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NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation Will Be Presenting at the Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P. Financial Services Conference on November 13, 2003

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LAKE FOREST, Ill., Nov. 7 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust") (Nasdaq: WTFC) today announced that the Company's President and CEO, Edward J. Wehmer, will be participating on a panel with four other selected Midwest area banking executives at the Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P. Financial Services Conference to be held on November 13, 2003 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. The conference will be broadcast on the Internet at **http://www.sandleroneill.com** and will also be available through Wintrust Financial Corporation's website at **www.wintrust.com** . The discussion is scheduled to begin at 1:10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Through the websites, interested investors will have the opportunity to listen to the panel discussion, including Mr. Wehmer's discussion of Wintrust's business strategy and recent performance. The archived webcast will be available for thirty days after the event, beginning November 14, 2003. The conference will also be available via audio conference at 800-239-8730. Callers will need to reference "Sandler O'Neill Conference," then select "Session 1." Listeners should go to the website at least fifteen minutes before the event to download and install any necessary audio software. There is no charge to access the event.

Wintrust is a $4.3 billion financial holding company whose common stock is traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Wintrust operates eight community banks that provide a full complement of commercial and consumer loan and deposit products and services through 34 banking facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area. Wintrust also provides brokerage, trust and investment services to customers primarily in the Midwest, as well as customers of the banks, and provides services in several specialty-lending niches.

SOURCE Wintrust Financial Corporation

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(WTFC)

CO: Wintrust Financial Corporation; Sandler O'Neill & Partners, L.P.
Financial Services Conference
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