



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF® RECOGNIZED AS AN EMPLOYER OF EXCELLENCE BY WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CAPITAL AREA

AUSTIN, Texas (November 5, 2009) – Lone Star Bean, an independently owned and operated franchisee of *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf*, proudly announced today that Workforce Solutions Capital Area has named it an Employer of Excellence. The award recognizes local employers for providing an exceptional work environment, participating in community efforts and presenting employment opportunities to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition to this regional award, *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* is eligible to receive a statewide award when it is announced in December.

“Connecting to and improving the communities around each of our locations is germane to our mission and to our brand. We’re honored to be recognized with this award and it is great confirmation of what we’ve been able to accomplish in the few short months we’ve been open in Austin,” said Bill Duffy, Chief Operating Officer of Lone Star Bean, the Texas franchise of *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf*.

In its efforts to become a workplace of choice in the Austin area, *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* has put the several key programs in place.

For employees, *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* provides substantial development opportunities and benefits not normally found in a retail environment, including a three week training program, medical and dental insurance, sick and vacation pay, a 401k plan, tuition reimbursement, fitness reimbursement, and a host of other benefits.

To focus on the community at large, *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* gives employees the opportunity to request charitable donations on their behalf if they volunteer a certain number of hours for that organization. Additionally, the company has really embraced the Austin community by bringing in locally made foods and products, and staying actively involved with three local charities.

The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf's Texas franchise, *Lone Star Bean*, currently has 40 employees to support its two locations in Austin - 221 S. Lamar Blvd. (one block south of Lady Bird Lake), and 3718 N. Lamar Blvd. (on the southwest corner of North Lamar & 38th Street).

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About *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf*

Founded in 2009, *Lone Star Bean*, currently has two locations within Austin. *Lone Star Bean* is the locally owned Texas franchisee of *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf*, the oldest and largest privately-held specialty coffee and tea retail business in the United States. Embodying a passion for connecting loyal customers to one another with carefully handcrafted products, the company is known for sourcing and providing the finest ingredients and flavors from around the world. For over 45 years, *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* has demonstrated a passion for product innovation epitomized by The Original Ice Blended® beverage. The company currently has more than 740 stores; 270 of which are company owned while 470 are franchised. These stores blanket the world in markets such as California, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Hawaii, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Brunei, Indonesia, UAE, Israel, China, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Qatar, Bahrain, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Mexico and the Philippines, and the chain continues to expand both domestically and internationally. For address, store information and hours, visit www.coffeebean.com <<http://www.coffeebean.com>> .

To receive ongoing updates regarding *The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf* in Austin, including upcoming events and special offers, visit www.CoffeeBeanAustin.com <<http://www.CoffeeBeanAustin.com/>> .

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