



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Merchants Bank donates \$50,000 to help Vermonters heat homes

SOUTH BURLINGTON, VT –Thomas S. Leavitt, Executive Vice President for Merchants Bank is pleased to announce that Merchants Bank and Merchants Bank Foundation are providing a total of \$50,000 to support fuel assistance programs in Vermont. Fifteen thousand dollars will be granted to the CVPS SHARE HEAT program and \$35,000 will be granted to Vermont's six Community Action Agencies. The contribution is part of an effort by Merchants Bank to help Vermonters heat their homes this winter and rise to the challenge of higher fuel costs.

The six agencies receiving contributions from Merchants Bank include BROC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont (Bennington and Rutland Counties), Central Vermont Community Action Council (Lamoille, Orange and Washington Counties), Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties), Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties), and Southeastern Vermont Community Action Council (Windham and Windsor Counties).

“This is another Merchants Bank Vermont Matters initiative. Our company is pleased to be in a position to support Vermonters in a challenging economic climate. Merchants Bank has a 159 year tradition of serving Vermont’s communities. This is a meaningful way of partnering to provide important assistance,” commented Leavitt.

"As one of our Vermont Matters initiatives, this commitment is part of a larger program of service. Merchants Bank branches and employees statewide find ways to make a difference every week," said Doreen Allen, Merchants Bank Community Reinvestment Act Officer and Northfield Branch President.

Vermont Matters! Merchants Bank strives to provide funding to support organizations with programs and services throughout Vermont that help meet basic needs; advance environmental initiatives, energy efficiency and awareness; and promote community enrichment through local sports related initiatives. The continuing mission of Merchants Bank is to provide Vermonters with a state-wide community bank that blends a strong technology platform with a genuine appreciation for local markets. Merchants Bank fulfills this commitment through a branch-based system that includes 36 community bank offices and 44 ATMs throughout Vermont, Personal Bankers dedicated to top-quality customer service and streamlined solutions, including: Personal Banking with *CashRewards* Checkingsm, Free Checking for Life[®], a low-cost Money Market Account, Free Online Banking and Bill Pay, Overdraft Coverage, Direct Deposit, Free Debit Card, and Free Automated Phone Banking; Business Banking with Rewards Checking for Business, Business Online Banking and Bill Pay, Business Lines of Credit and Merchant Card Processing; Small Business Loans; Health Savings Accounts; Credit Cards; Flexible Certificates of Deposit; Vehicle Loans; Home Equity Credit; and Home Mortgages. Visit mbvt.com for more information. Merchants’ stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market system under the symbol MBVT. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

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