

MEDIA ADVISORY: Embargoed until 9/8/16

CONTACT: Steve Monti, Solidarity Capital Group, (919) 264-6784, smonti@solidaritycap.com
Megan Brock, B the Change Media, (785) 832-1222 ext. 208 or megan@bthechange.com

SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP Honored as Best for Community,
Creating Most Overall Positive Community Impact
Evaluated by Comprehensive B Impact Assessment

September 8, 2016: Berkeley, CA

Today, SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP was recognized for creating the most positive overall community impact by B the Change Media based on an independent, comprehensive assessment administered by the independent nonprofit B Lab. Honorees are featured in the upcoming fall issue of *B Magazine* and on B the Change's digital platform, bthechange.com. They were also honored at the first-annual Best for the World Celebration & Awards Ceremony at the University of California, Berkeley's Haas Business School.

SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP is honored in the Best for Community list, which includes businesses that earned a Community score in the top 10 percent of more than 1,800 Certified B Corporations on the B Impact Assessment. The full assessment measures a company's impact on its workers, community, customers and the environment. The 141 winning companies in the Community category come from 18 industries and 24 countries.

The Community portion of the B Impact Assessment evaluates a company's supplier relations, diversity, and involvement in the local community. It also measures the company's practices and policies around community service and charitable giving, including whether a company's product or service is designed to solve a social issue, such as access to basic services, health, education, economic opportunity and the arts. Honorees scoring in the top 10 percent set a gold standard for the high impact that business as a force for good can make on communities around the world.

The 141 Best for Community companies come from over 120 different industries such as manufacturing, financial services and engineering. B the Change Media simultaneously released separate lists recognizing B Corporations as Best for the World (overall impact), Best for the Environment, Best for Customers and Best for Workers, which can be found at <http://best.bthechange.com>. (Not available until September 8.)

"We were excited just to be among the earliest Certified B Corps in 2013, so even more so to now be recognized as among the very best for the world in 2016. Supporting the global B Corp

movement and community is a high priority for our firm and fund – which proudly counts B the Change Media and three other Certified B Corps among the portfolio companies we’ve staked,” said Steve Monti, Founder and Managing Director of Solidarity Capital Group and Solidarity Capital Fund. “We sincerely view the fast growing global B Corp movement, and the related accelerations of social entrepreneurship, impact investing, conscientious consumer preferences, and millennial workforce aspirations, as a genuine sign of hope and a powerful social change movement in our time – a movement of the Spirit if you will, that is worthy of our collective attention and engagement to fan the sparks wherever lit.”

Additional 2016 Best for the Community honorees include: Oregon-based winery **A to Z Wineworks**; **Beneficial State Bank**; and **Greyston Bakery**.

“The companies we are honoring as the best for the world represent the cutting edge of a global movement using business as a force for good. We are inspired by them, and feel deeply honored to join them in this historic and ground-breaking celebration,” said Bryan Welch, CEO of B the Change Media, the multiplatform media company that publishes the quarterly *B Magazine* and host of the Best for the World event at the University of California, Berkeley on September 8, 2016.

A total of 515 Certified B Corporations were named 2016 Best For the World Honorees, including: **The Honest Company**; **Cooperative Home Care Associates**; and **Traditional Medicinals**. Thirty-five countries are represented, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Vietnam, and Turkey. The selection criteria for Best for the World honorees are available at <http://bit.ly/29ZYRSp>.

The 2016 Best for the World Honorees represent nearly one-third of all B Corps, displaying a wide range of excellence throughout the community. Today there are more than 1,800 Certified B Corporations across over 120 industries and 42 countries, unified by one common goal: to redefine success in business. Any company can measure and manage social and environmental performance at <http://bimpactassessment.net>.

Solidarity Capital Group is an impact investment firm that finances economically sustainable social justice enterprises. We create opportunities for investors to back innovative social entrepreneurs, so they can extend their important work serving marginalized people and needs in our community. Solidarity Capital Fund and its affiliated entities have invested well over \$1M to back more than a dozen impact enterprises since the Fund’s initial capitalization in 2012. We assist visionary management teams that are addressing many of our toughest and most persistent social and environmental challenges, including community and economic development, health and wellness, sustainable agriculture, and energy and environmental solutions. Our investors,

principals, and advisors are people of faith and good will investing for the common good, with an aim for delivering both impactful social returns and compelling risk-adjusted financial returns for the benefit of all stakeholders.

For more information, visit www.solidaritycap.com.

B the Change Media was formed as a partnership between B Lab, the community of B Corporations, and Bryan Welch, former CEO of Ogden Publications (B Corp since 2010). B the Change Media is a multiplatform media company whose mission is to build the world's largest engaged audience of people with a passion for using business as a force for good. B the Change Media has editorial and operating independence and covers compelling stories about business as a force for good, not just stories about B Corporations. B the Change Media has independent investors and is a subsidiary of B Lab, the nonprofit organization that administers the Impact Assessment and aggregates the B Corporation community. B the Change Media is a Pending B Corporation.

For more information, visit <http://www.bthechange.com>.

B Lab is a nonprofit organization that serves a global movement of people using business as a force for good. Its vision is that one day all companies compete not only to be the best in the world, but the best for the world and society will enjoy prosperity for all for the long term.

B Lab drives this systemic change by: 1) building a community of Certified B Corporations to make it easier for all of us to tell the difference between “good companies” and good marketing; 2) passing benefit corporation legislation to give business leaders the freedom to create value for society as well as shareholders; 3) helping businesses measure, compare and improve their social and environmental performance with the free B Impact Assessment; 4) driving capital to impact investments through use of its B Analytics and GIIRS Ratings platform.

For more information, visit www.bcorporation.net.