***MEDIA INFORMATION* *((for free publication))***

*Texaid – Efficiency through ecological and social sustainability*

**Over 6 million Swiss Franks for aid organizations**

Schattdorf, Switzerland, June 14, 2016 – **Texaid Textilverwertungs-AG has successfully concluded the challenging business year of 2015. The share of total net proceeds disbursed to participating aid organizations, Samaritan associations, Kolping families and regional non-profit organizations amounted to 6.2 million Swiss Franks, nearly as much as the previous year (2014: 6.5 million Franks).**

"Considering the challenging economic environment in crucial sales markets and the decoupling of the Swiss Frank from the Euro, we are very delighted to have once again provided over 6 million Franks to our charitable partners for good causes in 2015," explained Martin Böschen, CEO of Texaid Textilverwertungs-AG. "Linking ecological and social sustainability in day-to-day business is what convinces Texaid’s partner aid organizations on the national and local levels," added Daniel Frei, President of the Texaid Working Group of Swiss Aid Organizations and CEO of Winterhilfe Switzerland.

Together with its subsidiary Contex, the textile recycler collected a total of around 130 million items of used clothing, shoes and household textiles from all over Switzerland and turned them over for reuse in meaningful ways. The used textiles were collected in containers, via street collection and through an in-shop collection system at select textile specialty shops and then sorted at their own locations and by select external partners in Switzerland and abroad. Of the approximately 6.2 million Swiss Franks distributed to charitable partners in 2015, around 1.7 million went to participating aid organizations and just under 4.5 million to the many local Kolping families, Samaritan associations and other non-profit organizations.

***Resource efficiency through an optimized sustainability strategy***

Texaid is continually expanding its sustainability strategy and, over the past year, optimized its consumption of resources. The company was nominated for the 2015 environmental prize of the Swiss Environmental Foundation for its commitment in the area of environmental and climate protection and was also awarded the "CO2 Neutral" gold label by Swiss Climate. By accepting this certification, Texaid Textilverwertungs-AG volunteered to take permanent measures for reducing greenhouse gases. Thanks to investments and environmentally friendly trade in day-to-day business, a reduction in CO2 of 7.1 percent per ton of used textiles collected was achieved in comparison to the base year of 2013.

www.texaid.ch

((Box))

Texaid was founded in 1978 as a charity private partnership between the aid organizations Swiss Red Cross, Caritas Switzerland, Winterhilfe Switzerland, Solidar Suisse, Kolping Switzerland and HEKS, together with an entrepreneur. Based in Switzerland’s Uri canton, and with branches in Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and Morocco, the company is one of Europe’s leading textile recycling service providers. Texaid Textilverwertungs-AG features ISO-certified quality management and was awarded the "CO2 Neutral" quality seal by Swiss Climate AG. This highest of distinctions is granted only to those companies which pursue climate protection in a holistic way.

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