



## **News Release**

Media Contact: Marcia Gray, 317/232-3287

### **Workers from Sroufe Healthcare Products, Inc. eligible for federal aid**

INDIANAPOLIS (April 16, 2008) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development today announced a ruling by the U.S. Department of Labor that former employees of Sroufe Healthcare Products, LLC, a subsidiary of Foot Tek Holdings, LLC, in Ligonier are eligible to receive services under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

The federal ruling was issued on April 28, 2008 and applies to workers who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after April 1, 2007 through April 28, 2010. The investigation was initiated on April 2, 2008, in response to a petition filed on behalf of workers of the facility. The workers are engaged in the production of soft medical products, including arm slings, back and knee supports and wrist supports. The investigation revealed that the decline in employment at the firm is related to a decline in purchases of soft medical products from its major customer and an increase in imports purchased during the relevant period by the major customer.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at Sroufe Healthcare Products. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Eligible parties may obtain information at their local WorkOne center. A listing of all of the centers can be found at [http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/workone\\_centers.html](http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/workone_centers.html)