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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUARD Top Christmas in July Contributor for Fifth Straight Year

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The employees at GUARD Insurance Group recently donated over 18,000 pounds of nutritious, non-perishable food items for the Annual “Christmas in July” Drive sponsored by the United Way of Wyoming Valley’s Workplace Council. GUARD’s contribution was delivered by employees to the Commission on Economic Opportunity, which distributes the proceeds to organizations such as the Salvation Army, VISION, REACH, the St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen, and other service agencies active in efforts to feed people in need. Over 90 local pantries benefited overall.

GUARD’s participation in “Christmas in July” spans 21 consecutive years and has resulted in approximately 155 tons of food being provided. GUARD is regularly a top contributor during this event and has been named the top donator per capita for five straight years. Since 1989, GUARD’s staff has contributed money and time to charitable endeavors through a group of volunteers called the Special Projects Committee (SPC). Throughout the two weeks of “Christmas in July,” the SPC hosts a series of activities designed to energize employee enthusiasm and participation in the “food- and fund-raising” event.

In addition to “Christmas in July,” GUARD’s SPC also provides support during the United Way’s annual pledge drive as well as to a variety of other notable causes, including (among others) the March of Dimes, the Wyoming Valley Head Start Program, American Cancer Society, and Big Brother/Sister Programs.

“Through the generosity and sincere concern of GUARD’s employees for those less fortunate, we’ve made life a little easier for numerous families and individuals,” said Carl Witkowski, Executive Vice President of Information Systems and Chief Administrative Officer for GUARD. “Each year, our Special Projects Committee mobilizes employee participation. We have Pet Photo Contests, Team Competitions, Day-Off and Dress-Down-Day Raffles, Christmas Trivia Contests, and much more. The proceeds support GUARD’s effort and ultimately the communities in which we live and work. During the difficult economic times of the past 18 months, we are especially proud of this selfless level of giving.”

GUARD Insurance Group, traditionally a Workers’ Compensation specialist based in downtown Wilkes-Barre and writing business in 25 states plus the District of Columbia, recently added a complete, multi-policy solution for small- to mid-sized businesses. Through a subsidiary, AmGUARD Insurance Company, the organization now writes complementary property and liability coverage via a new Businessowner’s Policy (BOP) as well as Commercial Auto and Commercial Liability Umbrella insurance in select states, including Pennsylvania.

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Note: *Both Carl Witkowski (quoted within this press release) and Karen Stempowski (GUARD’s SPC advisor) are available to discuss this effort further. Contact Bob Thomas to schedule interviews in advance. Photos have been provided.*

Press Releases are available via GUARD’s web site at www.guard.com.

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Press Release