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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September, 2009

**Benefit Express Services Ranks 31st Among the Leading Human Resources Companies, 40th in the Chicago Area and No. 976 on the 2009 Inc. 5,000:
*Inc. Magazine Unveils Exclusive List of America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies***

Benefit Express Services' Trophy Case

- Ranked No. 40 in [Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, IL-IN-WI](#)
- Ranked No. 31 in [Human Resources](#)



CHICAGO, September 1, 2009 – Inc. has just ranked Benefit Express Services Number 976 on its third annual Inc. 5000, an exclusive ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies. The list represents the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy—America's independent-minded entrepreneurs. Consumer electronics maker Vizio, Internet giant GoDaddy, rental car service Zipcar, and beverage maker Honest Tea are among the prominent brands featured on this year's list. The Chicago region had 203 companies on the Inc. 5,000, placing it fifth in placements for metropolitan areas. New York was first with 371 companies followed by Washington, D.C. (317), Los Angeles (253) and Atlanta (209).

"Savvy trend spotters and those who invest in private companies know that the Inc. 5000 is the best place to find out about young companies that are achieving success through a wide variety of unprecedented business models, as well as older private companies that are still expanding at an impressive rate," said Inc. 5000 project manager Jim Melloan. "That's why our list is so eagerly anticipated every year."

The 2009 Inc. 5000, unveiled on Inc.com, serves as a unique report card on the U.S. economy. Despite the ongoing recession, aggregate revenue among the companies on the list actually increased to \$214 billion, up \$29 billion from last year, with a median three-year growth rate of 126 percent. The Inc. 5000 are responsible for creating more than 1 million jobs since their founding, making the list perhaps the best example of the impact private, fast-growing companies can have on the economy. Complete results of the Inc. 5000, including company profiles and an interactive database that can be sorted by industry, region, and other criteria, can be found on Inc.com.

This year's list also offers a preview of which industries are poised for growth in coming years. With an average growth rate of 667 percent, Insurance ranked as the top industry overall. Government Services was the top industry gainer with 252 companies on this year's list, up from 135 last year. Health is the top industry by both total revenue (\$22.7 billion) and total employment (156,223 jobs).

Methodology

The Inc. 5000 is ranked according to percentage revenue growth from 2005 through 2008. To qualify, companies must have been founded and generating revenue by the first week of 2005, and therefore able to show four full calendar years of sales. Additionally, they have to be U.S.-based, privately held, for profit, and independent -- not subsidiaries or divisions of other companies -- as of December 31, 2008. Revenue in 2005 must have been at least \$200,000, and revenue in 2008 must have been at least \$2 million. The top 10 percent of companies on the list comprise the Inc. 500, now in its 28th year.

About Benefit Express:

Benefit Express focuses on solutions for the administration of Human Resources/benefits programs. With the company's My Benefit Express™ self-service platform, clients have direct access to customized content delivery, self-service enrollment, employee benefit education tools, transactional administrative processing/tracking, carrier billing reconciliation, vendor data-links and detailed HR reporting."

About Inc.com:

Founded in 1979 and acquired in 2005 by Mansueto Ventures LLC, *Inc.* (www.inc.com) is the only major business magazine dedicated exclusively to owners and managers of growing private companies that delivers real solutions for today's innovative company builders. With a total paid circulation of 712,961, *Inc.* provides hands-on tools and market-tested strategies for managing people, finances, sales, marketing, and technology. Visit us online at Inc.com.

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