

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:**

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**First Choice Loan Services Hosts Comedy Showcase**  
*Event Supports The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation*

**SOUTHAMPTON, PA, August 22, 2018** – New Jersey-based residential mortgage lender First Choice Loan Services Inc., a Berkshire Bank Company announces its Southampton location will be hosting a Comedy Showcase on Friday, September 28 at the Rose Bank Winery in Newton, Pennsylvania. The event will benefit The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation.

The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation was created to help heal the hearts of families across the Delaware Valley whose hearts have been broken by the sudden illness or sudden loss of life of a loved one. Whether it be the sudden death or illness of a parent, the long-term illness of a child, or the loss of a home or property due to fire, flood or disaster, the foundation strives to help families bridge the gap until they can seek long-term stability to lessen the financial burdens due to these, or other, life altering disasters.

The Comedy Showcase will feature comedy sets performed by Bill Chiang, Chris Coccia, and Vince Valentine. Tickets are priced at \$55 and include an open bar package as well as heavy appetizers by O’Neill’s Catering. The program is designed to provide laughter and levity while at the same time supporting families in times of grief and need. The funds raised from the Comedy Showcase will be distributed to a specific portion of The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation called “Hearts for Heroes” which helps families of Veterans and First Responders who suffer a loss.

Mike Barnes, executive director of The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation, is excited by the support from First Choice Loan Services.

“At The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation, we know how deeply it hurts when a loved one is lost. We also are aware of the many details and demands that time can bring, not only emotionally but financially and logistically. That’s why we work diligently to be a resource for families facing the unimaginable,” said Barnes. “When we receive such tremendous support from companies like First Choice Loan Services, we’re thrilled. It’s wonderful to see this organization be so active in its community and truly be devoted to bettering the lives of those who live here.”

Linda Leever, James Mayo, and Todd Owens, First Choice Loan Services’ Southampton office branch managers, are glad to help support the charity’s purpose.

“With the work we do in the mortgage industry, we’re fortunate to work with families at one of the happiest times of their lives, when they are purchasing a new home. We are lucky to be a part of a good event. We also know that stories continue beyond the closing of the home and eventually bring a loss, which is why we are so honored to partner with The Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation for this Comedy Showcase,” said Leever. “The work that the foundation does, especially for families of Veterans and First Responders, is so extraordinary, and we’re very excited to help them continue to provide relief and support for families when they need it most.”

Tickets for the event can be purchased by visiting The Barkann Foundation website at <https://thebarkannfoundation.org/> Information for sponsorship opportunities for the Comedy Showcase can be received by contacting Linda Leever at [Linda.Leever\(at\)fcloans.com](mailto:Linda.Leever(at)fcloans.com)

### **About First Choice Loan Services Inc.**

First Choice Loan Services Inc., a Berkshire Bank Company is headquartered in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Founded in 2009, the company is licensed to originate and close residential mortgage loans nationwide, excluding Arkansas and New York. With 33 locations across 12 states and over 500 employees, First Choice Loan Services Inc. offers FHA and VA programs, Jumbo loans, fixed and adjustable rate loans, and refinancing and renovation programs. First Choice Loan Services Inc. is an Equal Housing Lender, NMLS #210764. Licensed by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. AZ BK# 0918586. Licensed by the Department of Business Oversight under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Products and services not offered in state of New York. To learn more about First Choice, visit <https://fcloans.com/>.

### **About Berkshire Bank**

Berkshire Hills Bancorp (NYSE: BHLB) is the parent of Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank®. The Company, recognized for its entrepreneurial approach and distinctive culture, has \$11.6 billion in assets and 113 full service branch offices in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey and Pennsylvania providing personal and business banking, insurance, and wealth management services. Berkshire Bank was named one of Massachusetts Most Charitable Companies in 2017 by the Boston Business Journal. To learn more, visit <http://www.berkshirebank.com>, call 800-773-5601 or follow us on: Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

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