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## Freedom First Supports Local Businesses with Employee Gifts During Statewide Social Distancing

**April 24, 2020 (Roanoke, VA)** — The Freedom First executive team decided to show appreciation for their employees working hard through the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting local businesses that have been hit hard by the statewide stay-at-home order.

Freedom First leadership worked with Downtown Roanoke, Inc. to purchase nearly \$5,000 worth of gift cards to local downtown restaurants for their employees working in the Roanoke Valley. They purchased an additional \$500 worth of gift cards to local restaurants in Downtown Blacksburg for employees working in the New River Valley, and will be coordinating a special lunch delivery to the teams at their Blacksburg and Christiansburg branches with locally-owned restaurants as well.

“Financial services are classified as an essential business category, since people need access to their money to go about their daily lives. We’ve gone to great lengths to keep our employees and members safe while staying open for business,” Freedom First President & CEO Paul Phillips explained. “We wanted to show our appreciation for all of our team members working hard in these challenging times, and it was the perfect opportunity to, at the same time, support the small businesses that make our community so vibrant.”

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**ABOUT FREEDOM FIRST CREDIT UNION:** Freedom First Credit Union is the largest member owned, Community Development Financial Institution in Southwest Virginia. Founded in 1956, Freedom First has grown to over 50,000 members, assets of over \$650 million, and 10 branch locations in the Roanoke and New River Valleys. Freedom First members benefit from competitive rates, secure and convenient technology, and the knowledge that their money is being reinvested in their community. For more information, please visit [www.freedomfirst.com](http://www.freedomfirst.com).