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News Contact:
Ashley Billings
Axia Public Relations for SMART Financial
530-521-8396 mobile



SMART Financial starts 2019 as 3rd largest pawn chain in US

SMART Financial grew from 0 to 63 stores in 24 months

ORLANDO, Fla. – Orlando-based speciality financial retail company SMART Financial is starting the new year as the third largest pawn chain in North America with plans to grow to 100 stores by the end of the year.

SMART Financial just secured \$80 million in funding from Comvest Credit Partners and Crystal Financial. The funds support the company's acquisitions goals.

Since John Thedford founded the company in 2016, SMART Financial has acquired 63 pawn stores. The company intends to continue expanding as it pursues more rapid growth with the acquisition of five additional stores in Virginia and Georgia in February.

Thedford is responsible for SMART Financial's fast growth.

"I plan to make SMART Financial the largest and most profitable chain of pawn stores in the world," Thedford said. "To complement the growth plans, we're focused on recruiting, training and incenting first-class talent to provide a gratifying customer experience. That's what gives us a competitive advantage in the marketplace."

With sites across North America, stores are located in North Dakota; South Dakota; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Charlotte, North Carolina; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Austin, Texas; British Columbia; Alberta; and Saskatchewan.

SMART Financial currently operates 63 pawn stores in six states and three Canadian provinces. It offers non-recourse, fully collateralized pawn loans and sells merchandise acquired directly from pawn loan customers. Visit smartfinancialent.com to learn more.

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