

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For information, contact:

Marci Bowling

417.865.8701

mbowling@bkd.com

BKD moves to new building downtown

Firm to celebrate with fundraiser for American Diabetes Association

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Neal Spencer, **BKD, LLP** chief executive officer, announces BKD has moved into its new building at the southwest corner of East St. Louis Street and John Q. Hammons Parkway. The four-story office building was constructed by the Kansas City office of Opus Northwest and houses the local Springfield office and the firm's national office headquarters.

To celebrate being in the new building, BKD partners from the national office and Springfield office will compete in a tricycle race at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, to benefit the American Diabetes Association (ADA). (The rain date is September 23.)

“BKD has been a strong supporter of the ADA and we thought the tricycle race would be a great fundraising event to host at our new office that would be fun for all involved and benefit an organization we have partnered with for years – a win-win,” says John Wanamaker, managing partner of the Springfield, Branson and Joplin BKD offices.

BKD has been supporting the ADA for 15 years and to-date has donated more than \$72,000 for the organization that funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to the community and provides objective and credible information. Locally, ADA proceeds from the Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes benefits programs such as Camp Earthworks and the Family Resource Network – Family Link for children with diabetes. Funds also support their Lunch and Learn – Winning at Work series for local companies, school – based diabetes care trainings for teachers and administrators, advocacy training in schools and the workplace, as well as local health fairs for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes throughout the community. ADA also supports diabetes research for both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Currently 20 research projects in Missouri are funded through grants provided by the American Diabetes Association.

The new four-story building is approximately 109,000 square feet. While this is the first building Opus has developed in Springfield, Opus has developed more than 2,400 projects across the nation. Dave Harrison, general manager of Opus Northwest in Kansas City says, “From the initial introduction through the negotiation process, the design phase, the construction period, through their recent move in and now going forward, the Opus team has thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated BKD's team, their efforts, their commitment to downtown Springfield and their professionalism. Their vision for their corporate headquarters in location, quality and style have culminated in the building that you see completed today. We wish them ongoing success as a leader in their industry and look forward to a long and mutually successful relationship with them.”

BKD, LLP with offices in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky,
Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma & Texas

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Many green features will help the new building pursue LEED Core & Shell Silver Certification, meaning it will meet green building performance measures for lowering operating cost, reducing waste sent to landfills, conserving water and energy and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. The building features low-emission vehicle parking spaces, bicycle storage and showers, low-flow plumbing fixtures, energy efficient heating and air systems, water efficient landscaping, a white roof designed to reduce urban heat, internal recycling collection sites and motion sensitive lights. Other internal programs include plastic and aluminum recycling, toner cartridge recycling and paper shredding and recycling. Additionally, greater than 75% of the construction waste was salvaged or recycled.

“We have been very impressed with the quality and commitment of the area subcontractors to this green project. The building had a tight schedule, but we can never sacrifice quality. The subcontractors embraced the challenge, which allowed us to complete the project in forty-four and a half weeks,” says Harrison.

“We are absolutely thrilled to be in our new building,” says Wanamaker, “The building itself not only meets, but exceeds our expectations with respect to functionality, spaciousness and atmosphere. This will be a great home for us for many years to come.”

The new building also houses original works from 32 artists in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. The gallery-style art selected ranges from glass works, sculptures, pine needle and wooden baskets to photography and landscape, abstract and figure paintings in oil and acrylics. Fifteen of the photographs are by BKD employees with subjects taken in the region or city where the employee lives.

“We're very pleased to be bringing our staff, clients and our community not only a new, state-of-the-art building, but also a one-of-a-kind art collection showcasing the rich diversity of local and regional artists,” Spencer says. “We hope this gallery-quality collection is something our current and future BKDers enjoy for many years to come.”

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About BKD

BKD is the top-tier U.S. CPA and advisory firm that delivers its experience and service with a deep understanding of your business, your needs, and what it takes to improve your business performance. BKD's approximately 2,000 personnel, including approximately 250 partners, are based in 32 offices serving clients in 50 states. To learn more, visit www.bkd.com.

Praxity, AISBL, a global alliance of independent firms, enhances BKD's ability to serve the dynamic needs of multinational clients. Praxity™ provides the gateway to tax, assurance and consulting services delivered by alliance firms committed to the highest standards required in international business.

About the American Diabetes Association (ADA)

The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight against the deadly consequences of diabetes and fighting for those affected by diabetes. The Association funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides objective and credible information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes. Founded in 1940, our mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by

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diabetes. For more information, please call the American Diabetes Association in Springfield at 890.8400 or visit www.diabetes.org. Information from both these sources is available in English and Spanish.

Opus Northwest, L.L.C:

Opus Northwest, L.L.C., a member of The Opus Group, is a full-service design-build development firm serving the northwestern region of the United States. Headquartered in Minneapolis, the company has additional offices in Denver, Kansas City, Portland, Seattle and St. Louis. With in-house expertise in office, industrial, retail, multifamily, government and institutional projects, Opus Northwest has developed more than 84.8 million square feet of space. For more information please visit www.opuscorp.com.

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