

## Webster and Allied Capital Acquire Comfort Keepers

### *Edgeview advises on sale of leading in-home senior care franchisor*

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CHARLOTTE, N.C., July 25, 2007 – Edgeview Partners, a CIT Advisory Company, is pleased to announce the sale of Dayton, Ohio-based CK Franchising, Inc., the franchisor of Comfort Keepers® franchises which operate in the non-medical, in-home senior care market. CK Franchising is being acquired by two private equity groups: Webster Capital of Waltham, Mass., and Allied Capital Corporation, of Washington, D.C.

Edgeview served as the exclusive financial advisor to Comfort Keepers during the sale. Prior to its purchase by Webster and Allied Capital, Comfort Keepers was a portfolio company of Navigator Growth Partners, LP of Summit, N.J., and Progress Equity Partners, Ltd. of Dallas, Texas along with Transition Capital and Evolve Capital also of Dallas.

Terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Webster led the transaction and will share equity in the business with Allied Capital, while Allied Capital is also providing debt financing for the transaction. Comfort Keepers' headquarters will remain in Dayton and its management team will remain intact.

Founded in 1998, Comfort Keepers ([www.comfortkeepers.com](http://www.comfortkeepers.com)) oversees 525 franchise locations in 45 states, and 32 locations in seven foreign countries. Caregivers employed by Comfort Keepers franchisees provide home care services for seniors, including shopping, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, dressing guidance, companionship and grocery shopping as well as other personal aid. The company's services are available to the elderly and to any adults who require assistance to be able to live on their own.

Comfort Keepers touches the lives of approximately 17,000 clients each year – a number that is expected to grow as the home health care industry expands at an estimated rate of 10 to 15 percent each year over the next two decades.

Webster Capital ([www.webstercapital.com](http://www.webstercapital.com)) is a small cap buyout fund specializing in rapidly growing branded companies in the consumer business services and health care sectors. The four Webster general partners and their broad limited partner network bring a wealth of operating experience and industry contacts to the transactions which they sponsor. Both Webster I (Founders' Fund) and recently closed Webster II invested together with Allied Capital in Comfort Keepers.

Allied Capital Corporation (NYSE: ALD) is a leading business development company (BDC) in the U.S. with over \$5 billion in total assets. Founded in 1958 and operating as a public company since 1960, Allied Capital provides long-term debt and equity capital to middle market companies for management and sponsor-led buyouts, recapitalizations, acquisitions and growth. Allied Capital's one-stop financing capabilities include first and second lien senior loans, junior or subordinated debt and equity. As of March 31, 2007, the Company's private finance portfolio included investments in 144 companies generating aggregate revenues of over \$13 billion and employing more than 90,000 people. For more information, please visit [www.alliedcapital.com](http://www.alliedcapital.com).

Navigator Growth Partners, LP is managed by Navigator Equity Partners, LLC ([www.navigator-equity.com](http://www.navigator-equity.com)) and is a private equity fund organized as a small business investment corporation (SBIC). The group invests exclusively in profitable middle-market businesses. The firm works to build long-term operational value in combination with strong management teams and with Navigator's principals drawing on their operational and financial experience to guide their portfolio companies' overall growth strategy. Navigator had held CK Franchising in its portfolio since February 2003.

Progress Equity Partners, Ltd. ([www.progressequity.com](http://www.progressequity.com)) is a private equity investment firm that acquires majority control of well-managed, entrepreneurial, service-based businesses. The partners invest their own capital, along with other select individuals, including founders of companies they have previously acquired. Their investment model is centered on the concept of leveraged recapitalizations in partnership with founders and management teams and has been deployed successfully by the principals in over 20 transactions.

Edgeview Partners ([www.edgeviewpartners.com](http://www.edgeviewpartners.com)) is a leading investment bank focused exclusively on the middle market. Edgeview has closed deals in over 15 industry sectors, including aerospace and defense, building products, business services, consumer products, diversified manufacturing, energy services, health care, and transportation and logistics. Edgeview is part of the CIT Group, a leading provider of finance solutions for companies throughout the middle market.

CIT Group Inc. (NYSE: CIT), a leading commercial and consumer finance company, provides clients with financing and leasing products and advisory services. Founded in 1908, CIT has approximately \$81 billion in managed assets and possesses the financial resources, industry expertise and product knowledge to serve the needs of clients across approximately 30 industries worldwide. CIT, a Fortune 500 company and a member of the S&P 500 Index, holds leading positions in cash flow lending, vendor financing, factoring, equipment and transportation financing, Small Business Administration loans, and asset-based lending. With its global headquarters in New York City, CIT has approximately 7,300 employees in locations throughout North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia Pacific. For more information, please visit [www.cit.com](http://www.cit.com).

EVP Securities LLC, an affiliate of Edgeview Partners, served as the financial advisor. EVP Securities LLC is a member of the NASD.

Edgeview Partners Bill Morrisett and John Pollock, Vice President Meg Lauck and Senior Associate Ches Riley led the sale process for Edgeview.