First Choice Bank Completes Repayment of TARP and Declares Cash Dividend

First Choice Bank recently announced that it has voluntarily redeemed the $5.1 million of Series D preferred stock issued to the U.S. Treasury under its TARP Community Development Capital Initiative (CDCI) program ahead of time. As part of the redemption of preferred stock, First Choice Bank also paid accrued dividends of approximately $22,000. Following the redemption of the Series D Preferred Stock, the Board of Directors declared a cash dividend of $0.11 per share of its outstanding common stock. The dividends will be payable on July 15, 2013, to shareholders of record as of June 30, 2013.

The repayment of the TARP investment represents an important milestone for First Choice Bank. “First Choice Bank still remains a very well capitalized community bank with a strong balance sheet and the capital resources needed to fuel growth and meet the needs of consumers, real estate investors and businesses throughout Southern California,” said Mr. Peter Hui, Chairman of the Board and Ms. Neena Bansil, President and Chief Executive Officer of First Choice Bank. “We thank the U.S. government, our regulators and fellow taxpayers for their support and vote of confidence in our bank, and more broadly for their support of the U.S. financial system.”

The bank recently sold shares of common stock at $11.00 per share for a total of $10 million in a private placement completed in February 2013. As of March 31, 2013, the bank had retained earnings of $2,127,000. The bank has repaid the $5.1 million TARP investment and declared a $0.11 per share dividend on May 1, 2013.

First Choice Bank Reports Financial Results for First Quarter 2013

First Choice Bank reported net income of $462,000 for the first quarter of 2013, a 13% increase over the $408,000 earned in the same period 2012. The Bank continues its strong growth in assets, loans and deposits and retains superior credit quality. The Bank reached $355 million in assets and $213 million in loans at March 31, 2013, a 37% and 53% growth over the 1st quarter 2012. During the 1st quarter 2013, First Choice Bank expanded its footprint into Orange County; the fourth branch opening in City of Anaheim allows the Bank to better serve its market niche and to meet the customer’s needs.

In addition, during 1st quarter 2013, the Bank closed the 2012 capital raise through a private placement raising $10 million in capital to support assets growth and expansion of its operations. First Choice Bank retains the “well capitalized” designation and its recognition as “FIVE-Star” bank by BauerFinancial, and “Super Premier Performance” by Findley Reports for its 2012 operating results.

First Choice Bank sincerely thanks all shareholders and clients for their continuous support. We will strive to surpass clients’ expectations through our efficiency and professionalism and are committed to being “First in Speed, Service and Solutions.”
Gary Youmans

Though Gary Youmans is one of the newest additions to the FCB team, he is far from a newcomer to the financial services industry. Arriving at FCB with more than 40 years of banking experience, Gary has an impressive professional history that has equipped him with all the knowledge and skills needed to successfully serve as FCB’s Senior Vice President, SBA Manager. He is a graduate of San Diego State and the Pacific Coast Bankers School.

Outside of work, Gary is an avid golfer and also enjoys traveling, fishing and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Carol, have a son named Tim, a daughter-in-law named Jayme, a daughter named Samantha and a son-in-law named Kyle. They also have two grandchildren – Jameson (age three) and Chase (one month).

James Yu

James Yu has been with FCB for only a matter of weeks, but his notable work history is solid proof of his talents and skills. While at East West Bank, James was named an Employee of the Month, and he gained further recognition at Trust Bank when he led its Monterey Park branch deposits from 72 million to more than 100 million in two and half years. A graduate of Pittsburgh Community College, James is currently serving as FCB’s Rowland Heights Branch Manager.

James and his wife, Julia, have two children named Jacqueline and Joshua. In his spare time, James enjoys traveling and bowling. He is also a talented tennis player, as is evident by the first place doubles tennis championship title he won at East West Bank’s annual employee sports tournament!

YuSheng (Sam) Lin obtained his MBA from the Graduate School of Management at UC Riverside and his Bachelor of Science from National Taiwan University. Since 2003, Mr. Lin has been the Senior VP of Eva Care Group, a healthcare management company, and President of its overseas branch. Mr. Lin was also the Director of Evergreen International Bank from August 2010 to December 2012. As of January 2013, he became the CEO of Evergreen International Group, a medical supply import and sales company and a subsidiary company of Eva Care Group. Mr. Lin has strong business acumen derived from his many years of experience in effectively handling finance, accounting and human resources. He also has a global viewpoint, having opened a branch in the Philippines for Eva Care Group and in managing Eva Care Group’s overseas operations and projects.

First Choice Bank held its Annual Shareholders Meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2013, at the bank’s headquarters in Cerritos, CA. The shareholders of the bank were advised of the progress made by the bank and the outstanding results of the fiscal year 2012 wherein the bank was able to pay the TARP in advance and also declared a dividend of $0.11 per share.
Welcome Back, Marge Lizama!

First Choice Bank is thrilled to congratulate Marge Lizama on the birth of her baby girl, Elani Grace! Born on March 18, Elani weighed in at 6 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 19 inches long. Marge and her husband, Tony, along with their seven-year-old son, Mason, are delighted to welcome beautiful little Elani into their family!

Now back at FCB following her maternity leave, Marge is excited to return to her professional endeavors. She is especially looking forward to beginning a new position in Operations after serving as FCB’s Executive Assistant for the past six years. A highly-regarded member of the staff, Marge is known for her unparalleled energy and work ethic. In 2010, she was named FCB’s Employee of the Year, and in 2011 she gained acknowledgement for spearheading the bank’s annual charity golf tournament, which is currently in its third year running.

Please join us in welcoming Marge back to FCB and congratulating her on her new baby girl!

Customer Corner: Tarsadia Foundation

FCB is honored to be the bank of choice for the Tarsadia Foundation – an organization committed to the welfare and well-being of all people. Established in 1999, the Tarsadia Foundation works toward improving people’s lives through grant funding, philanthropy and strengthening the capacity of non-profit organizations.

Since its formation, the Tarsadia Foundation has helped to provide countless individuals and families with the tools and resources they need to lead healthy, meaningful lives. In just the past few months, the Tarsadia Foundation became a supporter of the Foundation for Women – a non-profit organization that empowers women to become income generators through funds and business support – and delivered food and supplies to the homeless in Orange County. They also partnered with One Heart World-Wide, which seeks to decrease mortality and morbidity among mothers and infants in remote areas. Yet another recent partnership was with the MIND Research Institute. The MIND Research Institute provides math instructional software and systems to elementary and secondary students to ensure they have the educational background needed to reach their full potential.

We at FCB are proud to be associated with the Tarsadia Foundation in their goal to make the world a better place for all. To learn more about the Tarsadia Foundation and their incredible efforts to support the underserved, please visit their website at www.tarsadiafoundation.org.
The ARC Walk for Independence

For the third year in a row, First Choice Bank proudly sponsored the ARC Walk for Independence on March 23, 2013. The ARC Walk is an annual fundraising event for the ARC Los Angeles and Orange Counties and raises community awareness and funds to support children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To learn more about the ARC, visit www.arcwalk.org.

Save the date for FCB’s Charity Golf Tournament coming up October 17, 2013!