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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GTE FINANCIAL TO CELEBRATE FIRST CLEARWATER LOCATION GRAND OPENING WITH TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING GIVEAWAYS AND MORE

TAMPA, FL, February 2024: GTE Financial, one of the largest locally owned credit unions in Tampa Bay, is pleased to announce the grand opening of its first-ever Community Financial Center in Clearwater, Florida, on Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 10 AM to 1 PM. As the official credit union of the Tampa Bay Lightning, GTE Financial is giving away free Tampa Bay Lightning hats to the first 500 attendees. One winner will receive an autographed hockey stick by Lightning team captain Steven Stamkos. Other activities include an appearance by Thunder Bug, a meet and greet with Tampa Bay Lightning Alumni Daren Puppa, and much more.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the grand opening of our Clearwater location," said President and CEO of GTE Financial Brian Best. "We are looking forward to serving the residents, businesses, and nonprofits that make the Clearwater area such a great place to work, live, and play."

To help celebrate, the grand opening will have free food, a live DJ, and a kid's zone featuring interactive street hockey. Additionally, there will be cash giveaways every hour, Lightning ticket giveaways, and the opportunity for new members to receive a free Bolts Debit Card. Existing members receive \$50 for every new member they bring and will gain access to mortgage and auto loan incentives.

The Clearwater Community Financial Center is located at 2168 Gulf to Bay Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33765. For more information, please visit eventbrite.com/e/gte-financial-clearwater-grand-opening-tickets-835994049707?aff=oddtcreator&fbclid=IwAR0jD9dBOLF0xvhLW7juV94RcRwZwmQXo7imQvZYSVAYcyz4lrO3DS3g9lw.

About the Tampa Bay Lightning

The Tampa Bay Lightning joined the National Hockey League in 1992 and have since become one of the league's model franchises under the leadership of owner & chairman Jeff Vinik. The organization has experienced success on and off the ice, highlighted by back-to-back Stanley Cup Championships in 2020 and 2021, the franchise's second and third overall. Since Vinik purchased the team in 2010, Tampa Bay has advanced to the third round or better in five of the previous seven seasons, including three Stanley Cup Final appearances. Off the ice, the Lightning have experienced a complete renaissance and brand revival which has led to record revenues from corporate partners and Season Ticket Members, both of which have renewed at higher than 90 percent. A major part of that turnaround is a commitment to grassroots efforts, as evidenced by the team's community hockey department opening new outdoor street hockey rinks across the local five-county area and pledging to distribute a whopping 200,000 street hockey sticks and balls. Overall, the Lightning, along with the NHL and NHLPA, have invested more than \$6 million to grow the sport and teach life skills to youth throughout the community. In recognition of the team's efforts, Tampa Bay was nominated for the Sports Business Journal's 2020 Sports Team of the Year.

About GTE Financial

GTE Financial is a not-for-profit financial cooperative located throughout West Central Florida with \$2.9 billion in assets and 24 Community Financial Centers. Chartered in 1935, GTE Financial is the official credit union of the Tampa Bay Lightning and is locally owned and operated in the Tampa Bay area, serving more than 230,000 individuals and businesses. For more information on GTE Financial, visit gtefinancial.org.

For more information, interviews, or media requests, please call (813) 644-7443 or email Savannah Cruz at pr@bkncreative.com.

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