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Executive Chairman of The Toro Company Establishes “Employee Critical Need Fund”

Toro to Match \$1 Million Gift

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (January 16, 2006) – Seeking an innovative way to give back to employees and provide ongoing assistance in times of hardship, Ken Melrose, executive chairman of The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC), recently established the “Employee Critical Need Fund”. In cooperation with Melrose’s personal contribution of \$1 million, Toro announced that it will match the \$1 million donation, reinforcing the company’s commitment to the community and its employees.

The idea was developed following the California wildfires of 2004, in which some Toro employees lost their homes and other belongings. What caught the eye of Melrose, who at the time was Toro’s chief executive officer, was the immediate action taken by employees and their generosity in helping those affected.

“During my tenure, I had the extraordinary opportunity to work with talented employees whose commitment to Toro has been absolutely amazing,” said Melrose. “I am grateful for the efforts and dedication of our employees, and I wanted them to know that their company would be there for them in time of need.”

The fund, which is unique among Twin Cities-based companies, is aimed at providing short-term, emergency assistance to employees impacted by a natural disaster, a life-threatening or serious illness or injury, the loss of life of a family member, or other circumstances beyond the employee’s control.

“While as a company we strive to give back to the community, it’s also important to help employees who make Toro successful,” said Melrose.

Melrose, a 35-year company veteran, joined Toro in 1970 as director of market planning for the consumer products division. He was named executive vice president of the company’s outdoor power equipment group in 1980, appointed president in 1981, assumed the additional responsibility of chief executive officer in 1983, and became chairman of the board in 1987. Melrose stepped down as CEO in March of 2005, and continues to serve as executive chairman.

About the Toro Giving Program

The Toro Giving Program enhances the health and well-being of all Toro communities through active outreach and involvement. The primary giving focus is to support organizations that preserve the outdoor environment. Contributions are also focused on programs that enhance education, health and welfare, culture, the arts, and civic projects. Toro also provides employee volunteer opportunities, and product and in-kind donations.

About The Toro Company

The Toro Company (NYSE: TTC) is a leading worldwide provider of outdoor beautification products, support services and integrated solutions. With sales of \$1.8 billion in 2005, Toro is committed to providing environmentally responsible products of customer-valued quality and innovation. Since 1914, the company has built a tradition of excellence around a number of strong brands that serve a customer base that includes golf course superintendents, groundskeepers, sports field managers, landscape and irrigation contractors, fruit and vegetable growers, and homeowners. The Toro Company is headquartered at 8111 Lyndale Avenue in Bloomington, Minn. Visit the company website at www.thetorocompany.com.