



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(February 13, 2012) – Midwest companies raise record funds for area homeless shelters

In December 2011, Midwest Groundcovers and Midwest Trading of St. Charles, Illinois donated over \$5,000, food and clothing to Hessed House and Hope Haven -- local missions that provide emergency shelter and transitional housing services. Midwest surpassed the previous year's fund raising efforts by nearly \$2,000.

A portion of the funds raised in 2011 were allocated to Sustainable Sharing with Guatemala, an organization that donates stoves to families in Guatemala. Midwest funded the purchase of two much needed stoves for Guatemalan families.

According to Midwest Charity Committee member Mary Ellen Biell, a majority of the funds were raised during an employee raffle – an event that capped a year-long company-wide charitable initiative. Funds raised during the raffle and other events like plant and snack sales were then matched by Midwest companies as well as an independent donor.

The Midwest employee raffle included items donated by the following local businesses: Colonial Café and Ice Cream in Elgin, Al's Cafe and Creamery in Elgin, Sorrento's in Maple Park, Townhouse Books and Café in St. Charles, Smitty's on the Corner in St. Charles, Taxco Restaurant in Sycamore and Delnor Community Health and Wellness Center in Geneva.

Hessed House of Aurora, Illinois is a center for ministries that provide services to the poor and homeless. For more information on this organization, please visit their website at www.hessedhouse.org. Hope Haven of Dekalb, Illinois offers emergency shelter and transitional housing services for homeless families. The transitional housing program helps families attain self-sufficiency through education and training and also provides mentors and tutors to children.

Midwest Groundcovers LLC is an industry leader in the propagation, growing, and wholesale distribution of quality container nursery stock. The company operates over 645 acres of state-of-the-art nursery production facilities at five locations in St. Charles, IL, Virgil, IL and Glenn, MI. Each year, these facilities produce millions of container grown plants including more than 100 different ground cover varieties; over 250 species of Local Ecotype Native Plants identified as Natural Garden Natives™, 140 regional Midwest native species of which some are naturally occurring selections; more than 500 varieties of perennials and ornamental grasses; and over 170 varieties of deciduous shrubs, native shrubs, broadleaf evergreens, hardy shrub roses, conifers and vines.

Midwest Groundcovers LLC garners frequent press coverage through regional media outlets and is regularly featured in major trade publications such as *The Landscape Contractor*.

Midwest Trading Horticultural Supplies, Inc., located in Virgil, IL is a horticultural hardgoods supplier specializing in non-plant hardgoods, such as premium hardwood and pine mulches; landscape, nursery and rooftop growing media; CU Structural soil; mushroom, blended, and organic composts; VersaQuonset greenhouses; Nursery Supplies containers; aquatic supplies; tools and a broad range of other landscape and nursery supplies.

Visit Midwest Groundcovers LLC on the web at www.midwestgroundcovers.com. For more information about this project or to obtain photographs of the event, please contact Jill Bondi at 847-742-1790.