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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 23, 2008 — Keeping with their annual tradition, the employees of FirstWest Benefit Solutions spent their Martin Luther King Jr. Day giving back to the community.

This year, FirstWest worked with Volunteers of America to prepare a space donated by the Fourth Street Clinic into a storage warehouse for its donations.

“Volunteers of America is a national organization with the mission to reach outward to homeless people,” Steve Murdock, one of FirstWest’s partners, says. “They collect and distribute donations to those who are homeless. As part of that, they go to areas known as being heavily populated with the homeless and give out sleeping bags, coats, hats, warm socks and food. They also have nurses who check them out medically.”

The new facility is a place to store new supplies and will also provide office space for Volunteers of America.

FirstWest employees spent the holiday converting the former dentist office by dismantling and removing dental equipment, and constructing new shelves and office space.

When choosing this year’s project, Murdock decided on Volunteers of America after helping with its benefits plan.

“In meeting with them, we realized they had a great need,” Murdock says. “They mentioned they were in the process of obtaining the warehouse, and in just one day, we were able to bring in 26 people and help them get ready for business.”

FirstWest plans on continuing to donate its holiday to help the community in future years.

“We hope to achieve impact,” Murdock said. “Our goal is to provide some valuable, needed service to the community. As a side benefit, it brings our organization closer together. Serving makes us better employees and gives us opportunities to work side-by-side in a different setting, developing comraderie. It makes us appreciative of what we have.”

FirstWest is a local business representing over 350 employer groups and provides service for more than 20,000 employees. With headquarters in Orem and an office in Salt Lake City, FirstWest Benefit Solutions is positioned to continue as one of the fastest-growing benefits firms in Utah providing consulting-based employee benefits, retirement plans and cutting edge technology with integrated HR support, worksite-wellness programs, administration and tax advantaged Health Savings Accounts.

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