



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2009

## HomeBanc seeking to hire 15-25 new employees in mortgage area in the months ahead

*Tampa-based bank sees today's times as "the best in the past 25 years to achieve opportunities for appreciation in the real-estate market"*

TAMPA, Fla. – The number of Tampa Bay companies seeking to aggressively grow and hire new employees probably can be counted on one hand. One such company is Tampa-based **HomeBanc** ([www.homebanc.com](http://www.homebanc.com)) and its parent company **HomeBancorp, Inc.**, which has plans to hire 15-25 new employees to help process and underwrite the strong volume of mortgage applications expected in the months ahead. The new hires will double the size of HomeBanc's residential mortgage staff.

"The growth in our mortgage area is due to us being a *customer-focused* bank," said **Charles Richardson**, HomeBanc's President of Mortgage Banking. "The best measure of that is we do everything in-house – coupled with the fact we have top, talented loan officers who help quickly evaluate and process loan applications received and close faster than anyone in town."

Richardson went on to say that HomeBanc, which originated \$100 million in single-family mortgages in 2008, has seen a "dramatic pick up in the volume of applications currently in the pipeline and we are bullish on the prospects for future growth."

"While the economic environment remains uncertain, we believe the buyers who understand their mortgages, can truly afford them and plan to stay in their homes for a while, will find this is the best time in the past 25 years to achieve opportunities for appreciation in the Tampa Bay real-estate market," said Richardson.

He said, "We are seeking 15-25 top-producing loan officers to handle the increasing volume of mortgage loans. We will be interviewing and hiring those individuals in the months ahead and are excited about the future."

(more)

HomeBanc offers an array of retail-deposit products, with SBA loans, special lower-rate FHA loans for first-time buyers, residential mortgage loans and non-traditional jumbo mortgage loans. It is committed to exceeding customer-service expectations and making the company a Great Place to Work<sup>®</sup> and a Great Place to Bank.

HomeBanc is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tampa-based HomeBancorp, Inc. HomeBanc operates two full-service branch offices in Tampa, and has others in Lakewood Ranch (Sarasota) and Lake Mary (Orlando area) offering retail, commercial and residential lending products. Two new branches are expected to open in the next couple of months in Belleair Bluffs and Westchase. HomeBanc also operates loan production offices in Tampa, Lake Mary, Brandon and Belleair Bluffs. The corporate headquarters of HomeBancorp, Inc. is located on the 41<sup>st</sup> floor of the Bank of America Plaza building at 101 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa. More information on HomeBanc can be found at [www.HomeBanc.com](http://www.HomeBanc.com).

\* \* \* \* \*

**Media contacts:** **Jeff Caponigro, [jcap@caponigro.com](mailto:jcap@caponigro.com), or Lauren Murley, [murley@caponigro.com](mailto:murley@caponigro.com), at Caponigro Public Relations Inc., (813) 228-9300**