



PRESS RELEASE

First United Bank Holds Fundraiser for Alström Angels

For Immediate Release

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Contact: Amy Punchard
Director of Marketing
First United Bank
(806) 784-3757 - work
(806) 535-9468 - cell
apunchard@firstunited.net
[et](http://www.firstunited.net)

R. Mark Bain
President
Plains Bancorp, Inc.
(806) 797-6500 - work
(806) 789-7220 - cell
rmbain@firstunited.net

LUBBOCK, Texas – First United Bank is honored to announce the beginning of a fundraising campaign to benefit Alström Angels. First United Bank has donated 630 angel-wing Christmas tree ornaments—one to honor each child currently living with Alström Syndrome. The ornaments will be sold to benefit Alström Angels, throughout the Christmas season, at each of our First United Bank Banking Centers in Lubbock, as well as through the Alström Angels organization.

Alström Syndrome is a rare disease that affects every organ in the body. Progressive vision loss, hearing loss, kidney failure and neurological issues are just a few of the battles children with Alström Syndrome will face.

In March of 2012, Bryce Johnston, the then three-year old daughter of Lynn and Cassie Johnston of Lubbock, was diagnosed with Alström Syndrome. After discovering the severe lack of funding and general knowledge of this rare disease, the Johnston's formed Alström Angels with a three-fold intent:

1. To raise funds for Alström Syndrome genetic and medical research
2. To increase awareness of the rare disease among the general public and medical communities
3. To improve family support for those affected by the Syndrome.

Worldwide, there have been fewer than 950 cases of Alström Syndrome documented in medical history. Each angel purchased through this fundraiser is in honor of the 630 children currently living with Alström Syndrome and all funds raised will go directly to Alström Angels to help fund their three-fold mission.

To purchase an ornament or to make a donation, please visit any of the three First United Bank Banking Centers in Lubbock, located at 5802 4th St, 9801 Indiana Ave. or 6604 Frankford Ave. For more information about Alström Angels, or to purchase an ornament, please visit their Web site Alstromangels.com.

-MORE-

ABOUT FIRST UNITED BANK & PLAINS BANCORP, INC.:

First United Bank, a subsidiary of Plains Bancorp, Inc., reports total assets of nearly \$1.2 billion and currently operates 15 Banking Center offices in 11 West Texas communities; Amarillo, Canyon, Dimmitt, Earth, Lamesa, Littlefield, Lubbock, Seagraves, Seminole, Sudan, and Wichita Falls, Texas. First United Bank currently has more than 250 dedicated, community-oriented employees. Visit us online at www.FirstUnited.net.

-FUB-