WINTRUST

NEWS RELEASE

Wintrust Financial Corporation's Wholly-Owned Subsidiary Assumes the Deposits of Second Federal Savings and Loan Association of Chicago in an FDIC-Assisted Transaction

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CHICAGO, July 20, 2012 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Wintrust Financial Corporation ("Wintrust") (Nasdaq:WTFC) announced today that its wholly-owned subsidiary bank, Hinsdale Bank & Trust Company ("Hinsdale Bank"), has assumed the deposits and banking operations of Second Federal Savings and Loan Association of Chicago ("Second Federal") in an FDIC-assisted transaction. Second Federal currently operates three locations in Illinois; two in Chicago (Brighton Park and Little Village neighborhoods) and one in Cicero, and had $175.9 million in total deposits as of March 31, 2012. Hinsdale Bank assumed substantially all of Second Federal's non-brokered deposits at a slight premium of $100,000.

"This FDIC-assisted transaction provides a wonderful opportunity to expand our presence to the vibrant Brighton Park and Little Village neighborhoods of Chicago, as well as Cicero," said Edward J. Wehmer, President and CEO of Wintrust. "With our recent announcement of a Chicago Loop location opening and this transaction, we continue on our path to become Chicago's Bank."

Second Federal locations will reopen on Saturday, July 21, 2012 and operate as branches of Hinsdale Bank. Depositors of Second Federal should continue to bank as usual and will maintain full access to their deposits, including ATM or debit cards, and checks.

About Wintrust Financial Corporation

Wintrust Financial Corporation is a financial holding company with assets of $16.6 billion whose common stock is

traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market (Nasdaq:WTFC). Built on the "HAVE IT ALL" model, Wintrust offers sophisticated technology and resources of a large bank while focusing on providing service-based community banking to each and every customer. Wintrust operates fifteen community bank subsidiaries, with approximately 100 banking offices located in the greater Chicago and Milwaukee market areas. Wintrust also provides wealth management services, commercial insurance premium financing, mortgage origination, short-term accounts receivable financing, and certain administrative services, such as data processing of payrolls, and billing and treasury management services to its customers.

Forward-Looking Information

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Investors are cautioned that such statements are predictions and that actual events or results may differ materially. Wintrust's expected financial results or other plans are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. For a discussion of such risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" and the forward-looking statement disclosure contained in Wintrust's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the most recently ended fiscal year and in Wintrust's subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made and Wintrust undertakes no duty to update the information.

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