



Contact: **Ileana Griffiths**  
**(973) 818-4220**  
**[volunteers@girlsactionnetwork.org](mailto:volunteers@girlsactionnetwork.org)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GIRLS ACTION NETWORK®  
PARTICIPATES IN  
THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS - HOLIDAY COAT DRIVE**

Philadelphia, PA – With the economic downturn continuing to affect families this holiday season, **Elisa Basnight**, a **corporate attorney at Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney, PC, U.S. Army Veteran and founder of Girls Action Network, Inc.**, wanted to make a difference. Through her leadership and with her steadfast belief in the power of partnerships, she had the idea to merge her various professional and public service group affiliations to serve one cause: provide coats and support items to her firm's hospital client's underserved patient community and the homeless served by its clinics. However, an idea is only as good as its execution. Basnight was able to secure the invaluable support of **SFC Joseph Longo**, a member of the **Medical Recruiting Team, Mid-Atlantic Army Recruiting Battalion**, who, along with his team of U.S. Army soldiers, led all of the logistical efforts in connection with ensuring the invaluable service to the firm's hospital client materialized. Moreover, the event would never have been envisioned had it not been for the community initiative, **Krausey's Koats**, founded by **Joe Krause**, a fellow board member of Basnight's on the **U.S. Army Philadelphia Community Advisory Board**, led by **Ken Wong**.

Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney provided the office space for the coat collection from December 15 - 21, 2011 and the firm's attorneys generously contributed an assortment of new and used coats for children, men and women. Girls Action Network® provided pens, books and bags for the recipients. The U.S. Army donated additional coats, sorted, bagged and delivered all of the items to the client hospital. The collected items from the Coat Drive will be added to the "survival packs" developed by the client hospital and delivered to those in need on December 22.

The message and lesson from this partnership activity is that each one of us can make a difference in the life of another. Furthermore, the Power of Partnerships Coat Drive illustrates how diverse sectors in our society -- the U.S. Army and its Grassroots Advisory Board, the private sector and community nonprofits -- working together can bring about transformational change for families and communities.

**Girls Action Network® (GAN).**

GAN is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that educates and empowers girls in grades middle school and high school with special emphasis on girls from underserved communities. Girls Action Network® encourages girls to shatter stereotypes that limit their career options and enables them to fully explore their career opportunities and guide their own direction toward personal success with a particular focus on STEM. [www.girlsactionnetwork.org](http://www.girlsactionnetwork.org)

**Krausey's Koats**

Founded by Joe Krause, Radio Personality & Co-Host of The WMGK Classic Kickoff on 102.9, a Classic Rock Radio Station in Philadelphia launched his mission back in 2005 - with the goal of collecting coats & providing warmth for those in need. With the support from The IBEW Local 98 Business Manager, John Dougherty, Krausey's Koats became a reality! In 2010, with the help of Hair Cattery and its clients, Krausey's Koats was able to provide 6,500 coats for men, women and children in the metropolitan Philadelphia area.

**US Army Philadelphia Community Advisory Board**

The US Army Philadelphia Community Advisory Board is a national initiative by the US Army and Congress to effectively educate the community about the benefits of the Army through education, job training and career opportunities. The board members represent city and federal government, local universities and the Philadelphia School District, and private businesses.