



Tiffany Saunders Appointed to Foster Care Review Board

January 14, 2009- Florence, SC – Tiffany Saunders, the wife of Rick Saunders, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Reliance Bank, has been appointed by Governor Mark Sanford to the Florence County Foster Care Review Board.

Mrs. Saunders was selected based on her longstanding commitment and efforts in helping every child available for adoption to find a home. As a member of the Florence County review board, Mrs. Saunders will be responsible for determining the best permanent plan for each foster care child, identifying gaps in available services to children and families, and striving to promote community awareness about these issues.

As an adoption advocate for First Reliance Bank, and director of Reagan's Promise, First Reliance Bank's adoption awareness program, Mrs. Saunders recently dedicated the months of November and December to making the holidays special for the children within the South Carolina foster care system. Through the opening of her heart and home, Mrs. Saunders hosted an adoption benefit dinner where over 40 winter coats were collected and donated to the state's foster care children.

In addition, for the past 2 consecutive years, Mrs. Saunders in partnership with SC Department of Social Services (DSS), has arranged for the bank to sponsor an Angel Christmas Tree in all of its branches throughout the state of SC in which approximately 100 children in the SC foster care system received Christmas gifts. Through the support of the bank's customers and associates, the bank was able to fulfill each child's wish list.

Mrs. Saunders has also developed adoption awareness communication programs at First Reliance Bank, to highlight children who are available for adoption through DSS. And she has been instrumental in leading numerous bank sponsored fundraisers with proceeds going to local adoption agencies and the Department of Social Services.

"Tiffany and I believe every child deserves a permanent, loving home, and we encourage our employees, customers, and community members to consider adoption," Rick Saunders said. "Increasing the number of adoptions statewide and abroad is something that Tiffany is very passionate about. Being appointed to the Foster Care Review Board will bring her one step closer to her goal of finding a permanent and loving home for all children."





About the Division of Foster Care Review

The South Carolina Children's Foster Care Review Board was created in 1974 by the General Assembly to monitor the progress in achieving permanent placements for children in foster care. The Children's Foster Care Review Board is administered by the [Governor's Office of Executive Policy and Programs](#).

South Carolina was the first state to pass a law allowing citizens from each community to become involved in the child welfare system by participating in case reviews of all children who spend longer than four consecutive months in foster care. The objectives of these reviews are to ensure that permanent plans are being made for children and families; and, to promote community awareness about these issues.

Each of South Carolina's sixteen judicial circuits has at least one [local review board](#). Each local review board is made up of five volunteers, appointed by the Governor, from the community.

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™ standard has earned the young bank a customer satisfaction rating of 98% (Lamothe & Associates, Inc., Research Firm). First Reliance Bank is traded as FSRL.OB.***