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Melisa Chantres / Teresa Estefan
Everett Clay Associates for
TotalBank
(305) 261-6222
Toll Free (877) 261-6222
mmchantres@evclay.com
testefan@evclay.com

TOTALBANK SUPPORTS AUTISM AWARENESS

MIAMI—April 2, 2012—In support of today’s World Autism Awareness Day, and April as Autism Awareness Month, TotalBank presented Autism Speaks with a check for \$38,200, exceeding its fundraising goal of \$25,000. An event sponsor, TotalBank recently took part in the 12th annual Miami-Dade County *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* event. TEAM TotalBank, with 329 participants, was the largest team and was invited by Lula Folgosa, Executive Director of Autism Speaks, to lead the event.

The push for autism awareness is part of the TotalBank’s family commitment to help deserving and worthy charities by receiving the focus of its financial contributions and involvement.

“TEAM TotalBank demonstrated what could be achieved when we are united and take a leadership role in our community through financial support and active participation,” said Luis de la Aguilera, President and Chief Marketing Officer at TotalBank.

Autism Speaks is an organization dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders. Its mission includes the funding of research into its causes, prevention and treatments, and in advocating the needs of individuals with autism and their families. *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* is its signature fundraising event which brings hundreds of thousands of participants together annually across the U.S.

From Left to Right:



Photo 1 – Daniela Foley, Luis de la Aguilera, Albert Lopez, Tom Whitehurst, Lula Folgosa



Photo 2 – TEAM TotalBank lead 12th annual Miami-Dade County *Walk Now for Autism Speaks*

About TotalBank

TotalBank is a leading consumer and commercial bank in South Florida with more than \$2.2 billion in assets and 19 convenient locations throughout Miami-Dade County. Headquartered in Miami, TotalBank has served the South Florida community for 38 years, offering a broad range of domestic and international financial services to corporations, small businesses and individual consumers. The bank offers superior customer service focused on meeting the financial needs of customers while earning their confidence and loyalty. A member of Grupo Banco Popular Español, with more than \$200 billion in assets and 2,500 branches, TotalBank is strengthened by its parent, one of the largest banking groups in Spain. More information can be found at www.totalbank.com.

About Autism

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders – autism spectrum disorders – caused by a combination of genes and environmental influences. These disorders are characterized, in varying degrees, by social and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors. An estimated 1 in 110 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum – a 600 percent increase in the past two decades that is only partly explained by improved diagnosis.

About Autism Speaks

Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. Since its inception in 2005, Autism Speaks has made enormous strides, committing over \$173 million to research and developing innovative resources for families. The organization is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. In addition to funding research, Autism Speaks has created resources and programs including the Autism Speaks Autism Treatment Network, Autism Speaks' Autism Genetic Resource Exchange and several other scientific and clinical programs. Notable awareness initiatives include the establishment of the annual United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, which Autism Speaks celebrates through its Light it Up Blue initiative. Also, Autism Speaks award-winning "Learn the Signs" campaign with the Ad Council has received over \$316 million in donated media. Autism Speaks' family resources include the Autism

Video Glossary, a 100 Day Kit for newly-diagnosed families, a School Community Tool Kit, a Grandparent's Guide to Autism, and a community grant program. Autism Speaks has played a critical role in securing federal legislation to advance the government's response to autism, and has successfully advocated for insurance reform to cover behavioral treatments in 29 states thus far, with legislation continuing to advance in more states. Each year *Walk Now for Autism Speaks* events are held in more than 85 cities across North America. To learn more about Autism Speaks, please visit www.autismspeaks.org.

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