Washington Federal. invested here.

Monday December 17, 2012 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Washington Federal Declares \$.08 Cash Dividend

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON – The Board of Directors of Washington Federal, Inc. (NASDAQ-WAFD), parent company of Washington Federal, today announced a quarterly cash dividend of 8 cents per share. The dividend will be payable on December 31, 2012 to common stockholders of record on December 27, 2012. The dividend is being accelerated from the normal January payment date in consideration of potentially higher dividend tax rates in 2013. This will be Washington Federal's 120th consecutive quarterly cash dividend.

Washington Federal operates 190 offices in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. Established in 1917, the Company provides consumer and commercial deposit accounts, insurance products and financing for small to middle market businesses, commercial real estate and residential real estate, including consumer mortgages and home equity lines of credit. As of September 30, 2012, the Company reported \$12.5 billion in assets, \$8.6 billion in deposits and \$1.9 billion in stockholders' equity.

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## **Contact:**

Washington Federal, Inc.
425 Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98101
Cathy Cooper
206-777-8246
cathy.cooper@washingtonfederal.com