

30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2024 Chicago, IL 60602 www.thechicagocorp.com

#### **Jeff Schneiders**

Managing Director (312) 283-0807 jeff.schneiders@thechicagocorp.com

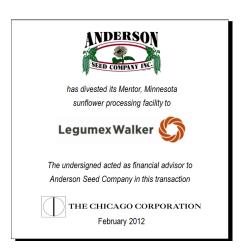
#### Phil Clarke

Managing Director (312) 283-0803 philip.clarke@thechicagocorp.com

## THE CHICAGO CORPORATION

#### **Transaction Announcement**





Chicago – February 15, 2012, The Chicago Corporation, an independent Chicago-based investment banking firm, announced today that it advised St. Hilaire Seed Company in its sale to Legamex Walker Inc. The Chicago Corporation also advised Anderson Seed Company in the sale of its Mentor, MN processing facility to Legumex Walker. St. Hilaire Seed and Anderson Seed have common ownership.

St. Hilaire Seed Company was founded in 1993 and today is the second largest U.S. dry bean processor with revenues exceeding \$50 million. The company is the U.S. market leader in processing pinto beans and black turtle beans. Anderson Seed Company is a leader in both the sunflower birdseed and the niche sunflower bakery kernel markets with revenues over \$25 million. The company commands an estimated 30% market share of sunflower fine chips, medium chips, course chips and premium blend as well as an estimated 40% market share of bakery kernels. Anderson Seed was founded in 1980 and entered the sunflower business in 1993.

Legumex Walker Inc. (TSX: LWP) is a processor and merchandiser of pulses (beans, peas, beans, chickpeas and lentils), specialty crops and canola products. LWP is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The St. Hilaire Seed acquisition establishes a U.S. platform for dry bean processing and more than doubles the company's dry bean capacity. The purchase of Anderson Seed's Mentor facility adds U.S. sunflower processing capacity as well as dehulling capability.

The sale of Anderson Seed was driven by its inability to fill substantial sale contracts which became unprofitable due to rising commodity prices. The Chicago Corporation closed the transaction within 3½ months of retention and additionally introduced a turnaround consultant that assisted with cash management during the sale process. Legumex hired most of Anderson's workforce of 25, providing them with ongoing employment. St. Hilaire was sold in a simultaneous closing.

#### **About The Chicago Corporation**

The Chicago Corporation is an independent Chicago-based investment banking firm focused on providing middle-market companies with a range of financial and corporate advisory services including merger and acquisitions, institutional debt and equity capital raising, and financial restructuring. The Chicago Corporation leverages the broad experience of its team to evaluate and implement financial strategies designed to maximize the value of a client's business. The firm is committed to a "client-first" approach, which ensures that its professionals work together to find the best market-based solution for the client. For more information about The Chicago Corporation, its investment bankers, and Senior Advisors, please visit www.thechicagocorp.com.

#### Introduction

Chicago based investment bank with over 40 experienced bankers and senior advisors providing best-in-class investment banking advice and execution, and business advisory services to middle market public and private companies with sales between \$20 and \$500 million.

Willingness to engage business owners on traditional investment banking business, as well as for broader financial and business advisory services, to provide advise on strategic and operational issues in order to increase the value of their businesses.

Why The Chicago Corporation?		
Culture	<ul> <li>Clients come first – trusted advisors to business owners</li> <li>Relationship driven – not transaction-driven</li> </ul>	
Experience	<ul> <li>Seasoned bankers with extensive industry, operational and transactional experience</li> <li>Elite team of senior advisors with diverse industry specializations and competencies</li> </ul>	
Collaboration	Two or more bankers lead every engagement to provide best-in-class advice and execution Client benefit from firm-wide thinking	
Relevance	<ul> <li>Entrepreneurial passion – all managing directors are owners</li> <li>Ability and willingness to engage in purely advisory / consultative roles</li> </ul>	
Excellence	<ul> <li>Goal to exceed client expectations by providing best-in-class, unbiased advice</li> <li>Success measured by client referrals and endorsements – Results</li> </ul>	

#### Services

# Mergers & Acquisitions Advisory

- Sale of Company
- Corporate Divestiture
- Acquisition Advisory
- Special situations / Distressed sales
- Leveraged buyouts
- Going private transactions
- Fairness opinions
- Valuations

### Private Capital Raising

- Senior debt
- Junior debt
- Convertible debt
- Preferred equity
- Common equity

#### Financial Advisory Services

- Strategic alternatives analysis
- Capital structure analysis
- Debt capacity analysis
- Recapitalizations / Financial restructurings
- Wealth transition advisory

#### Strategic Advisory Services

- Performance assessment
- Strategy development
- Execution support

Managing Directors			
Phil Clarke	G. Stanley Cutter	<b>Tom Denison</b>	
312.283.0803	312.283.0804	312.283.0819	
Philip.Clarke@thechicagocorp.com	Stan.Cutter@thechicagocorp.com	Thomas.Denison@thechicagocorp.com	
Fred Floberg	<b>W. Robert Gold</b>	<b>Rick Heyke</b>	
312.283.0802	312.283.0817	312.283.0809	
Fred.Floberg@thechicagocorp.com	Robert.Gold@thechicagocorp.com	Rick.Heyke@thechicagocorp.com	
<b>Jeff Schneiders</b>	<b>Diane Selph</b>	<b>Dave West</b>	
312.283.0807	312.283.0828	312.283.0841	
Jeff.Schneiders@thechicagocorp.com	Diane.Selph@thechicagocorp.com	David.West@thechicagocorp.com	
	<b>Michael Zook</b> 312.283.0806 Michael.Zook@thechicagocorp.com		