



April 25, 2019

To: **Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond**
P.O. Box 27622
Richmond, VA 23261

FDIC Atlanta Regional Office
10 10th Street, NW, Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30309-3849

From: Dennis Bowman
Executive Director, Nicholas House

RE: SunTrust/BB& T Merger / SunTrust Collaborative

The Nicholas House mission is to help homeless families become self-sufficient by providing them with a temporary place to live while addressing the root causes of their homelessness so that they never become homeless again.

Nicholas House believes that the three cornerstones of financial stability are:

- 1) affordable, safe, and stable housing
- 2) a healthy family life and effective decision making
- 3) the ability to earn a living wage

Nicholas House guides families toward these goals through the provision of housing, intensive adult education and training, individualized case management, youth services, and aftercare support.

Our partnership with SunTrust has effectively helped us to achieve our goals, advance our mission and increase our impact. With a mutual focus on financial well-being, strengthening our communities and eliminating barriers to self-sufficiency and employment for vulnerable families in and around Atlanta, the Nicholas House-SunTrust relationship has led to community advancement in areas of financial education and career readiness for residents. The support of SunTrust has helped to level the playing field for individuals and families that are traditionally excluded or overlooked when opportunities present themselves.

The benefits of our collaborative have gone well beyond the bottom line. SunTrust's corporate responsibility has included philanthropic support. However, a driving force to the success of our partnership has been the involvement and engagement of SunTrust staff. Many SunTrust staff have provided their time, expertise and resources in support of our organizational mission as well as with other local entities who share our commitment to ensuring that family homelessness is rare, brief and nonrecurring in Atlanta and surrounding areas.

SunTrust professionals have led beautification activities at our shelter, facilitated workshops involving financial literacy, budgeting, and money management and assisted with the planning and implementation of our special events. Our friends at SunTrust have been integral in helping Nicholas House to forge new relationships within the corporate community - leading to new networks, advocates and funding streams to sustain our valuable services. As they have often articulated, their volunteerism has promoted a positive culture at SunTrust and influenced teamwork in the workplace.

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Nicholas House, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation Tax ID #58-1762614
Dial 711 Georgia Relay (Deaf or Hard of Hearing) to connect to 404-622-0793

Visit us online at www.nicholashouse.org

Nicholas House supports the merger of SunTrust Bank and Branch Banking & Trust. As this merger creates shareholder value as part of the new financial profile, the merger will offer enhanced community resources for community partners such as Nicholas House and opportunities to reach and serve more families in need of assistance. Under the new merger, it is our hope that we will expand and strengthen our community relations and identify new initiatives that support the financial well-being of all metro Atlanta area populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight our relationship with SunTrust Bank and to provide our feedback regarding the anticipated merger of SunTrust Bank and Branch Banking & Trust.

Respectfully,



Dennis Bowman
Executive Director