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BLACKHAWK BANK INCREASES PLEDGES TO UNITED WAY Employees and Organization React to Tough Economic Times

BELOIT, WI (September 30, 2008)—Encouraged by a workplace that promotes community involvement, Blackhawk Bank employees have contributed to a year-over-year increase of more than 5 percent in campaign pledges to United Way.

Blackhawk Bank also pledged that it would increase the amount it would match for every employee contribution. Previously the bank matched \$0.50 for every \$1 contributed by an employee. By matching employee contributions to United Way, Blackhawk Bank reached its goal to increase employee giving by at least 5 percent year-over-year. Blackhawk Bank's employees give to Stateline United Way, Boone County United Way and United Way of Rock River Valley to support agencies in all communities where banking centers are located.

"I'm so proud of our employees for rising to this challenge. During these times when being employed can be regarded as good fortune, our associates gave as generously as possible to support the agencies whose needs rise in these tough times," said Terri Burdick, Senior Vice President, Administration and Operations and recipient of the 2008 Thomas Morgan Jones Volunteer Award from Stateline United Way. "As a local bank, we have a personal investment in the communities that our clients, employees and banking centers are part of."

This is just one example of Blackhawk Bank's commitment and involvement in the communities it serves. Bank employees regularly volunteer at United Way's Day of Caring, Seth Whitman elementary school in Belvidere and the Salvation Army's Paint-a-Thon in Rockford.

Blackhawk operates seven banking centers in Beloit, WI; Roscoe, Machesney Park, Rockford, Belvidere and Capron, IL. A second Rockford banking center is slated to open in the fall of this year. For more information about the bank, log onto www.blackhawkbank.com.

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