



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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941/306-0105

Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida Donates \$1,365 to Local Charitable Organizations this Holiday Season

January 11, 2012 – (Sarasota and Bradenton, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida, announced today that the organization collected \$1,365 in donations in its banking centers during the holiday season, to benefit local charitable organizations.

The Bank's headquarters, located at Bahia Vista and Tamiami Trail, collected over \$700 in requested supplies to M.O.T.S. (Manasota Operation Troop Support), an organization that helps local U.S. troops and their families.

The University Parkway banking center collected \$360 for the "Adopt-A-Family" program through Whitfield Christian Church. Six children received gifts.

In addition, the Manatee Avenue banking center hosted a food drive and collected \$105 in cash plus one large donation box of food, valued at \$200. This was donated to Our Daily Bread of Bradenton, a community-driven organization devoted to feeding the hungry.

Merriman said, "Our employees are committed year-round to bettering the communities in which we live and work." He continued, "I am proud of the extra effort they put forth during this holiday season to help those in need."

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking clients in Sarasota and Manatee counties. BauerFinancial (www.bauerfinancial.com) awarded Gateway Bank a **5-Star rating** indicating the bank is well capitalized, exceeds regulatory compliance standards, and demonstrates high quality asset management.

Gateway Bank operates three full service banking locations. The main office is located at 1100 South Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. The University Parkway banking center is located at

6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road, and the Manatee Avenue Banking Center is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; David J. Grain – Grain Management; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – Resort Management Consultants; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; and David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.

Further information regarding Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida may be obtained by contacting Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO at 941-306-0105.