

WGME-TV (CBS 13) Telethon Raises Over \$700,000 to Benefit Disaster Relief Efforts

PORLAND, Maine, Sept. 19 /PRNewswire/ -- WGME-TV (CBS 13), Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.'s (Nasdaq: SBGI) television station in Portland, Maine, announced today that its September 18th Disaster Relief Telethon raised more than \$700,000 in funds to help those devastated by the September 11th attack on America. Heartfelt contributions poured in throughout the day from employees, volunteers, clients and viewers, as well as corporations and even children offering pennies from their savings accounts. The telethon benefits the American Red Cross Disaster Relief efforts.

"We were overcome with emotion by the response of the community," commented Alan Cartwright, General Manager of WGME 13 Television. "Our Maine viewers have always been pro-active and responsive to the needs of the community. We are especially proud of their response to the Nation. We are also thankful for the many people who volunteered to assist with the benefit effort, with some volunteers putting in more than 18 hours."

Staffers of WGME 13 assembled in the early hours of the morning to begin broadcasts and cut-ins to regular programming beginning at 4:55 a.m. with the start of WGME News 13's "Daybreak" telecast and continuing through the 11:00 p.m. news.

Employees, relatives, friends, and clients joined the effort. Elected officials, including Senator Olympia Snowe and Congressman Tom Allen, and Portland Police Chief Mike Chitwood took part. Corporate executives of Fleet-Maine, Verizon of Maine, Key Bank, L.L. Bean, Gobeil's Home Furnishings, and Maine Employers Mutual Insurance Company joined with members of the Air National Guard, Red Cross volunteers, and former station owner Maddy Corson to help staff the phones. Governor Angus King telephoned in with words of encouragement.

Many in the crowded studio of WGME 13 were visibly moved when Jinger Duryea, President of CN Brown, announced a pledge of more than \$300,000 from her company and Exxon-Mobil, concluding her presentation with an emotional "God Bless America."

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc., one of the largest and most diversified television broadcasting companies, currently owns and operates, or programs, 62 television stations in 40 markets. Sinclair's television group includes FOX, WB, ABC, CBS, NBC, and UPN affiliates and reaches approximately 25.0% of all U.S. television households. For more information, please visit Sinclair's website at www.sbsgi.net.

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