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Eastern Bank and Adrian Gonzalez donate \$80,000 to select Habitat for Humanity affiliates in “Home runs for Habitat” charitable partnership

Gonzalez also makes surprise appearance to sign autographs outside of Eastern Bank’s new downtown Lawrence office

LAWRENCE, Oct. 4, 2011 – All-star first baseman Adrian Gonzalez and Eastern Bank concluded a season-long charitable partnership by donating a combined \$80,000 to select Habitat for Humanity affiliates operating in eastern Massachusetts.

Eastern Bank and Gonzalez also made a surprise \$10,000 donation to the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity affiliate in recognition of Eastern’s new downtown Lawrence office and its commitment to giving back to the communities it serves. The Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is located in Lawrence.

A total of eight Habitat for Humanity affiliates received \$10,000 each (\$5,000 from Eastern Bank, \$5,000 from Gonzalez) in a gathering today at Cambridge College in Lawrence.

Following the event at Cambridge College, Gonzalez made a surprise appearance and signed 96 Eastern Bank branded baseballs for the unsuspecting public in front of Eastern Bank’s new office at 486 Essex Street.

The new location, Eastern’s 96th branch, opens on Oct. 11, 2011.

The following Habitat for Humanity affiliates participated in this year’s “Home runs for Habitat” program:

- Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity
- Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston
- Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth

- North Shore Habitat for Humanity
- South Shore Habitat for Humanity
- Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity

Earlier this year, Eastern Bank partnered with Adrian Gonzalez and his wife, Betsy, to donate a combined \$1,000 for every home run he hit during the baseball season to select Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

In recognition of Gonzalez's stellar first year in Boston and his, along with Eastern's, commitment to giving back, the amount raised from the program was almost tripled to \$80,000.

Eastern Bank has a long tradition of giving back to the communities it serves through charitable donations and employee volunteerism.

Eastern Bank has donated, on average, more than 10 percent of its net income over the last 11 years to the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation. In 2010, the Charitable Foundation made \$2.5 million in grants that supported close to 900 organizations. Eastern Bank's employees spend almost 11 hours per year volunteering and collectively log about 15,000 hours of community service every year.

About Eastern Bank

Founded in 1818 and based in Boston, Eastern Bank is the largest independent and mutually owned bank in New England, with \$7.6 billion in assets and more than 90 branches serving communities from the Merrimack Valley to Cape Cod. Eastern Bank offers banking, investments and insurance all under one roof, and prides itself on working harder to understand its customers' needs so it can deliver these services in a committed and personal way. Eastern Bank includes Eastern Wealth Management and Eastern Insurance. For more information, visit www.easternbank.com.

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