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## **Larry Solomon, COO of Accenture's Health & Public Service Operating Group, Named First Chairman of Back on My Feet's National Board of Directors**

**PHILADELPHIA; Nov. 08, 2010 -- Back on My Feet (BOMF)**, the nonprofit that promotes the self-sufficiency of homeless populations by engaging them in running, is proud to announce that **Larry Solomon**, chief operating officer of **Accenture's** Health & Public Service Operating Group, will serve as Chairman of the organization's first national board of directors.

"Back on My Feet is fortunate to have the support of people like Larry Solomon who are willing to contribute their time, energy and resources to help BOMF become a national organization," said BOMF founder and president **Anne Mahlum** said. "It is our mission to help as many people as possible and with that comes evolution of the infrastructure, which includes forming a national board of directors."

Prior to his appointment, Solomon served as chairman of the advisory board for Back on My Feet Philadelphia, where the organization was founded in July 2007. As Back on My Feet continued to expand in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Boston and Chicago -- with plans for adding five new cities in 2011 -- it became necessary to complement each chapter's advisory board with a broader, national board of directors, made up of the most engaged and influential Back on My Feet supporters.

"Back on My Feet is an inspirational organization because it gives people a second chance at life by providing the skills and encouragement they need to open the doors to independence and employment and I share in that commitment," said Solomon. "As a runner, it's been wonderful to align my passion for running and helping people by working with an organization that is so full of life and dedicated to enhancing the health and quality of life of others. I'm honored to join the board of directors and look forward to helping Back on My Feet continue to grow and thrive."

Back on My Feet is an important partner in helping Accenture re-train displaced workers with the skills to get a job. As part of this partnership, Accenture currently provides job preparation and mentoring for Back on My Feet in Philadelphia, Washington DC, Boston and Chicago. The effort is part of the company's **Skills to Succeed** initiative, which plans to equip 250,000 people around the world by 2015 with the skills to get a job or build a business.

With the help of energetic and committed advisory boards, the organization has seen impressive growth. For example, after launching in Philadelphia three years ago, Back on My Feet's 2010 budget has grown to \$3.4 million, which has helped more than 600 people move their lives forward through education, job training, employment and/or housing. The organization's projected budget is expected to more than double in 2011, exceeding \$7 million as it enters into five additional markets.

Considering a fifth of that budget comes from corporations, the support of each community's business leaders is vital to the organization's ability to sustain its mission of combating homelessness. Solomon joined Accenture in 1986 after receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration from the State University of New York at Albany. During his tenure with Accenture, Larry has held a number of leadership positions in Human Resources, and has been in his current role as COO since September 2008.

Solomon became inspired by BOMF after reading about the organization in [Runner's World \[PDF\]](#). He was training for a marathon at the time and thought it was an organization that tied together his interests of running and helping people. He quickly got involved, began running with the team at Our Brother's Place and joined the Advisory Board of Directors in 2009. Since that time, his passion and energy has helped take BOMF to a new level. As a result, he was recently awarded Board Member of the Year by Anne Mahlum.

Solomon joins the National Board of Directors with **David Grissen, Marriott** President of the Americas; **Kevin Casey, Comcast** North Central Division President; **Jim Boyle**, President of **John Hancock Financial Services** and **Eric Kraeutler**, the leader of the **Morgan Lewis** Philadelphia litigation practice.

#### **ABOUT BACK ON MY FEET**

Back on My Feet, which launched in Philadelphia in 2007, is a nonprofit organization that promotes the self-sufficiency of the homeless population by engaging them in running to build strength, confidence and self-esteem.

Members must run Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and must maintain a 90 percent attendance rating in order to move forward in the program and gain access to job training, employment and housing opportunities.

The organization has chapters in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago and will expand to Dallas-Fort Worth, Atlanta and Minneapolis-St. Paul in the first half of 2011.

The organization has received incredible media support, including attention from [NBC Nightly News](#), [ABC World News](#), [CNN](#), and [The Today Show](#) for its ingenuity in tackling this difficult social issue. More information can be found at [www.backonmyfeet.org](http://www.backonmyfeet.org)

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