

January 4, 1999



Barrett Business Services, Inc. Announces Acquisition of Temporary Staffing Systems, Inc.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 4 /PRNewswire/ -- Barrett Business Services, Inc.

(Nasdaq: BBSI) today announced the acquisition of Temporary Staffing Systems, Inc. ("TSS") located in Gastonia, North Carolina, pursuant to a stock purchase agreement effective January 1, 1999.

TSS, a privately-held staffing services company, operates eight branch offices in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. TSS's annual revenues for the fiscal year ended March 29, 1998 were \$12.9 million. TSS's operations are organized into three divisions: light industrial, clerical and pharmaceutical. The light industrial and clerical divisions account for 94% of revenues, while the pharmaceutical division, which provides temporary pharmaceutical employees to national retail stores and regional hospitals, contributes 6% to revenues. David Cline, TSS's President, was appointed a Zone Manager of Barrett and will have management responsibility for TSS's nine offices.

William W. Sherertz, Barrett's President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to expand into North and South Carolina and to retain David Cline as our Zone Manager for the region. We view this transaction as a platform acquisition and hope to continue to strengthen our presence in this strategic area."

Barrett Business Services, Inc. is a human resource management company with offices in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Illinois,

Maryland, Delaware, and North and South Carolina. For 1997, Barrett reported

revenues of \$305.5 million and net income of \$3.8 million.

SOURCE Barrett Business Services

Web site: <http://www.barrettbusiness.com>

Company News On-Call: <http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/082187.html> or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 082187

CONTACT: William W. Sherertz, President and Chief Executive Officer of Barrett Business Services, Inc., 503-220-0988