of this magnitude before," said Birch. "There are so many areas of need, especially the 125 families we currently have on our waiting list. We are hoping this donation will open the door for us to continue serving more families by helping us get into a new facility."

"Giving back to the communities we serve is at the very core of who we are at Opus," said John Bartell, vice president, general manager, Opus Northwest – Portland. "We are proud to share our good fortune with those in need." Opus Northwest is part of The Opus Group, a \$1.4 billion real estate development company that contributes 10 percent of its pre-tax profits to community organizations.

About Birch Community Services, Inc.

Birch Community Services, Inc. of Portland started in 1992 and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 1995. In its 13 years of service, BCS has provided help and hope to thousands to working poor families of Portland/Vancouver. No other organization in the Pacific Northwest operates according to the BCS model of self-help, accountability, and community. **BCS donated products are top quality.** A great deal of work is put into ensuring that its quality is maintained throughout the distribution process, including re-packaging in our hygienic clean room, storing

perishable foods in our two-story cooler, and ensuring that fresh foods are distributed immediately. **Participants in the BCS program get a hand up, not a hand out.** They pay a nominal service fee each month for BCS benefits, and are expected to volunteer a few hours monthly in BCS operations. **Thus, the dignity of each participant is preserved.** By having the chance to give back, participants can feel good about themselves and their own key role in helping others. **Our services meet participants' immediate needs AND prepare them for a better future.** Our classes on money management, financial literacy, and budgeting are crucial to helping many families plan their way out of debt and into financial stability. **Our model is cost-efficient.** Our unique system of volunteerism makes it possible for us to operate with a fraction of the overhead percentage that is typical of most charitable organizations. For every dollar of operational funds, BCS distributes about 23 lbs. of product...**all without government assistance or an annual fundraising program.** BCS has been able to grow and thrive even though we've never received a government grant or carried out a regular development program. Finally, **BCS is 10% about food, and 90% about people.** Each week, BCS participants come together in the BCS warehouse, where they are invited to share their stories, choose their groceries, select clothes if they need them, learn about ways to improve their lives through classes and workshops, and work together toward better outcomes for all.

About Opus Northwest

Opus Northwest is headquartered in Minneapolis and is one of five regional companies within The Opus Group. Based in Minneapolis, The Opus Group is a \$1.4 billion premier, full-service real estate development company with more than 50 years experience. Specializing in office, industrial, institutional, retail, multifamily and government construction, The Opus Group has completed more than 2,200 projects and currently has 24 million square feet in planning or development. Opus employs 1,400 people in 28 offices in the United States and Canada. A community steward since its inception, The Opus Group contributes 10 percent of its pre-tax profits to community organizations. In 2004, the Opus Foundation launched the Opus Prize, an annual \$1 million humanitarian award. For more information, visit www.opuscorp.com.

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