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## **The Barnett Group Adds New Partners**

*Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 21, 2008* – Memphis-based employee benefits and financial services company The Barnett Group recently announced the addition of three new partners: Wes Barnett, director of client development; Melissa Smithmier, director of sales and marketing; and Renee Clark, director of administrative services.

Barnett is responsible for cultivating relationships with current and prospective clients at The Barnett Group. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi where he received a bachelor's degree in insurance and risk management. He resides in Memphis with his wife, Lauren, where he is involved with the local Make-A-Wish Foundation.

As director of sales and marketing, Smithmier is responsible for group benefits planning, as well as all marketing initiatives for the company. A graduate of Southern Illinois University with a degree in health care management, Smithmier is the current president of the Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce. She also is a board member for the Greater Memphis Employee Benefits Council, the Mid-South Medical Group Managers Association and a member of the Mid-South Association of Health Underwriters.

Clark has become a partner in addition to her role as director of administrative services. She is responsible for financial and business operations at The Barnett Group. Clark received her degree in business administration from The University of Memphis. She is a native Memphian and regularly participates in church activities with her husband, Bill, and her son, Ryne.

“We now have five employees who have become partners at The Barnett Group,” said Ed Barnett, founder and president at The Barnett Group. “Not only does this allow them to be more invested in the company, it also provides an opportunity to help strategically guide our future growth.”

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***The Barnett Group Adds New Partners***

***-- add one --***

Founded in 1987, The Barnett Group provides a wide range of benefit and financial services for companies and individuals. Providing benefits for more than 54,000 individuals in the Mid-South, the company's areas of expertise include the design, implementation and administration of employee benefit programs and financial services. For more information, please call (901) 365-3447.

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