



600 East 84th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

2023



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2023, the journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. Embracing Centier's legacy with unwavering dedication, I was thrilled to kick off the year by announcing the appointment of Chris Campbell as Centier Bank President and Anthony Contrucci as President of our holding company (First Bancshares, Inc.), cementing a new generation of family leadership in Centier's history.

In the spirit of perpetual growth, our associate count surpassed 1,000; a testament to the trust and confidence placed in Centier as an employer of choice. The greater part of the year was also spent laying the groundwork for substantial growth in 2024 and beyond, with plans for several new Indianapolis and Fort Wayne locations.

Speaking of our community investment, we continue to celebrate our local branches and the teams that build our growth. The Lowell and Downtown South Bend branches underwent complete interior renovations, giving these spaces a modern look and an inviting feel for our clients. Similarly, we unveiled partial renovations and updates to the Valparaiso East and Schererville East branches and relocated our Whitestown Branch.

It was a tough market last year as banks competed for deposits. Our Connect product, featuring a premier savings rate, garnered national media attention from MSN, Yahoo! Finance, and Market Watch, among others. We presented competitive Money Market offers, drawing in new clients with enticing benefits. And lastly, our Student Checking account was successfully launched to address the financial needs of our future generation of clients.

Additionally, our bank stock value increased over 20% per share last year—which is truly something to celebrate!

I am also proud to share a series of accolades that we received in 2023, including:

- #1 Best Bank to Work for in Indiana, #10 in the USA by American Banker
- #3 Indiana Chamber's Best Places to Work
- #3 in Indiana on Forbes' Best-in-State Banks List
- Inaugural mention on Forbes' List of America's Best Small Employers
- Bank of the Year by the Regional Development Company (with some lenders gaining top recognition)
- Community Lender Silver Award from the US Small Business Administration's Indiana District Office
- Third-Party Lender Award from the US Small Business Administration's Indiana District Office

These accolades not only underscore our exceptional workplace but also significantly contribute to the credibility and esteemed reputation that Centier Bank holds.

As we navigate the future, Centier Bank remains steadfast in our "Not For Sale" promise and purpose to enrich lives through caring relationships and financial guidance for an even better tomorrow.

Thank you for being an integral part of Centier Bank's story. Here's to the exciting chapters yet to be written.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Schrage
Chairman of the Board