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Waterstone Mortgage Supports Southeastern Wisconsin Organizations

Local mortgage lender contributes financial donations to Zachariah's Acres, Exploit No More, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

PEWAUKEE, WI (June 8, 2016) – National mortgage lender Waterstone Mortgage Corporation, headquartered in Pewaukee, is building local connections by donating to nonprofit organizations in the southeastern Wisconsin region. In recent months, Waterstone Mortgage has donated funds to Zachariah's Acres, Exploit No More, and the Waukesha chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Located in Oconomowoc, Zachariah's Acres includes 48 acres of land, where children with special health care needs can experience the outdoors. The nonprofit organization offers free nature and agricultural-based activities for children with disabilities.

"Waterstone Mortgage Corporation's generous donation allows us to offer our programs free of charge for our constituents with special health care needs," said Terry Bartowitz, Zachariah's Acres president. "Further, it brings us one step closer to the construction of our accessible tree house and wildlife observation deck. Waterstone Mortgage's support enables us to not only preserve agricultural activity, but promote it to special families who enjoy simple, enriching experiences that enhance their lives."

Along with Zachariah's Acres, Waterstone Mortgage donated funds to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Exploit No More. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is a national foundation with a local chapter in Waukesha; the organization's mission is to ensure that patients have access to specialty healthcare, and to raise funds for the cure of cystic fibrosis.

Exploit No More is a Milwaukee-based organization that gives a voice to children who are victims of human trafficking and raises funds to stop the trade of human lives. Exploit No More also rehabilitates children who have been freed from human trafficking and provides housing and aftercare.

Brian Kludt, Waterstone Mortgage Milwaukee Regional Manager, was inspired to request the donation for Exploit No More after hearing about the organization's work.

“What just completely blew my mind is that Milwaukee is considered one of the human trafficking hubs in the U.S.,” Kludt said. “I just could not shake that from my mind, and I wanted to make a difference. I’ve got two daughters at home and it just crushes me to even think about what’s happening.”

Each of these Waterstone Mortgage charitable contributions was made through the WaterStone Bank Foundation. Waterstone Financial, based in Wauwatosa, is the parent company of Waterstone Mortgage.

In the coming months, Waterstone Mortgage anticipates making additional donations to local Milwaukee-area charities.

“We are proud to support these local organizations and the important causes that they have undertaken,” said Waterstone Mortgage President and CEO Eric Egenhoefer. “As a national company, we are still heavily connected in the Milwaukee area; supporting these deserving efforts is an honor. We are excited to see the amazing results of these organizations’ contributions to the community.”

About Waterstone Mortgage Corporation

Waterstone Mortgage Corporation is an innovative, strong, and secure mortgage lending company that has maintained a reputation for exceptional service and competitive mortgage financing. Since its inception in 2000, Waterstone Mortgage has grown to more than 600 employees in 20 states, with the ability to lend in 37 states.

In 2014, the *Milwaukee Business Journal* ranked Waterstone Mortgage as southeastern Wisconsin’s largest mortgage lender for the fifth year in a row with more than \$1.7 billion in annual origination volume. In 2015, the company surpassed \$2 billion in annual loan origination volume. Waterstone Mortgage has been named to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel’s* Top Workplaces, *National Mortgage Professional Magazine’s* Top 100 Mortgage Employers, *Mortgage Executive Magazine’s* Top 50 Mortgage Companies to Work For, *Inside Mortgage Finance’s* Top 100 Mortgage Lenders, and the *Milwaukee Business Journal’s* Fastest Growing Firms. Waterstone Mortgage is also a USDA Rural Development Platinum Million Dollar Lender.

Headquartered in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, Waterstone Mortgage is a wholly owned subsidiary of WaterStone Bank SSB (NASDAQ: WSBF) with assets of more than \$1.8 billion. Learn more about Waterstone Mortgage at www.WaterstoneMortgage.com.

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