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NEWS RELEASE

Ziegler Underwritten Fixed Rate Issue Wins Bond Buyer Midwest Deal of the Year Award

New York, New York – December 1, 2009 – An \$84.84 million tax-exempt fixed rate issue underwritten by Ziegler Capital Markets was named Midwest Deal of the Year for 2009 by the Bond Buyer. The deal underwritten through the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority to benefit Saint John's Communities, a continuing care retirement community in Milwaukee, was one of two award recipients in the Midwest Region.

The Deal of the Year Award recognizes some of the country's most innovative municipal bond issuers for transactions that financed a range of projects, including a hospital, a highway, environmental clean-up, schools, as well as the Saint John's retirement community. The nominations highlighted local efforts to help governments find funds for long-planned priorities during a period of historic stress on public budgets.

The Saint John's issue represents a milestone in the senior living industry, representing the first fixed rate municipal financing completed for a significant expansion project in more than a year. The creativity used to overcome a challenging credit environment as well as the complex structure of the financing, were cited as reasons for nomination.

The 2009 Deal of the Year Awards are national in scope and consider deals that closed between Oct. 1, 2008, and Sept. 30, 2009. This year's awards drew more than 60 nominations for transactions ranging in size from several billion dollars to a few million. Two finalists were selected from each region of the country: a large issuer and a small issuer determined by the gross revenue of the issuer or the beneficiary. The Saint John's financing was included in the small issuer category for organizations with annual revenue of \$70 million or less.

About The Bond Buyer:

Established in 1891, *The Bond Buyer* is published five days a week and currently reaches more than 40,000 municipal finance professionals, bond issuers, government officials, and investors. It provides readers news, analysis, and data regarding municipal finance that is unavailable in its comprehensive form in any other news outlet. Municipal finance professionals and government issuers have been relying on *The Bond Buyer* as their choice for municipal bond information for more than 110 years.

About Ziegler:

The Ziegler Companies, Inc. (symbol: ZGCO) is a growth-oriented boutique investment banking and investment services firm with a primary focus in the healthcare, senior living and church and school sectors. Operations encompass capital markets (capital advisory services, bond underwriting, mortgage banking, institutional sales and trading) and wealth management, including asset management and alternative investments.

Nationally, Ziegler's Capital Markets is ranked as one of the leading investment banking firms for non-profit healthcare and senior living providers, as well as religious institutions and schools.

Ziegler Wealth Management (retail brokerage) encompasses investment and consulting services for individuals, families, business owners and institutions nationwide.

Ziegler's alternative investing activities include raising and deploying capital through private investment funds with investment objectives related to the real estate, services and technology sectors of the healthcare and senior living industries.

Ziegler Capital Management, LLC provides separate account management for individuals, corporations, foundations and endowments. Total assets under management as of September 30, 2009 were approximately \$2.2 billion.

About Saint John's Communities:

Saint John's has been providing a superior lifestyle for generations, with fine dining, outstanding staff, stimulating activities, dedication to the arts, comfortable and spacious residences, and a commitment to wellness and healthy living. The outstanding location brings its residents natural waterside beauty and the cosmopolitan variety of nearby theaters, museums, shops and restaurants — a wonderful array of cultural, recreational and social opportunities. Saint John's is one of a select group of retirement communities in Wisconsin offering a Life Care Contract.

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