

**LEONARD GREEN & PARTNERS CLOSES NEW PRIVATE EQUITY FUND,
GREEN EQUITY INVESTORS IV, AT \$1.85 BILLION.**

Los Angeles --(Business Wire)--January 14, 2003. Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. is pleased to announce that last month it closed its new private equity fund, Green Equity Investors IV, L.P. with total capital commitments of \$1.85 billion. Investors in the new fund are a diverse group of institutions, including public and corporate pension funds, banks, insurance companies, university endowments and private foundations, from the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

The fund will target acquisitions of established, middle market companies in the U.S. across a broad range of industries, with enterprise values of between \$200 million and \$1 billion. The fund's focus will be on growing, cash flow positive businesses with strong management and a dependable market-leading franchise.

Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. is a Los Angeles-based private equity firm specializing in management buyouts of middle market companies. The firm's three Managing Partners, Jonathan Sokoloff, John Danhaki and Peter Nolan, have worked together since the mid-1980's. Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. is the largest private equity firm headquartered in Southern California, and the closing of Green Equity Investors IV, L.P. increases the total amount of private equity capital managed by the firm to approximately \$3.7 billion.

Since its founding in 1989, Leonard Green & Partners, L.P. has invested in 27 transactions. The firm's previous investments include Petco Animal Supplies, the nation's second largest retailer of pet supplies; VCA Antech, the nation's largest network of animal hospitals and veterinary-exclusive clinical laboratories; Rite Aid Corporation, the nation's third largest prescription drug retailer; Leslie's Poolmart, the nation's leading retailer of pool supplies; Phoenix Scientific, the nation's largest manufacturer of generic pharmaceuticals for animals; Gart Sports Company, the nation's second largest sporting goods retailer; Thrifty PayLess, formerly the west coast's largest prescription drug retailer; Liberty Group Publishing, a leading publisher of community newspapers; Big 5 Sporting Goods, the west coast's leading sporting goods retailer; and AsianMedia Group LLC, the nation's leading Asian-language television network.

The Credit Suisse First Boston Private Fund Group acted as placement agent. For further information, please contact Jim Gillette at (310) 954-0444 or visit our website www.leonardgreen.com.

CONTACT: Leonard Green & Partners, L.P.
Jim Gillette, 310/954-0444

SOURCE: Leonard Green & Partners, L.P.