

Chronicle Books

“Independent Publisher Shows Commitment to Environment and Employees”

One of the most admired and respected publishing companies in the U.S., Chronicle Books was founded in 1967 and over the years has developed a reputation for award-winning, innovative books. It has also been recognized as one of the 50 best small companies to work for in the U.S., and is the only independent publisher to receive this award.

Chronicle Books has always believed that its people are its greatest asset. Their general satisfaction drives spirit, creativity and value into their publishing business. As such Chronicle Books offers a robust and generous benefit plan, which includes an HMO plan that only costs employees \$7 per month and dental and vision care insurance are included at no extra cost.

A FOCUS ON BEING GREEN

Additionally, the company maintains a focus on being as environmentally friendly as possible. In April 2007, Chronicle Books moved to its current location in the heart of San Francisco. Prior to the move, the company spent two years renovating the interior office space to be as “green” as possible including the use of solar energy producing panels. Chronicle Books also uses 100% post-consumer recycled paper in the office, participates in a “tech-trash” recycling program, and uses only “green” cleaning supplies. Most recently, Chronicle Books decided to publish a dozen of its Spring 2008 Children’s titles on recycled, certified and sustainable paper.

UNIQUE TAX-FREE COMMUTER BENEFIT POPULAR AMONG EMPLOYEES

Another unique way Chronicle Books demonstrates both its commitment to its employees’ job satisfaction and its concern for the environment is through the commuter benefit it offers to each of its 175 employees. Chronicle Books offers every employee a \$35 Commuter Check voucher from Accor Services USA every month to be used to subsidize commuting expenses. The vouchers can be used to pay for travel on the city’s public transportation system including BART, San Francisco MUNI, Tri Delta Transit and several other transit service providers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Employees enjoy ease and convenience of using public transportation while helping to protect the environment, and because Chronicle Books subsidizes their commuting expense with the Commuter Check voucher, it costs them less than it otherwise would.

Chronicle Books’ HR Generalist Todd Presley explains, “This is one of the most tangible benefits we can offer employees. Commuter Check vouchers are distributed every month to participating employees. Current employees have come to rely on it. New employees are always so pleasantly surprised that the company is willing to subsidize their commute. They love it, and for us, administration is a breeze with Commuter Check.”



CHRONICLE BOOKS

“The direct impact that the Commuter Check has on our employees’ daily lives makes it a tangible and highly valued piece of our overall compensation plan.”

Todd Presley
HR Generalist,
Chronicle Books

ABOUT CHRONICLE BOOKS

Chronicle Books was founded in 1967 and over the years has developed a reputation for publishing award-winning, innovative books. The company continues to challenge conventional publishing wisdom, setting trends in both subject and format, maintaining a list that includes fine art titles in design, art, architecture, and photography.

ABOUT COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

Commuter Check Benefit Solutions is a transit and parking voucher program that allows companies to take advantage of the Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefit, a federal tax incentive for employees and employers alike. Also known as IRS Code Section 132(f), the incentive allows employees to set aside up to \$110 per month pre-tax for transit benefits and \$215 per month pre-tax for parking benefits. In effect, employees can pay commuting and parking expenses with tax-free dollars without increasing overall compensation costs for employers. In fact, employers actually save on payroll taxes with every participating employee. For employees, this could equate to more than \$1,500 in annual tax savings and employers can save eight to ten percent on payroll taxes.

ABOUT ACCOR SERVICES USA

Accor Services USA is a leader in innovative employee benefits solutions and premier provider of national commuter benefit programs: Commuter Check Benefit Solutions, a nationwide transit and parking voucher program sold directly to employers; and Wired-Commute, a program for private labeled commuter benefits sold through third party administrators. Its mission is to make tax-free commuter benefits a staple in employee benefits packages throughout the American workplace – while helping protect the environment.

THE BENEFITS OF COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS

ACCOR SERVICES USA'S COMMUTER CHECK BENEFIT SOLUTIONS HELP EMPLOYERS OF ANY SIZE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FEDERAL TAX CODE (SECTION 132) THAT ALLOWS EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE BOTH SUBSIDIZED AND NON-SUBSIDIZED TAX-FREE TRANSIT, VANPOOL AND PARKING BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES. COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL SALARY INCREASES OR BONUSES, COMMUTER CHECK PROVIDES SUPERIOR AFTER-TAX VALUE. EMPLOYEES RECEIVE THE COMPLETE VALUE, WITHOUT HAVING INCOME TAX, FICA AND MEDICARE DEDUCTED. EMPLOYERS SAVE FICA PLUS DISABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT, WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION AND OTHER PAYROLL-LINKED COSTS.

SIMPLE TO ADMINISTER

SINCE 1990, OVER 10,000 EMPLOYERS OF ALL SIZES, IN EVERY INDUSTRY OF THE PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND NON-PROFIT SECTORS HAVE PURCHASED COMMUTER CHECKS, AND APPROXIMATELY 250,000 EMPLOYEES NOW RECEIVE THEM EVERY MONTH. COMMUTER CHECKS ARE AVAILABLE IN DENOMINATIONS APPROPRIATE FOR EACH CITY SERVED AND ARE READILY REDEEMED AT TRANSIT AND RETAIL SALES OUTLETS AND THROUGH TICKET-BY-MAIL PLANS. THEY ARE ALSO ACCEPTED FOR VANPOOL FARES AND BY PARKING OPERATORS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THERE ARE NO SET-UP FEES OR MINIMUM ORDER REQUIREMENTS INVOLVED. NO SPECIAL REPORTS, COSTLY OVERHEAD OR COMPLEX RECORD KEEPING IS REQUIRED.

Headquarters
51 Water Street
Watertown, MA 02472
T 617.923.0077
F 617.924.0777
www.accorservicesusa.com

