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David J. Grissen, President for the Americas of Marriott International Joins New National Board of Directors for Back on My Feet, the Nonprofit That Helps Homeless Through Running

WASHINGTON D.C. -- **Back on My Feet**, the nonprofit that promotes the self-sufficiency of homeless populations by engaging them in running, is honored to have **David J. Grissen, President for the Americas of Marriott International**, join the newly formed **Back on My Feet National Board of Directors**.

"Back on My Feet is fortunate to have the support of people like David J. Grissen willing to contribute their time, energy and resources to help BOMF become a national organization," **Founder and President of BOMF Anne Mahlum** said. "It is our mission to help as many people as possible and with that comes evolution of the infrastructure, which includes forming a national Board of Directors."

Grissen was formerly a member of the advisory board for Back on My Feet Washington D.C., which launched in March 2010. As Back on My Feet continues to expand -- now in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Boston and Chicago with plans for five cities in 2011 -- it became necessary to complement each chapter's advisory board with a broader, national board of directors, made up of the most engaged and influential Back on My Feet supporters.

With the help of an impressive and connected board, the organization has seen impressive growth.

After launching in Philadelphia in July 2007, Back on My Feet's 2010 budget has grown to \$3.4 million, which has helped more than 600 people move their lives forward through education, job training, employment and/or housing. The organization's projected budget is expected to more than double in 2011, exceeding \$7 million as it enters into five additional markets.

Considering a fifth of that budget comes from corporations, a relationship with business leaders is vital to the organization's sustaining its mission of combating homelessness.

David J. Grissen is president of the America's for Marriott International, Inc. Mr. Grissen's specific responsibilities include the financial performance of all of the America's Lodging operations comprising more than 2,800 hotels and a work force of 110,000 associates. This includes staff responsibilities for sales & marketing, revenue management, human resources, engineering, rooms operations, food and beverage/retail/spa, information resources and development. Mr. Grissen is also chair of the America's Hotel Development Committee and a member of the Lodging Strategy Group.

Grissen joins the national board with **Kevin Casey**, Comcast NorthCentral Division President; **Jim Boyle**, President of **John Hancock Financial**; **Eric Kraeutler**, the leader of the **Morgan Lewis** Philadelphia litigation practice and board chairman **Larry Solomon**, Chief Operating Officer for **Accenture's** Health & Public Service Operating Group.

ABOUT BACK ON MY FEET

Back on My Feet, which launched in Philadelphia in 2007, is a nonprofit organization that promotes the self-sufficiency of the homeless population by engaging them in running to build strength, confidence and self-esteem.

Members must run Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and must maintain a 90 percent attendance rating in order to move forward in the program and gain access to job training, employment and housing opportunities.

The organization has chapters in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., Boston, Chicago and will expand to Dallas-Fort Worth, Atlanta and Minneapolis-St. Paul in the first half of 2011.

The organization has received incredible media support, including attention from [NBC Nightly News](#) , [ABC World News](#), [CNN](#), and [The Today Show](#) for its ingenuity in tackling this difficult social issue. In addition to Philadelphia, the organization has chapters in Baltimore, Washington DC and Boston, and will launch in Chicago in September. More information can be found at www.backonmyfeet.org

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