



For immediate release: Date, 2011

Contact: Stacey Kidd, Marketing Manager

Blommer Chocolate Achieves Goal of 40,000 Cocoa Farmers in Its Sustainable Sourcing Program

*Sourced over 10,000 metric tons of Rain Forest Alliance Certified Cocoa in
the last six months*

Chicago, IL – Blommer Chocolate, North America’s largest processor of cocoa beans and ingredient chocolate products, today announced it has reached a key corporate social responsibility goal with sourcing sustainable cocoa. Over 40,000 cocoa farmers are involved in Blommer’s [sustainability](#) program, which provides tools and training to increase yields and income while practicing sound environmental stewardship. Blommer is involved in several sustainability programs in Ivory Coast, Indonesia and Ecuador, and the company has sourced over 100,000 metric tons of cocoa, including over 10,000 metric tons of [Rain Forest Alliance](#) certified cocoa so far this year.

Worldwide, over 90% of cocoa is grown on small family farms and the Blommer programs educate the farmers to become stronger, more educated sellers to provide a better life for farmer’s families and to ensure the long term sustainability of the cocoa industry. Details of the company’s three-pronged sustainability program that focus on “People, Planet and Profitability for farmers” can be found on the new [company website](#) including a video on sustainability programs. Programs include the World Cocoa Foundation, Cocoa Livelihoods Program with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Côte d’Ivoire Alliance of Farmers, Olam International and Blommer Chocolate (CIFOB), and the Sulawesi Alliance of Farmers, Olam and Blommer Chocolate (SAFOB).

“Blommer has a long history of supporting cocoa community sustainability, beginning in the 1950s when our founder, Henry Blommer began what is now the World Cocoa Foundation,”

said Peter Blommer, President for Blommer Chocolate. “We are proud of the impact we’ve been able to make on so many farmer’s lives by training them on improving crop yield and quality and sustainability of the land for future cocoa crops.”

About Blommer Chocolate Company

Blommer Chocolate Company is the largest cocoa processor and ingredient chocolate supplier in North America. With over 600 employees and four strategically located manufacturing facilities in North America, the company provides comprehensive business solutions for domestic and international customers of all sizes in the confectionery, baking and dairy industries. Among Blommer’s core competencies are cocoa bean processing, chocolate manufacturing, commodity risk management, and product and process R&D.

The company is a leader in advancing sustainable cocoa farming, playing an active role in the World Cocoa Foundation and promoting sustainable farming practices through its privately managed programs in Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia and Ecuador. Founded in 1939, the family owned and run company has established an outstanding reputation for customer service and quality. For more information about Blommer Chocolate Company, please visit www.blommer.com.

###