



## PHOTO RELEASE

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## **Midwest BankCentre's Commitment to Building Capacity in Multicultural Communities**

### **2022 Hispanic Appreciation Event**

**Midwest BankCentre's** Chairman and CEO, **Orvin T. Kimbrough**, hosted an event On November 3, 2022, at his home to celebrate and build connections within the Hispanic community. Attendees were diverse, from those who lead local nonprofits and local entrepreneurs of small businesses to CEOs of local corporations.

Attendees networked and heard remarks from **Karlos Ramirez**, former CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis and current Midwest BankCentre Vice-President of Community and Economic Development, and Midwest BankCentre Board of Director **Facundo Oyenard**, Founder and Owner of Azteca Insurance LLC and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro St. Louis. The event was catered by Malinche, which is a customer of the bank.

Midwest BankCentre is the St. Louis region's second-largest locally-owned bank. They believe in helping all communities step into their dreams through a democratized approach to access to opportunity and capital. Midwest BankCentre has leveraged its Network for Good to help build connections and capacity within multicultural communities, particularly those who have historically been denied access to capital to start and scale businesses, purchase homes, and fund education.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, the overall population in the St. Louis region has barely budged in the past ten years. Still, there has been robust growth in minority communities, particularly Hispanics, with a population growth of nearly 50% in the past decade across the 14-county St. Louis region, adding about 35,000 people to eclipse 100,000. "We have to think differently about how we grow our region," said Kimbrough. "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and minority-owned businesses and those who have curiosity and capacity to start businesses, in particular, are an untapped resource in our region."

In 2021, Midwest BankCentre announced a commitment to lend \$200 million over a five-year period to the people, nonprofits, faith-based institutions, community

development projects, and small businesses residing in or benefiting historically divested communities. Midwest BankCentre invests a considerable amount of time and resources working through the challenges that, unfortunately, aren't just surface-level complexities. They are deeply rooted, systemically rooted, with the result being the exclusion of individuals and communities from accessing reasonably priced capital.

Midwest BankCentre embraces and fosters diversity, not just because it's the right thing to do but also because it makes good business sense. By embracing diversity in people, geography, and products, they spark innovation that allows them to understand better and serve their customers. Midwest BankCentre's commitment to diversity and inclusion starts at the top, with a Bank Board that is 50% diverse and an executive team that is 63% diverse by gender and ethnicity.

Midwest BankCentre was recognized in 2019 with the American Banker's Association's prestigious Commitment Award for Community & Economic Development and again recognized nationally in 2021 and 2022 as a Top Workplace within the DE&I space. Midwest BankCentre was also recognized by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2020 with the prestigious Board Chair Recognition for its work within providing access to opportunity and capital within the Hispanic Community.

### ***About Midwest BankCentre***

Midwest BankCentre's current assets exceed \$2.3 billion and deposits total more than \$1.9 billion. A mainstay of the greater St. Louis community banking scene since 1906, the Bank employs a staff of about 280 working at 17 bank locations in the City of St. Louis, St. Louis, Jefferson and St. Charles counties in Missouri and St. Clair County in Illinois. It empowers people, enables business, and energizes neighborhoods through the strength of its financial services, including personalized consumer and business banking, business cash management, mortgage lending, home equity loans, financial planning and investments, insurance, and digital banking.

Midwest BankCentre is a local leader in the St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition (formerly the St. Louis Regional Unbanked Task Force) and its Bank-On Save-Up St. Louis initiative. Since 2001, Midwest BankCentre has consecutively achieved the Bauer Financial 5-Star Superior financial rating each quarter. It has been recognized for its success in bringing mainstream financial services to unbanked and underbanked citizens in the region and other diversity and inclusion contributions with the 2019 Community Commitment Award from the American Bankers Association Foundation and the 2018 National Community Bank Service Award from the Independent Community Bankers of America.