

## **Employees at Bank of Central Florida Give Back to Polk County**

**(December 20, 2012 – Lakeland, FL)** More than \$5,500 was raised in cash contributions by the bank in the name of each employee to more than 50 different charities, including Volunteers in Service to the Elderly, Polk Education Foundation, the American Cancer Society, and the SPCA. Bank employees were able to direct donations to non-profits that have touched their lives.

“We started this tradition three years ago in lieu of sending holiday cards to our clients,” said Paul Noris, bank president and CEO. “We decided that sending money into our community during a difficult economic time was a nice gesture. This type of giving is very consistent with our core values as a company and we are blessed to be in a position to do this for the last several years,” Noris said.

Charity efforts were organized by Robin Delgado, the bank president’s executive assistant, and Gail Leonard, controller. “We are proud to work for a company that believes in giving back to the community,” said Delgado.

Bank employees also held a food drive for kidsPACK, a program that feeds homeless and very low-income children registered in local public schools. “Our staff focused on the Chef Boyardee ready-to-eat meals which are the mainstay of the food provided to the children,” said Traci Hall, the bank’s human resource director. More than 500 meals and other items were gathered by Bank of Central Florida employees to help kidsPACK feed Polk children over the three-week holiday break.

Bank of Central Florida was founded to serve the financial needs of the local marketplace, and is guided by a local board of directors with deep roots in the Central Florida area. These board members have vast knowledge of the local business climate and are driven by their vision for a financial services institution that is focused on client service. Client-oriented services include Intelligent Banking with experienced, talented bankers and state-of-the art technology designed to help clients grow and succeed. The bank will celebrate its sixth anniversary in March 2013.