MEDIA ADVISORY: Embargoed until 9/12/17

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SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP Honored as Best for Community, Creating Most Positive Community Impact

Evaluated by Comprehensive B Impact Assessment

September 12, 2017: Philadelphia, PA

Today, SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP was recognized a second consecutive year for being among the companies creating the most positive community impact based on an independent, comprehensive assessment administered by the nonprofit B Lab. Honorees are featured on B the Change, the digital Medium publication produced by B Lab, at <u>www.bthechange.com</u>.

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 2,100 Certified B Corporations on the B Impact Assessment. The full assessment measures a company's impact on its workers, community, customers and the environment. To certify as B Corporations, companies like SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP must complete the full assessment and have their answers verified by B Lab.

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 how business can be a force for good in communities around the world. SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP made the list thanks to exceptional practices including financing local B Corps and Nonprofits, and providing pro bono leadership in the local impact investing and social justice and social entrepreneurship communities.

The 180 winning companies in the Community category come from 80 industries and 34 countries. B Lab simultaneously released separate lists recognizing B Corporations as Best for the World (overall impact), Best for the Environment, Best for Customers, Best for the Long Term, Best for Workers and Best for the World: Changemakers, which can be found at <u>www.bthechange.com</u>.

"We were excited just to be among the earliest Certified B Corps in 2013, so even more so to be recognized as among the very best for the world in 2016, and now again in 2017. Supporting the global B Corp movement and community is a high priority for our firm and fund – which proudly counts six Certified B Corps among the 16 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 these sparks wherever lit."

Additional 2017 Best for the Community honorees include: **Cooperative Home Care Associates; Better World Books**; and **Uncommon Goods**.

"Companies like SOLIDARITY CAPITAL GROUP exemplify what it means for a business to be a good citizen," says Jay Coen Gilbert, co-founder of B Lab. "We're proud to recognize their achievement. Best for the World is the only list of businesses making the greatest positive impact that uses comprehensive, comparable, third-party-validated data about a company's social and environmental performance."

A total of 846 Certified B Corporations were named 2017 Best for the World Honorees, including: **Patagonia**; **Seventh Generation**; **National Co+op Grocers**; and **Business Development Bank of Canada.** Forty-eight countries are represented, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Nicaragua and Turkey. The selection criteria for Best for the World honorees are available at http://bit.ly/29ZYRSp.

Today there are more than 2,100 Certified B Corporations across more than 130 industries and 50 countries, unified by one common goal: to redefine success in business. Any company can measure and manage social and environmental performance at <u>bimpactassessment.net</u>.

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 \$1.5M to back sixteen 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 of realizing both impactful social returns and compelling risk-adjusted financial returns for the benefit of all stakeholders.

For more information, visit <u>www.solidaritycap.com</u>.

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 <u>www.bcorporation.net</u>.

B the Change is a Medium publication, produced by B Lab in collaboration with the community of Certified B Corps and the movement of people using business as a force for good.

B the Change exists to inform and inspire people who have a passion for using business as a force for good in the world. Because we believe that storytelling is an essential element in the transformation of business and society, we commit ourselves to telling the most compelling stories possible to the largest audiences possible to propel the movement of business toward its destiny as a powerful force for good. We want to dramatically broaden and deepen engagement with entrepreneurs, managers, employees, investors and citizens in one of the most important discussions of our time.

Read all B the Change stories at <u>www.bthechange.com</u>.