



First Reliance Bank's Associates Grant Wishes for local Make-A-Wish Children

January 19, 2009- Florence, SC – Reflecting its longstanding commitment to making a difference in the community, First Reliance Bank and its associates have dedicated the year of 2008 to making Christmas a little brighter for the Wish Kids at the 2008 Florence Make-A-Wish Christmas party.

Throughout the year, First Reliance associates, led by Pam Richardson, Access Live Specialist, and Nancy Watts, Vice President Mortgage/Loan Operations, unselfishly volunteered their time to make the 2008 Make-A-Wish events a success. Through efforts of the bank's associates, this year's Make-A-Wish events generated proceeds of over \$11,500, which was used to purchase Christmas gifts for the Wish Kids of Florence. 2008 Make-A-Wish fundraising events included two Purse Auctions, a silent auction open to the bank's customers and employees, a card benefit and silent auction at Bazens Family Restaurant, and a Clemson vs Carolina game day silent auction at J Michael's Grill and Raw Bar.

"Making a Difference in the lives of children within our community is a great cause that we believe in," said Rick Saunders, President and CEO of First Reliance Bank. "The Make-A-Wish foundation allows us this opportunity. We are honored to partner with and support a foundation that enriches the lives of children suffering from life-threatening medical conditions."

Over 70 children were in attendance at the 2008 Make a Wish Christmas party. First Reliance Bank volunteers were present to help Santa pass out gifts to each child, while families and children enjoyed a holiday lunch provided by Bazen's Family Restaurant. The children enjoyed a magic show, balloon art, face painting, and visits with registered therapy dogs.

ABOUT THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the [wishes](#) of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Born in 1980 when a group of caring





volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is now the largest wish-granting charity in the world, with 67 [chapters](#) in the United States and its territories. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 164,000 wishes in the United States since inception. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit www.wish.org and discover how you can *share the power of a wish®*.

ABOUT FIRST RELIANCE BANK

*First Reliance Bank, founded in 1999, has assets of approximately \$605 million, and employs over 140 highly talented associates. The bank serves Columbia, Charleston, Greenville and Florence markets in South Carolina. The bank has been recognized for its success including being the only company ever to be named to The Top 25 Fastest Growing Companies™ in South Carolina four times including 2002, 2004, 2005, and 2006 (SC Chamber/Elliott Davis). In June 2007, the bank was added to the Palmetto 25, a list of S.C.'s largest publicly held companies. In 2006, 2007, and 2008 the bank was also recognized as One of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina by the SC Chamber of Commerce. **First Reliance Bank offers a unique Hometown Heroes package of benefits to serve those who are serving our communities, a Customer Service Guaranty, Totally FREE Checking, Totally FREE Business Checking, FREE Coin Machines, a Worldwide NO FEE ATM Network, and a 5 Way Mortgage Service Promise. It also offers 8-8 Extended Hours in all of their Florence, Mt. Pleasant, and Lexington locations and is open on most traditional bank holidays. Its Easy to Do Business With™ brand has earned the young bank a customer satisfaction rating of 98% (Lamothe & Associates, Inc., Research Firm). First Reliance Bank is traded as FSRL.OB.***