



BAYFIRST ADOPTS SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS PUPPY BANK
Sculptural Bank Begins Residency at W. Bradenton Banking Center Raising Money for Elite Guide Dog Training

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (May 16, 2023) – St. Petersburg-based BayFirst has a new bank: a Southeastern Guide Dogs Puppy Bank. The dog-friendly, community bank recently adopted a sculptural bank painted by local artists and created to raise money to support a guide dog's training at the Palmetto, Florida-based organization.

The puppy bank is currently on display and accepting donations at BayFirst's West Bradenton banking center, located at 2102 59th Street. Every \$1,000 raised supports a guide dog's elite training at Canine University on the Southeastern Guide Dogs campus. Dogs who complete the training transform the lives of people with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and children with significant challenges.

"As St. Peterburg's most dog-friendly bank, we are always looking to partner with and support likeminded organizations committed to making a difference in our community," said BayFirst President Thomas G. Zernick. "We look forward to hosting the puppy bank at each of our banking centers and know our customers and staff will get behind this unique initiative and important cause."

With eight additional full-service banking centers located across the Tampa Bay area, BayFirst will rotate the puppy bank, hosting it at each location over the course of the next year. BayFirst has committed to matching the first \$1,000 raised.

About BayFirst

Headquartered in St. Petersburg, BayFirst National Bank, the principal subsidiary of BayFirst Financial Corp. (NASDAQ: BAFN), operate nine banking centers in the Tampa Bay area. In addition, BayFirst offers a broad range of retail and business banking services, including small business loans through its government-guaranteed lending division, and is one of the top producing SBA lenders in the country. Since it opened in 1999, BayFirst has grown exponentially without losing sight of its commitment to making an impact in the community and being Here for What's Next® in the lives of its customers. For more information visit: www.BayFirstFinancial.com.

About Southeastern Guide Dogs

Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs. Our organization operates the most advanced training facilities of any service dog organization in the world. Our experts breed, raise, and train elite working dogs—including guide dogs, service dogs, and skilled companion dogs—and provide life-changing services for people with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and children with significant challenges such as vision loss or the loss of a parent in the military. Southeastern Guide Dogs has successfully created thousands of guide dog and service dog teams throughout the United States since our inception in 1982 and currently oversees the well-being of over 1,200 puppies and dogs.