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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLS Assists Alderman Emma Mitts in Ensuring Chicago Students Are Prepared for New School Year

CHICAGO, IL, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009: Chicago's 37th Ward Alderman Emma Mitts today praised the efforts of PLS Financial Services for its generous support of her recent 10th Annual Gospel Fest and Back-to-School Picnic at LaFollette Park.

Alderman Mitts, a longtime community advocate who believes in supporting working families and providing educational opportunities for Chicago school children, emphasized that she appreciated the involvement of PLS management and team members, who joined with local neighborhood ministers, community leaders and activists by providing much-needed school supplies and book bags for more than 500 young people. The complimentary book bags were distributed to boys and girls on a first-come, first-served basis during the fun-filled day of activities.

"Today is a great day for the city of Chicago and the Austin community," said Alderman Mitts at the event. "We're very excited that PLS has brought new education-related resources to the 37th Ward.

"I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to establish this joint corporate, business and community partnership to assist working families and their children in bettering their lives through education," Alderman Mitts continued.

"We're very pleased to assist Alderman Mitts in this important mission," said Bob Wolfberg, President, PLS. "Our stores and our team members are part of the community, and we're proud to lend a hand in sending the students of this community back to school with the supplies and the support they need."

"During these economically challenging times for businesses and families alike, we applaud PLS for its commitment to expanding its business enterprise in the 37th Ward and reaching out to young people," concluded Mitts. "It's important that Chicago Public School students approach the new school year with the right supplies to help ensure their academic success, and thanks to the generosity of this great business, our students will be ready and willing to learn."

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About PLS: People. Location. Service.

Chicago-based PLS Financial Services, Inc., manages more than 350 financial service centers in Alabama, Arizona, California, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, New York, Texas and Wisconsin, with more than 3,000 employees. PLS is one of the largest, fastest growing and most distinguished organizations in the check cashing industry, and is a Western Union money transfer network.

PLS is listed on *Inc.* magazine's "5000 Fastest-Growing Private Companies in America," and has been named one of Chicago's "101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For" by the National Association of Business Resources. In 2008 and 2009, PLS was named one of Chicago's Largest Privately Held Companies, as well as a member of the "Fast 50" (Fastest Growing Companies) by *Crain's Chicago Business*[®]. The company has also been honored with the Activa Award from the Financial Service Centers of American (FiSCA) in recognition of its charitable efforts.

The PLS brands include: **PLS Loan Store**, which provides consumer micro-loans and tax-preparation services; **PLS Check Cashers**, which offers check cashing, money transfer services, money orders and bill payments; and **PLS Vehicle Registration**.