FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES, INC.™

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

# ONVARD



Last year was another challenging time for the banking industry, largely because the Federal Reserve during 2022–2023 carried out the most rapid increase in interest rates in our country's history. This surge, following on the heels of 10 years of low rates, negatively impacted our net interest margin as short-term rates on deposits rose more than the longer-term rates on bonds and loans. The higher rates also slowed the housing

market, which lowered the volume of

loans in our mortgage business. After 36 years of increased earnings, we experienced a decline in our year-over-year net income in 2023. In response to the interest rate increases, we worked to restructure our balance sheet to minimize the decline in income for 2023 and position the Bank to achieve better earnings in the coming years. At the same time, I am proud of the many accomplishments we recorded during the year, including continuing to outperform our peer group of banks. We also saw our year-end total deposit levels remain stable when compared with 2022 year-end balances. We achieved this result primarily by adding over 12,500 net new accounts. Additionally, we grew loans organically by \$706.9 million, or 11.0 percent, while maintaining our conservative credit standards. And, as noted above, we restructured our balance sheet by selling \$411.1 million in securities with lower yields to redeploy those dollars into our higher-earning loan portfolio. The cash flows provided from selling the securities, combined with the monthly maturities in our bond and loan portfolios, are providing us with the liquidity we need to grow loans, which should benefit our interest income as we are redeploying this liquidity to much higher yielding assets. Overall, we believe that we are well positioned for success in this economic environment.

#### RECOGNITION

In February 2023, Forbes magazine named First Financial Bankshares, Inc. the number two bank in the country out of the 100 largest publicly traded U.S. banks and thrifts (https://www.forbes.com/lists/americas-bestbanks/?sh=63638fd8c0de). Forbes's ranking is based on nine metrics measuring the banks' growth, credit quality and profitability. Also in 2023, S&P Global-a provider of critical intelligence such as credit ratings, benchmarks and analytics covering the global capital, commodity and automotive sectors-ranked First Financial Bankshares as the number seven bank in the nation (https://www.spglobal. com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/research/ east-west-bancorp-leads-us-public-banks-in-2022financial-performance-ranking). But these were not the only recognitions that we received. The Bank, our Regions, and our people earned many other awards throughout the year (see page 18).

#### **FINANCIAL RESULTS**

After 36 consecutive years of increased earnings, our net income declined 15.1 percent to \$199.0 million from \$234.5 million in 2022. There were four primary causes of this decrease. The first was a \$17.6 million (or 4.4 percent) drop in net interest income because our interest cost on deposits increased faster than the interest income on our bond portfolio and loans. The second was a \$7.1 million (or 37.5 percent) decline in real estate mortgage fees, which mirrored the decline in the number of homes sold because of higher interest rates. Third, we sold \$411.1 million in securities at a loss of \$7.1 million versus gains of \$2.1 million in 2022. We redeployed these funds into our loan portfolio. The fourth source of our earnings decline was an \$8.6 million (28.3 percent) decrease in debit card revenue due to the Durbin Amendment. (The Amendment, passed by Congress in 2010 as part of the Dodd-Frank financial reform legislation, requires the Federal Reserve to limit the fees charged to retailers for processing debit cards; however, our company only became subject to it on July 1, 2022.) We realized the decline in debit card revenue during the last six months of 2022 and the full year of 2023.

The provision for credit losses, including provisions for unfunded commitments, was \$10.6 million, which was down 39.0 percent from \$17.4 million for 2022. This large decrease was due primarily to lower unfunded commitments and better economic metrics. Nonperforming assets as a percentage of loans and foreclosed assets totaled 0.49 percent at December 31, 2023, compared with 0.38 percent at December 31, 2022.

Classified loans totaled \$176.2 million at year-end 2023 compared with \$150.7 million a year earlier, an increase of 16.9 percent. Noninterest income declined 18.0 percent to \$108.0 million from \$131.7 million in 2022. The decrease was due primarily to declines of \$7.1 million in real estate mortgage fees, \$8.6 million in debit card income and \$9.3 million in gains and losses on the sale of securities. Noninterest expenses increased 1.3 percent to \$237.9 million from \$234.8 million. This increase was due primarily to a \$4.0 million increase in FDIC insurance premiums, and a \$892 thousand increase in losses sustained from continued fraud losses. These were offset by a decline in officer incentives of \$2.3 million and a reduction of \$2.9 million in profit-sharing expenses.

Even with the decline in earnings, we again outperformed our peer group of banks on several key financial metrics. Our return on average assets was 1.55 percent compared with 0.98 percent for our peers. Return on average equity was 14.99 percent versus our peers' 9.94 percent. Our efficiency ratio, which expresses expenses as a proportion of tax-equivalent revenues, increased to 47.26 percent; our peers' average came in much higher, at 60.37 percent.

Total loans at year-end 2023 increased 11.0 percent to \$7.2 billion from \$6.4 billion at the end of 2022. Total deposits grew slightly at 1.2 percent to \$11.1 billion from \$11.0 billion at year-end 2022. Consolidated assets at year-end 2023 increased slightly by \$131.5 million (or 1.0 percent). The increase was due to a 24.6 percent decrease — to \$403.3 million at year-end 2023 from \$535.2 million at year-end 2022 — in unrealized losses on investment securities. These losses are reflected in the shareholders' equity section of our balance sheet.

First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company again delivered solid results, which were fueled by a \$622.5 million growth in the book value of trust assets. Total trust assets under management at year-end reached a book value of \$7.5 billion, an 9.0 percent increase from \$6.9 billion at the end of 2022. The market value of the trust assets totaled \$9.8 billion, up 11.7 percent from \$8.8 billion at year-end 2022. Total trust fee income for 2023 grew as well—to \$40.5 million from \$40.0 million—a 1.2 percent gain. Within that category, trust and estate fee income grew \$1.6 million, which was offset by a decline in oil and gas fee income of \$1.1 million. The trust company's net after-tax earnings increased 3.7 percent to \$21.6 million from \$20.9 million.

#### **REAL ESTATE ACTIVITIES**

In March 2023, we opened a new location in Huntsville to replace two buildings we had across the street. This stateof-the-art, highly energy-efficient, 8,850 square-foot building is now home to all our Huntsville employees and will better serve our customers with the latest in technology. This location also has a deposit-taking ATM and five motorbank lanes with one designed for large trucks.

Also in March 2023, First Financial Bank's Bryan/College Station Region opened its new location at 2445 Harvey Mitchell Parkway South, on the northwest corner of Harvey Mitchell Parkway and Earl Rudder Freeway. This new state-of-the-art branch is a 16,000-square-foot, highly energy-efficient building that features a large lobby, offices for lending, mortgage and trust officers, and five motorbank lanes with a wider lane designed for large trucks. Our new building is at one of the best locations in Bryan/College Station and gives our customers easier access to our people and services.

In August 2023, after having a successful loan production office, First Financial Bank's Bryan/College Station Region was approved to open a new branch at 100 West Decherd, Suite C, in Franklin, Texas. The banking team, made up of local Franklin bankers, is led by Justin Kleiber and Justen Salcido. This year, the Bryan/College Station Region will make one other real estate change. In May 2024, the bank will move into its Highway 21 branch from a leased space in a convenience store to a new building at 1622 North Earl Rudder Freeway in Bryan. The new branch, also state-of-the-art, occupies 3,300 square feet and has three motorbank lanes plus an ATM lane. It will serve our customers much better than the former leased space, especially since this branch has been our busiest in the entire city.

#### **MANAGEMENT CHANGES**

In January 2023, First Financial Bankshares, Inc. announced the election of Michelle S. Hickox as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Michelle formerly served as Chief Financial Officer of Independent Bank Group, Inc. (IBTX) and its subsidiary, Independent Bank, an \$18 billion publicly traded bank holding company based in McKinney, Texas. At IBTX, she led the company through its initial public offering in 2013 and played a key role in 10 acquisitions during her tenure. Prior to joining IBTX, Michelle was an audit partner at RSM US LLP in Dallas, serving financial institutions throughout Texas. She is a certified public accountant and a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Also in January 2023, First Financial Bank's Board of Directors elected Mike Parker as Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer. Mike brings more than 17 years of compliance experience to First Financial, including his most recent post as a director of compliance governance with USAA Federal Savings Bank. Mike has also held positions with Capital One and Ocwen Financial Corporation in compliance and audit director roles. He began his banking career in 2005 as an examiner with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, where he specialized in compliance. He is a native of western New York and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Virginia Commonwealth University; he also holds a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager designation.

In September 2023, First Financial Bankshares, Inc. announced the appointment of Javier Jurado as Executive Vice President and Chief Audit Executive. He oversees and executes internal audit planning and reporting, and reports directly to the Audit Committee. Javier brings more than 19 years of audit experience to First Financial, including his most recent posts in audit management at large banks and a public accounting firm. He worked with U.S. Bank starting in October 2019 and also held positions with other large organizations like BBVA USA and PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he started his career. A native of Puerto Rico, Javier earned a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master's degree in Business Administration (Accounting) from Bowling Green State University; he also completed the School of Management Program at the University of Texas. He holds the designations of Certified Internal Auditor and Certified Information Systems Auditor, and has earned a Certification in Risk Management Assessment.

In November 2023, First Financial Bankshares, Inc. announced the election of Megan Dobbs as Executive Vice President of Marketing. Megan joined First Financial after working as a director of marketing and communications for Bally Sports in Dallas, where she oversaw creative services, partner marketing and public relations for the regional sports network. Previously, Megan held senior positions at the Community Foundation of Abilene and the Center for Contemporary Arts, and she was a news anchor and news director at KTAB/KRBC TV in Abilene. Megan is a graduate of Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Also in November 2023, First Financial Bankshares, Inc. announced the appointment of Keith Morton as Executive Vice President, Southeast Texas Area Credit Administration. Keith oversees the credit functions in our Southeast Texas Regions. His oversight of these Regions' lending efforts will encompass all aspects of lending, including credit underwriting, loan decision making, portfolio risk management, and compliance with bank policy and regulatory requirements.

Keith previously served as Senior Vice President of Special Assets at Capital One in Houston beginning in 2020. He had an extensive 20-year tenure at Capital One Bank in Houston, where he held the positions of Vice President, Commercial Credit Manager and Senior Vice President, Managing Underwriter in the Commercial Lending Group. Keith earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Finance from McNeese State University and a Master of Business Administration degree in Finance from Louisiana State University. He holds a Credit Risk Certification from the Risk Management Association. Keith replaced Marna Yerigan, who retired from the Company after a 12-year tenure, overseeing credit in the Fort Worth and then the Southeast Texas Regions. We will miss Marna greatly and appreciate her exemplary years of service. In January 2024, First Financial Bankshare's Board of Directors elected Eric Bonnell as the Director of Enterprise Risk Management. Eric oversees the enterprise risk management (ERM) framework to provide more transparency into and structure for proactive risk management. Eric comes to First Financial from Atlantic Union Bank, a \$21 billion bank in Richmond, Virginia, where he was instrumental in developing the bank's ERM framework. He has also served in a number of operational risk management and technology-related roles including business continuity and information security. Eric earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (Computer Science) from Manhattan College and a Master of Science degree (Computer Information Systems) from Iona College. He graduated from the American Banking Association's Stonier Graduate School of Banking and also the Wharton Leadership Program, both at the University of Pennsylvania. He has earned the designations of Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US), Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC) and Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).

Also in January 2024, First Financial Bank announced the promotion of Lori Hill to Executive Vice President, Retail. Lori is an excellent selection for this position because of her 25 years of experience with the Company. Lori began her career at First Financial while attending Abilene Christian University. She played an integral role in founding what is now the Customer Care Center. Later, she transitioned into the Retail line of business, where she continued to advance her career. Most recently, she served as Senior Vice President, Retail Administrator of First Financial Bank, Weatherford Region. In her new role, Lori will lead all retail initiatives and will work with each of our Regional Presidents and Chief Operating Officers to ensure we have the best retail team in our footprint.

In February 2024, the Board of Directors of First Financial Bank, Southeast Region announced the promotion of Blaine Caillier to Regional President. Blaine started his career at First Financial Bank, Southeast Region over 13 years ago and most recently served as the Mid-County Market President beginning in 2016. Stephen Lee, the former President, will remain as CEO and Chairman of the Southeast Region Board of Directors. Blaine is a graduate of Lamar University; Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University; Leadership Southeast Texas; Texas Bankers Association Management Development Training Program; and FFIN University. He is the seventh president of one of our Regional banks to have started with the Company and to have moved up through our training programs to become President of one of our Regions. He currently serves as a Director of the Nederland and Port Arthur Chambers of Commerce and as a Director of the Luther Theater. Additionally, he is a current member of, and past President of, the Nederland Rotary Club.



Michelle S. Hickox Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer



Javier Jurado Executive Vice President Chief Audit Executive



Mike Parker Executive Vice President Chief Compliance Officer



Megan Dobbs Executive Vice President Advertising and Marketing



Keith Morton Executive Vice President Credit Administration



Lori Hill Executive Vice President Retail Banking



Eric Bonnell Senior Vice President Enterprise Risk Management



Blaine Caillier Regional President Southeast Texas Region

#### **COMMUNITY AND** NEIGHBORHOOD INVOLVEMENT

Our Bank has always adhered to the philosophy that we are only as successful as the communities we serve. To become a better bank, we strive to improve the quality of life in each of our communities. Besides providing the latest in financial services, we participate on local nonprofit, civic and church boards, volunteer our time and help raise money. The work our team does every day amazes me. We spotlight their efforts with our annual Day of Service, which last year took place on October 9th, the Columbus Day holiday. On that occasion, we had 990 employees serving 81 agencies and organizations across Texas.

We design our banking products and services to meet the needs of all neighborhoods, from the lowest- to the highest-income. I am especially proud of our ongoing contributions in low-income neighborhoods, where we teach classes in financial literacy, homebuying and fraud prevention. We also offer classes on how to utilize our products and services such as our very competitive free checking, savings, affordable home mortgage loan and ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) programs.

The affordable home loan and the ITIN mortgage loan programs have become so popular that in 2023, we made 1,074 of those loans in majority minority markets, up from 786 loans in 2022. I am especially proud of our team in Fort Worth, who made 223 loans in the majority minority markets, which was an increase from from the previous year's 193 loans.

We attribute our success in continuously increasing loans in the majority minority markets to partnerships we have formed with builders, developers, realtors, city leaders and nonprofit organizations in the Fort Worth area. In fact, loans made in Fort Worth's majority minority markets constituted 46.0 percent of all our mortgage loans made in Fort Worth.

A great example of how the Bank can make a big difference in low-income areas is the Landmark at Abilene redevelopment project. Here, the Bank is

partnering with the Overland Property Group, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and the Midwest Housing Equity Group. We have committed \$5.5 million to support the historic renovation of the former Travis Elementary School into low-income housing units for senior citizens. We are eager to see the completion of this project, which has already created other redevelopment in this low-income area.

#### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

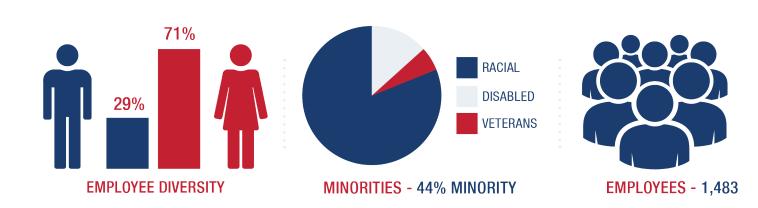
First Financial Bankshares, Inc. embraces and promotes a culture of diversity and inclusion. We seek to attract, recruit and retain employees who bring to our company diverse backgrounds, orientations, beliefs, cultures and interests. We believe that having a diverse team strengthens our company by bringing together people with different ideas, skills and experiences, and by enabling all our customers, regardless of their race and other characteristics, to feel at home when they visit one of our locations. We also continue to refresh and diversify our Regional and subsidiary boards, which have 39 women and minorities as members. These boards are made up of the movers and shakers of each of our market communities. We appreciate the participation of these fine men and women; their expertise, experiences and guidance help us to better serve our communities.

We highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion to our company on page 19, where we present our 2023 Shining Stars. This program annually recognizes the dedicated and professional First Financial bankers who have demonstrated consistent excellence in living our Customer Service First philosophy.

Our Shining Stars perform at the highest level, maintaining positive attitudes and a proactive approach to accomplishing our mission. Year after year, a large percentage of this honored group are women and minorities.

Of the 21 professional bankers achieving this award in 2023, 14 were women and nine were minorities, which demonstrates that our diversity efforts bring the highestquality people to our company. We recognize and celebrate them for what they do to make this company great.

First Financial Bankshares Employment Statistics



#### **ONWARD**

Although 2023 was a challenging year for the banking will take time to roll off), we do not see many banks industry, we used those challenges to bolster our strategy choosing to sell at this time. for overcoming the rapidly rising interest rate environment. However, I expect that by the end of 2024, we will start We restructured our balance sheet, kept deposits stable, seeing banks come to the market, and hopefully we will and grew loans and trust assets by 11.0 and 9.0 percent, be able to find the right bank to bring into our company. I respectively. We believe we are well prepared to perform can assure you that we are eager to get back to buying even better in the coming years, since we have continued banks and growing the Company through acquisitions. to upgrade our staff with higher performers. These We have installed or are in the process of installing new moves should bring additional growth. With our assets systems for new accounts, lending, accounting and trust surpassing the \$10 billion mark back in 2020, far earlier services. Each of these systems is bringing us state-ofthan we expected, we have moved consistently and the-art technology and will enhance our efficiency. earnestly to find the right people from larger banks who can bring us the expertise to perform well as a \$10 billion-I am very pleased to work with such a dedicated and plus bank. We certainly see that expertise in our most talented professional team of board members, officers recent hires for Chief Financial Officer, Chief Compliance and employees. They continue to go well beyond the Officer, Chief Audit Executive, Executive Vice President call of duty in providing our customers and communities Southeast Texas Credit and Director of Enterprise Risk with exceptional service, and I thank each one of them. Management, to mention a few. I am eager to see what As you can tell from the decrease in profit sharing our dedicated people will achieve as we move through and compensation for 2023, we align ourselves with 2024. I could not be more pleased with our younger our shareholders who are so loyal and supportive of people who have taken on new positions across our our company. We are ready to move Onward, never company over the past several years and who have forgetting that we work for you. accepted more responsibilities to support our growth.

Our priorities are to achieve organic growth in loans, deposits and trust relationships; improve our noninterest income; and control our expenses. With the economy

slowing and with banks trying to adjust to rapid rises in interest rates and losses in their bond portfolios (which

F. Scott Dueser Chairman, President and CEO

## **COMMUNITY STORIES**

# "Mi casa es tu casa."

#### "Mi casa es tu casa."

To the Gonzalez family, that is more than an expression, it is a way of living.

"We love having gatherings. We love having friends over, family over...it feels like home," said Elizabeth Gonzalez, whose family has had an open door to family and friends since moving into their new Irving, Texas home in September.

When Elizabeth and Rene Gonzalez began their homebuying journey in 2022, they had difficulty obtaining financing from other banks. Determined to create a home for their family, they were referred to Craig Zemarkowitz with First Financial Bank in Fort Worth. He introduced them to First Financial's ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) home loan program, which offers future homeowners financing without a social security number.

"Craig was so helpful with the process of the loan. We did it pretty quickly," Elizabeth said. "I can text Craig anytime, seven days a week, and he will help me...He was always available for us."

It has been *onward* from there for the Gonzalez family. They moved into a larger home in 2023, again receiving a mortgage through the First Financial ITIN program. The added space allowed them to host family members from across the state over the holidays. With their new home, the Gonzalez family was able to bring their "mi casa es tu casa" way of life to reality.



The Gonzalez family in their new home

Watch their story on video! fin.com/annual-report "We were so excited to have the family over, especially for Christmas," said Rene Gonzalez.

Perhaps the biggest fan of the new home is the littlest one of all, eight-year-old Zoe.

"One of my favorite things about it is my room, where I get to have all of my free time sometimes. I have a lot of space so I can relax."

The hard work and determination required to achieve their family's homeownership dream is not lost on Elizabeth and Rene's oldest daughter, Natalee.

"They have definitely been great role models. It shows my sister and me as we're growing that anything we set our minds to and we work towards, we can accomplish...We've seen that, and it's a great example to have."

That impact on their daughters is what Elizabeth and Rene say matters most.

"Everything we do is for our daughters...having a better life for them," said Elizabeth. "We already teach them that you can do anything, as long as you work hard and be disciplined in what you want to do, it can happen—no matter what situation you are in, no matter what race, no matter what color you are."

These are inspirational words from a woman whose family is proof that a house is about much more than a building it's about the life and people within that house who truly make it a *home*.

> fam · i · ly (noun) 1. the people you live for, laugh with and love most. 2. one of life's greatest blossings.

> > Craig Zemarkowitz with the Gonzalez family

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# Sparking Positive Change

Brothers Bryan and Blake Vincent started Principal Industries with little more than an idea and unfettered determination.

"We started in, literally, I think it was half of a dog grooming facility office with cinderblock walls." said co-owner Bryan Vincent.

14 years later, Principal Industries has grown to become the largest global provider of LED lighting, electrical components, and services to the commercial signage and architectural lighting industry.

Headquartered in San Angelo, Principal serves clients across the world and has manufactured lighting for companies like Chick-fil-A, Circle K, Exxon Mobil, Love's Travel Stops, and major sports arenas like Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. First Financial Bank has been honored to support the company's growth over the years.

"What I love about First Financial is I *know* Chris, I *know* Luke," said Bryan. "We've now done a couple of acquisitions, and First Financial has really stepped up and helped us figure out the best way to do that financing."

Principal is also a large proponent of First Financial's treasury management services. When a company grows as quickly as Principal, support for back-office functions is critical. Services such as ACH and wire origination, foreign exchange, fraud detection, and remote deposit make all the difference in their day-to-day operations.

The partnership between First Financial and Principal serves a greater purpose than simply bottom-line growth. What Bryan says he cares about most are the people who make it all happen.

"One of the things we've done that's really close to me is really giving people second chances," said Bryan. "I'm a recovered alcoholic, so it's important to me to give back to people who need that opportunity."

Jeffery Miles is one of those people. He moved from Houston to get a fresh start while on the road to recovery. When Jeffery first met the Principal team, it was a quick match.

"I love the people in the company," said Jeffery. "You've got people in recovery you can talk to...This is the best company I've worked for in my life." People at every level of the company have experienced the life-altering impact of the Principal culture, including Gabe Hughes, who started on the assembly line and earned his way to General Counsel and VP of Compliance.

"I struggled with addiction for many years, and I actually spent four-and-a-half years in the Texas penitentiary... When I got out, Bryan and Blake gave me a second chance," said Gabe. "We hire a lot of people that need second chances, people that a lot of others would have given up on, like myself."

Transformative stories like Gabe's and Jeffery's are at the core of what motivates Bryan.

"Some guy told me one time, he said, 'The most dignifying thing you can give to someone else is to provide them with a job.' So, not only do we provide jobs, but we really look at it as though we are impacting the families' lives."

Principal Industries is a beautiful testament to the growth a business can experience when it focuses on the combination of driving innovation and, more importantly, its people *onward*. "I love the people in the company...This is the best company I've worked for in my life." - Jeffery Miles, Principal Industries

Brvan Vincent (center) with VP of Compliance Gabe Hughe

and CFO Sheila Alley



Jeffery Miles in a Principal Industries Warehouse

PRINCIPAL LED

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Watch their story on video ffin.com/annual-repor



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## **Building the Future, Preserving the Past**

Drive about 50 miles northwest of Abilene, and you will find yourself amidst a backdrop of endless Texas rolling plains.

"My dad purchased this place in the 70s," said Richard Gaona of the farm and ranch land he now owns and operates near the small town of Roby, Texas. "This was mostly a pasture area, and he took time to clean it up and make it into what we've got now with wheat, grass, and cattle on it. That was one thing he loved...cattle and farming."

Richard's father moved to Texas from Mexico to purchase land and build a prosperous life for his family.

"He had to work really hard to purchase land," said Richard. "He was a very, very good farmer, and he taught me a lot about how to do it and how to do it right. That's why I want to continue and try to keep this place together."

Richard and his dad farmed together until his father passed away in 2004. Richard now works to carry on his father's legacy.

"He loved this place. He took care of it, so... I want to continue and keep it as good as it is or better than he left it."

Over the years, Richard and his wife, Judy, have run a successful agricultural business. That led them to think strategically about building wealth for retirement and future generations.

"I started looking around and talked to several different groups, and I talked to First Financial Trust," said Richard. "I told them that I'm already in a risky business, and I don't want to lose what I've worked so hard for, and they listened. And that made a lot of difference."

The Gaonas formed a strong relationship with Wayne Chowning, First Financial Trust's Executive Vice President serving the Sweetwater region.

"He stays on top of stuff. He keeps us informed," said Judy. Richard agreed, adding, "Wayne has been really good. He explains things to us very well and wants to make sure that we understand what they're doing. If I've got a question, I can come in or call him...the trust is there."

Helping people like Richard and Judy look *onward* with peace of mind really is a matter of trust.

"We can say that, because of the investments and things that we've done...we're set up where we don't have to worry about living off just social security," said Richard. "That's a good feeling. That's comfort."

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That comfort means Richard and Judy can fix their sights on what they love—time with children and grandchildren; pampering their beloved dog, Lacy; and spending their evenings riding around the farm in their all-terrain vehicle, watching the sun set over those beautiful Texas plains.



Watch their story on video! ffin.com/annual-report



## Secret Sauce: a Family & a Dream

It's hard to say what's stronger once you set foot onto a Hard Eight BBQ lot—the savory aroma of woodfired meat from the pit, or the warm essence of good 'ole southern hospitality.

"...the old German style of barbecue, the open pit style... that's what I grew up with," said Chad Decker, a Hard Eight BBQ co-owner who grew up in the Texas Hill Country.

Vicki Nivens and her late husband, Phillip, opened Hard Eight BBQ in Stephenville, Texas in 2003, along with their daughter and son-in-law, Carie and Chad Decker. Before even walking through the doors, customers are greeted with the open pit and Hard Eight's signature rustic appeal.

"We love the old wood and that kind of look, and we just tried to bring that in here, just to make something more unique," said Vicki.

The combination of authentic pit barbecue and the curated down-home feel has clearly been a hit. Hard Eight BBQ has grown to have five locations throughout north Texas. Vicki attributes much of their success to maintaining a family-run business.

"We are very family oriented...I grew up in a family business, so I just love that type of atmosphere."

First Financial has had a front-row seat to the Hard Eight BBQ journey, starting when Ron Butler—now Chairman and CEO of First Financial Bank, Abilene Region—was President of the bank's Stephenville region.

"Phil had met Ron Butler and some other guys from First Financial...We've never looked back," said Vicki. "They have been so supportive...and we have made life-long relationships with some of the bank people...It's been a very good experience."

The relationship extends beyond meeting the business's banking and lending needs. As Chad puts it, it's more like a friendship.

"There's never been a point in time that we haven't been able to walk in there and shake hands and visit about each other's family," said Chad. "And it's just like that with every loan officer in other locations that we're at...It makes it easy to do business with these guys, because they're friends."

Carie is amazed by what Hard Eight has become today. "It's kind of unbelievable sometimes...I'm thankful and grateful for the support that we've had."

They are likely not done growing yet. The owners have their sights set *onward*, to future expansion. At the center of their growth, Chad says, are the people who work at Hard Eight and the communities they serve.

"To be able to share that with the community and with other people in other walks of life that actually came in here and became part of our family is the most important thing."

Those community-centered values are as memorable as Hard Eight's secret sauce smothered over tender slices of slow-cooked brisket with a side of potato salad...or at least pretty darn close.

### "It makes it easy to do business with these guys, because they're friends."

- Chad Decker, Hard Eight BBQ

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Watch their story on video! ffin.com/annual-report



## **Setting Goals & Saving Time**

Anthony Egbo Jr. is a former Abilene Christian University football player, which is just one of many titles the graduate student carries.

"I've been a part of the Diversity Council, President and Vice President of the Student Athlete Committee...representative to the Western Athletic Conference, and the national representative on the Division I Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. I've been involved in a lot of different community organizations. I did my undergrad in Psychology and am now pursuing my MBA. I just finished an internship with the President's Office, and now I'm transitioning to an internship with the athletic department."

Anthony attributes much of his drive to the example set by his parents, who immigrated to Houston from Nigeria as young adults.

"My parents, just the work ethic that they put in to give my siblings and me what we have...They put all of us through school. They put us through youth sports. They put us in gifted and talented programs," said Anthony affectionately. "Everything was directed towards us being better than them."

For a busy grad student with as much tenacity and community involvement as Anthony, managing his time well is exceedingly important.

"I try not to use time as an excuse. Time management has become crucial. Efficiency is the main goal - being efficient with my systems and my routine."

Managing money needs to be efficient, too, which is why Anthony relies heavily on First Financial Bank's mobile banking tools.

"Mobile banking is crucial. It's harder for me to get into a physical location, just from a time perspective. Being able to check my balance, get e-statements, transfer money...pretty much everything I need to do in an efficient manner, I can do it in the mobile app."

Anthony offers his fellow students and young professionals some encouragement that, with a bit of planning and the right tools, it really is possible to manage time well and learn how to effectively manage personal finances.

"Use the resources that banks like First Financial take the time to develop and provide for us," said Anthony. "I think that taking it upon ourselves to say, 'Hey, I want to learn to be more productive with my resources and my time,' I think that's really important."

If anyone is a living testament to the power of combining hard work, service, ingenuity, and positivity, it is most certainly Anthony Egbo Jr., whose future looks unquestionably bright.

## "I try not to use time as an excuse. Time management has become crucial. Efficiency is the main goal—being efficient with my systems and my routine."

Anthony on the go with First Financial Mobile®



0

- Anthony Eqbo Jr., Graduate Student and First Financial Bank Customer





## **SHINING STARS 2023**

100000

Our service philosophy at First Financial is to exceed customer expectations. Each year, we recognize Shining Stars who demonstrate consistent excellence in fulfilling this philosophy. Shining Stars perform at the highest level, maintaining a positive mindset and a proactive approach to fulfilling our mission to build loyal life-long relationships by providing first class service with personal attention. We are proud of our 2023 Shining Stars!

#### **CONGRATULATIONS SHINING STARS!**

Abilene: Carla Lane Bankshares: Darlene Ledwell Bryan/College Station: Hanna Prevost Conroe: Alma Gamboa Eastland: Holly Urban Fort Worth: Nancy Delgado

Hereford: Johnathan Jeter Kingwood: Alison Shortt **Orange:** Sidney Williams San Angelo: Orlando Lara



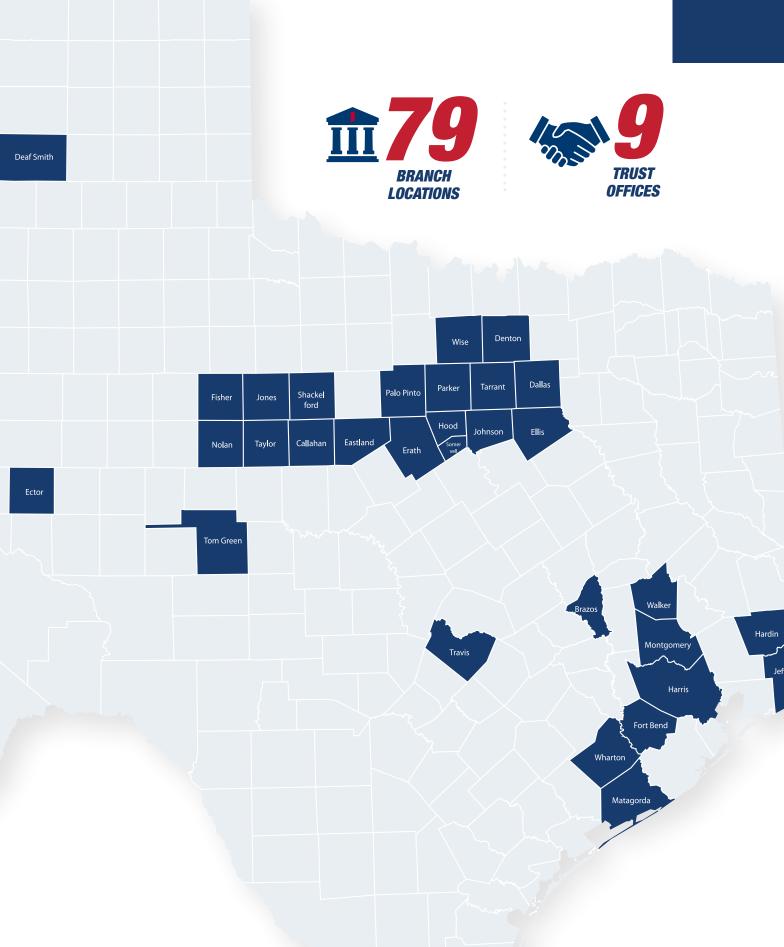
## WELCOME FIRST FINANCIAL SHINING STARS'

ard recipients printed a cut-out of her face as a fun way to make her feel included

Southlake: Noemi Macias Stephenville: Katie Jo Nix Sweetwater: Joe Martinez Weatherford: Tim Corzine

Mortgage: Julie Zsambok **Shared Services:** Accounting - Nancy Grigsby Lending - King Buchanan Treasury Mgmt - Mandy Watson FFTAM: Jeff Leving FTS: Matt Perez

## **FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES FOOTPRINT**



	Abilene 325.627.7200
	Acton 817.573.6900
	*Addison 972.385.8239
	Albany 325.627.7905
	Aledo 817.341.5200
	Alvarado 817.774.5100
	*Austin 512.422.1782
	Beaumont 409.600.6456
	Boyd 940.683.8760
	Bridgeport 940.683.8700
	Brock 817.596.0307
	Bryan 979.260.2100
	Burleson 817.774.5175
	<b>Cisco</b> 254.629.6111
	Cleburne 817.774.5100
	Clyde 325.627.7910
<b>b</b>	College Station 979.260.2100
	Conroe 936.760.1888
	Cut and Shoot 936.788.2121
	Decatur 940.683.8780
	*Mortgage Loan Office

### **FIRST FINANCIAL TRUST LOCATIONS**

Abilene 400 Pine Street, Suite 300 325.627.7100

Beaumont 3515 Dowlen Road 409.600.6460

**Bryan/College Station** 2445 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. S. 979.260.2134

Fort Worth 682.703.6404

Kingwood 281.318.4625

**Odessa** 3555 Billy Hext Road 432.367.8912

### FIRST FINANCIAL BANK LOCATIONS

Eastland ...... 254.629.6100 El Campo ..... 979.543.6441 Fort Worth ..... 817.410.4979 Franklin ...... 979.571.8900 Glen Rose ...... 254.897.4808 Granbury ...... 817.573.6900 Grapevine ..... 817.722.8980 Hereford ...... 806.363.8200 Huntsville ..... 936.295.2224 Katy-Fulshear .. 281.346.0221 Keller ...... 817.329.8625 Kingwood ..... 281.318.4600 Lumberton ..... 409.751.7122 Magnolia ...... 936.273.4700 Mauriceville ... 409.745.4433 Merkel ...... 325.235.6660 Midlothian ..... 972.723.7100 Mineral Wells .. 940.327.5400 Montgomery .. 936.597.5997 Moran ...... 325.627.7953 New Waverly .. 936.295.2224

Newton 409.379.2200
Odessa 432.367.8900
Orange 409.883.3563
Palacios 361.972.2585
Port Arthur 409.726.8000
Ranger 254.629.6188
Rising Star 254.629.6703
Roby 325.776.2261
San Angelo 325.659.5900
Southlake 817.410.2915
Spring 346.328.6910
Stephenville 254.965.5036
Sweetwater 325.235.6600
Tomball 281.516.7835
Trent 325.862.6121
Trophy Club 817.329.8615
Vidor 409.769.5413
Waxahachie 972.723.7150
Weatherford 817.598.2600
Willis 936.890.3500
Willow Park 817.598.2780

1000 Forest Park Blvd., Suite 200

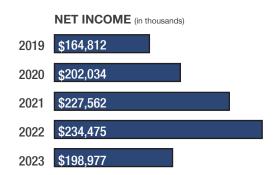
24080 Hwy 59 North, Suite 200

San Angelo 222 S. Koenigheim Street 325.659.5987

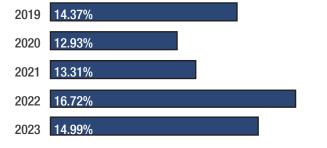
Stephenville 2201 W. South Loop 254.918.6262

#### Sweetwater 201 Elm Street 325.235.6644

IN THOUSANDS (except for share data)				IN THOUSANDS (except for share data)			
FOR THE YEAR	2023	2022	% INCREASE	AT YEAR-END	2023	2022	% INCREASE
Net Income	\$198,977	\$234,475	(15.14%)	Assets	\$13,105,594	\$12,974,066	1.01%
Diluted Earnings (PER SHARE)	\$1.39	\$1.64	(15.24%)	Securities	\$4,732,762	\$5,474,359	(13.55%)
Dividends Declared	\$101,396	\$94,205	7.63%	Loans, HFI	\$7,148,791	\$6,441,868	10.97%
Dividends (PER SHARE)	\$0.71	\$0.66	7.58%	Deposits	\$11,138,300	\$11,005,507	1.21%
KEY RATIOS				Shareholders' Equity	\$1,498,900	\$1,265,737	18.42%
Return On Avg. Assets	1.55%	1.76%		Book Value Per Share	\$10.50	\$8.87	18.38%
Return On Avg. Equity	14.99%	16.72%		Trust Assets (Book Value)	\$7,549,787	\$6,927,335	8.99%
Year-End Equity/Assets	11.44%	9.76%		Trust Assets (Market Value)			11 700/
Efficiency	47.26%	42.80%			\$9,781,326	\$8,754,948	11.72%

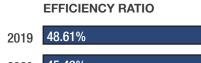


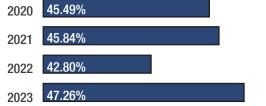




#### **AVERAGES - FOR THE YEAR**

Assets	\$12,861,262	\$13,286,671	(3.20%)
Securities	\$5,098,043	\$6,318,806	(19.32%)
Loans	\$6,784,352	\$5,923,594	14.53%
Deposits	\$10,820,730	\$11,019,523	(1.80%)
Shareholders' Equity	\$1,327,827	\$1,402,104	(5.30%)





#### **SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

IN THOUSANDS (except for share data)

YEAR-END	TOTAL ASSETS	SHAREHOLDERS' Equity	NET INCOME
2014	\$5,848,202	\$681,537	\$89,559
2015	\$6,665,070	\$804,986	\$100,381
2016	\$6,809,931	\$837,885	\$104,774
2017	\$7,254,715	\$922,768	\$120,371
2018	\$7,731,854	\$1,053,295	\$150,638
2019	\$8,262,227	\$1,227,197	\$164,812
2020	\$10,904,500	\$1,678,190	\$202,034
2021	\$13,102,461	\$1,759,224	\$227,562
2022	\$12,974,066	\$1,265,737	\$234,475
2023	\$13,105,594	\$1,498,900	\$198,977
Ten-Year Compound Growth Rate	8.40%	8.20%	8.31%

Adjusted for stock dividends and splits

#### 2023 COMMON STOCK MARKET VALUE AND DIVIDEND DATA

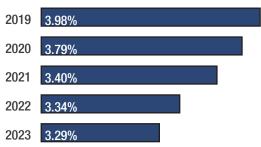
QUARTER	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	DIVIDENDS
Fourth	\$31.58	\$22.84	\$30.30	\$0.18
Third	\$33.06	\$22.86	\$25.12	\$0.18
Second	\$32.26	\$25.01	\$28.49	\$0.18
First	\$38.24	\$27.54	\$31.90	\$0.17

#### 2022 COMMON STOCK MARKET VALUE AND DIVIDEND DATA

QUARTER	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	DIVIDENDS
Fourth	\$46.08	\$32.53	\$34.40	\$0.17
Third	\$47.26	\$38.72	\$41.83	\$0.17
Second	\$45.02	\$37.47	\$39.27	\$0.17
First	\$53.62	\$44.09	\$44.12	\$0.15

DILUTED EARNINGS (per share)	CASH DIVIDENDS (per share)	STOCK Dividends And splits	YEAR-END BOOK VALUE (per share)	YEAR-END MARKET VALUE (per share)
\$0.70	\$0.28	2/1 split	\$5.32	\$14.94
\$0.78	\$0.31	_	\$6.10	\$15.09
\$0.80	\$0.35	_	\$6.34	\$22.60
\$0.91	\$0.38	_	\$6.97	\$22.53
\$1.11	\$0.41	_	\$7.77	\$28.85
\$1.21	\$0.47	2/1 split	\$9.03	\$35.10
\$1.42	\$0.51	_	\$11.80	\$36.17
\$1.59	\$0.58	_	\$12.34	\$50.84
\$1.64	\$0.66	_	\$8.87	\$34.40
\$1.39	\$0.71	_	\$10.50	\$30.30
7.10%	9.76%	_	7.04%	7.33%

#### **NET INTEREST MARGIN**



#### **RETURN ON AVERAGE ASSETS**







**RONALD D. BUTLER II** Chairman and CEO, Abilene



MARELYN SHEDD President, Abilene ABILENE MAIN OFFICE 400 Pine St. Abilene, TX 79601 | 325.627.7200

"We are proud to report that the Abilene Region had one of the strongest years of loan growth in recent history, with loans expanding by 15.3%. Total deposits grew by 8.4%. and we far exceeded our net new account growth goal for the year, ending with more than 2,800 net new accounts. Other highlights of the year included the origination of 123 loans that provided new homes in our low-income neighborhoods.

The bank was also involved in financial literacy classes with the following organizations: Abilene Housing Authority, Big Country Re-entry Coalition, Ambler Baptist Church, Faithworks of Abilene, and Wealth Empowers the People.

With the recent passage of the \$52 million bond, our community is poised for transformative growth. The infusion of funds promises not only infrastructural enhancements but also heightened economic activity, paving the way for prosperity. Additionally, the burgeoning success of our school districts serves as a beacon of educational excellence, attracting families and businesses alike. As Abilene thrives, so does First Financial Bank, committed to fostering financial stability and growth for all.

In the Sweetwater division of our region, residents voted in favor a \$49.5 million school district bond to provide a new high school Career Technology Education center and gym complex, tennis court relocation, roof repairs and replacements, and increased security and safety.

Sweetwater also added several new homes in the recently completed Creekside Addition and welcomed several new retailers to the community.

Our Eastland division welcomed several new restaurants in 2023. The manufacturing sector remains a strong contributor to the local economy, and new home construction is underway in two new residential neighborhoods. First Financial Bank of Eastland also participated in financial literacy education for Ranger College students."

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>
Dec. 31, 2022	\$4,135,986	\$1,497,188	\$3,195,695	\$65,025	1.58%	38.73%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$4,227,231	\$1,726,726	\$3,464,682	\$52,502	1.29%	45.06%

Joe Crawford

Mike Denny

President

Principal

Abilene Aero, Inc.

Batjer and Associates

Murray Edwards

The Edwards Group

President

#### **Abilene Senior Officers**

Ronald D. Butler II Chairman and CEO Marelyn Shedd President	Kyle Seaton Executive Vice President Director of Corporate Treasury Patty Fuentes Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer	Marshall Morris Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager Evan Harris Executive Vice President Real Estate Banking					
Abilene Regional Board of Directors							

#### Ronald D. Butler II Chairman and CEO Marelyn Shedd

President

Katie Alford President and CEO Community Foundation of Abilene

Paul Cannon Shareholder President, McMahon, Surovik, Suttle, P.C.

David L. Copeland President, Sipco, Inc. and Shelton Family Foundation

Mark Colman President Rentech Boiler Systems Inc. Mortgage Lending Dayton Borger Senior Vice President Vanessa Faz Senior Vice President Jim Goldston Senior Vice President

**Executive Vice President** 

Janet O'Dell

Geoff Haney Investments \*I ead Director

Brad Holland President and CEO Hendrick Health System

Landon Hammond

Brad Magers

Shav Minor

Patricia Patlan

Senior Vice President

Senior Vice President

Senior Vice President

Kirk Massey Investments

Stanley Morris, Jr. Investments

Corie O'Connor Senior Vice Presiden Ryan Parrish Senior Vice President Fernando Quintana Senior Vice President Steve Waller Senior Vice President Senior Vice President

> Tyler Sitzes President

Sitzes Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Leigh Taliaferro, M.D.

Physician

Anthony Williams Executive Director of Intercultural Engagement & Belonging Abilene Christian University

#### Eastland Senior Officers

Candi Kanady President, Eastland Division **Derrick Saucedo** Senior Vice President Senior Relationship Manager

#### **Eastland Division Directors**

Candi Kanady President, Eastland Division Devin Koenig Owner and CEO Plexus Healthcare

Marelyn Shedd President, Abilene Region

Jim Moylan, Jr. Vice President

Jim Farrar Attorney \*Lead Director

Russ Thomason Attornev

Motec, Ltd.

Jim Keffer President EBAA Iron Sales, Inc.

#### Sweetwater Senior Officers

Joseph Crouch	Thea Hernandez	Justin Rosson
President, Sweetwater Division	Senior Vice President	Senior Vice Pres
Debbie Anthony Senior Vice President	Justin Holland Senior Vice President	

#### **Sweetwater Division Directors**

Joseph Crouch President, Sweetwater Division

Marelyn Shedd President, Abilene Region

Donna J. Boatright Healthcare and **Quality Consultant** 

Jeff Branson

#### General Partner Williamson-Branson Real Estate

**Chevenne Smith** Managing Member West Texas Rock Resources, LLC

Jay Lawrence

MAL Enterprises, Inc.

May & Hrbacek CPAs

Thomas L. Rees, Jr.

Rees, Rees, & Fuller

President

\*Lead Director

Larry May

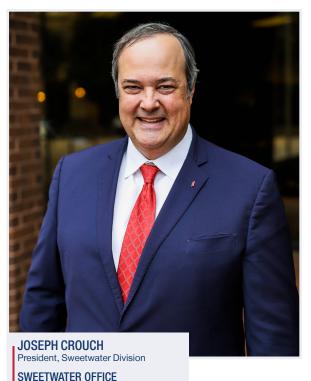
Attorneys

Partner

Abilene Region | Annual Report 2023 | 24



President, Eastland Division **EASTLAND OFFICE** 201 E. Main St. Eastland, TX 76448 | 254.629.6100



or Vice President

201 Elm St. Sweetwater, TX 79556 | 325.235.6600

#### Bryan I College Station I Franklin **BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION**



President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 2445 Harvey Mitchell Pkwy. S. College Station, TX 77840 | 979.260.2100

"Our region experienced growth in many areas in 2023 and made several pivotal moves to enable us to accomplish future goals.

We opened our new offices on Harvey Mitchell Parkway South in College Station, where we moved trust, mortgage, commercial lending, and retail services. With this move, we had the strongest new account growth we have seen, surpassing our best year by 116% as a region, with 26% of this growth coming from our new Harvey Mitchell location.

We recruited the premier mortgage team in the Bryan/College Station area to ensure we have the resources and expertise to serve our growing communities. Since joining, they have brought new customer referrals, contributing to our annual growth.

We converted our Robertson County loan production office into a full-service branch on the square in downtown Franklin, adding a strong retail team and the two best lenders in the Robertson County area. This location guickly brought in deposits and new accounts.

First Financial Bank of Bryan/College Station was proud to receive The Eagle Reader's Choice awards for Best Bank/Credit Union and Best Place to Work.

The stability and strength of our company's balance sheet and our treasury management resources have positioned us well for future growth. I am excited about 2024 in Bryan/College Station. We have the right front-line lenders and retail teams behind us to be successful."

Dera Thompson

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>
Dec. 31, 2022	\$989,421	\$483,610	\$732,859	\$15,439	1.45%	40.59%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$1,014,522	\$482,983	\$769,368	\$10,811	1.12%	53.20%

#### Senior Officers

Timothy N. Bryan Chairman	Jerry E. Fox Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer	J. Cal McNeill Executive Vice Presider
Nora Thompson President and CEO	Austin W. Bryan Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager	Justin Kleiber Senior Vice President

R. Sid Cauthorn

President

## ent

Senior Vice President Robert Olivarez, Jr. Senior Vice President

Melanie N. Motlev

Justen Salcido Senior Vice President

**Dell Seiter** 

Senior Vice President Mortgage Lending

**Regional Board of Directors** 

Timothy N. Bryan Chairman of the Board \*Lead Director

Nora Thompson President and CEO

Brian Barrett President Kurten Farms, Ltd.

Westex Bancorp Ronnie L. Craig Shareholder

Thompson, Derrig & Craig CPAs Charles A. Ellison

Attorney at Law President and Founder, The Ellison Law Firm

Bobby Gutierrez President Gutierrez Ventures, Inc.

Lawrence B. Hodges Jr. President H&B Investments, LP

Stephen Lee South Texas Area Banking Executive Sarah Miller Broker Engel & Volkers, BCS

William L. Rayburn, M.D. Chair. Baylor Scott & White Holdings hysician Executive Advisor, College Station Region

**Russell Phillips** Executive Vice President Chris Schietnan

**Regional Board of Directors** 

Austin Elsner Chairman, President and CEO

Cathy Altman Partner Carrington Coleman, LLP

**Ray Beavers** Ray Beavers Consulting, LLC

"Our Credo states that we are professional bankers building relationships and serving our communities. In 2023 the Cleburne Region made more than 1,600 small business and consumer loans in Johnson and Ellis Counties. Many of these loans were made to first-time home buyers who will go on to purchase goods in the communities, pay taxes, serve on local charitable organization boards, and ultimately make a positive contribution to our communities.

Our customers generously rewarded our efforts by naming Kim Hamilton the Best Loan Officer in Johnson County. Kim Hamilton celebrated her 40th anniversary with the bank in May 2023. With tenured leaders like Kim, it is no surprise First Financial Bank won Best Place to Work in Johnson County! As more families move to North Texas, both Johnson and Ellis Counties have seen tremendous growth. We are fortunate to have wonderful clients who recognize the importance of partnering with a local bank. One of those partners in Ellis County, Elmwood Homes, named First Financial and Alecia Bland Bank of the Year.

We are trusted. This simple statement is the basis for number 19 of our 21 Non-Negotiables, which we review company-wide daily. This statement and belief allowed First Financial Bank to emerge from the challenges the financial industry faced in the first quarter of 2023. Trust is not freely given and is a culmination of action over time. It is our pleasure to serve YOU, our customers, today and in the future."

Austri Ilanen

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	EFFICIENCY RATIO
Dec. 31, 2022	\$808,458	\$317,372	\$724,481	\$11,373	1.51%	45.94%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$912,976	\$358,071	\$818,903	\$9,332	1.22%	50.48%

#### Senior Officers

Austin Elsner Chairman, President and CEO

Jaye Weishuhn Senior Vice President Chief Operations Officer

Alecia Bland Senior Vice President

Executive Vice President

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares. Inc.

Robert Childress III Owner Childress Engineers

Mark Hill Utility Construction Consultant

#### Cleburne | Burleson | Alvarado | Midlothian | Waxahachie **CLEBURNE REGION**



Chairman, President and CEO MAIN OFFICE

200 N. Ridgeway Dr. Cleburne, TX 76033 | 817.202.3156

Kim Hamilton Senior Vice President

Max Price Senior Vice President John Saenz Senior Vice President

Stacey Sloan Senior Vice President

Tim Lyness Co-Owner Lyness Construction, LP \*Lead Directo

Marcus Morris President and CEO Fort Worth Region

Jack Scott Partner Bell-Scott Insurance Group

George Williams, Jr. Williams & Williams Chicken, LLC



G. Bart Griffith

Guy Barker

Shelley Dacus

President and CEO

Kingwood Region

Chris deMilliano

Candyce F. Dixon

\*Lead Director

CPA

**Operations Manager** 

Steely Lumber Company

Senior Vice President

President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 1800 W. White Oak Terrace Conroe, TX 77304 | 936.760.1888

"The Conroe Region is proud to have gained market share in 2023. We generated more than \$200 million in new loan production over the year, and new account growth has remained strong.

Montgomery and Walker Counties are among the fastest-growing areas in Texas and the nation. Our local school districts are growing at a rapid pace, with Conroe Independent School District planning eight additional schools for 2024. The City of Conroe, in a joint venture with Hyatt, opened a new 250-key Hyatt Regency, with 38,000 square feet of meeting room space. Further, at least five master planned communities are being developed in the area.

We are extremely proud of the growth in our ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) and Affordable Home Mortgage Programs to help finance homes in our low-income neighborhoods. We have partnered with the Montgomery County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals to facilitate our success. Further, we have hosted numerous events educating realtors and potential home buyers to assist in their dreams of home ownership.

With the dedicated and professional bankers here serving our community, we are excited about 2024. Our Conroe team lives out our 21 service Non-Negotiables every day."



IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>
Dec. 31, 2022	\$1,053,764	\$601,396	\$893,098	\$15,910	1.56%	45.28%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$1,030,728	\$631,936	\$875,589	\$16,172	1.53%	48.00%

#### Senior Officers

Chris Baughman President and CEO

Lee Warren Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer

Sam W. Baker

Chris Baughman

President and CEO

Donnie Buckalew

Buckalew Chevrolet

Owner

Chairman of the Board

**Regional Board of Directors** 

Bobby Brennan Executive Vice President Senior Vice President Mortgage Lending Senior Relationship Manager

> **Billy Brannon** Senior Vice President

> > Dan Dominey

**DBD** Interests

Ernst Jewelers

Stephen Lee

South Texas Area

**Banking Executive** 

Robert C. Ernst Jr.

Owner

Owner

Fernando Castellanos Senior Vice President

Jamie McBee

Physician

Robert Pate

**Retired President** 

Senior Vice President

Senior Vice President

Carissa Parker Senior Vice President

Kyle Whisenhunt Senior Vice President

Cody Sundbeck

Stephen Lee Weaver

Senior Vice President

Randy Roan

John Sebastian President Conroe Golf Cars

Johnny Peet Jr., M.D. Physician Woodlands Gynecology & Aesthetics PLLC

First Financial Bank, Huntsville

Curtis Montgomery, M.D.

Owner Commercial Construction

"Each morning before the doors open, our Fort Worth team gets together to remind each other of our vision, mission, and 21 Non-Negotiables that guide everything we do. These meetings are not just so we can check a box - they have become part of the fabric of who we are. As Fort Worth and Tarrant County continue their rapid growth, our team continues to deliver our way of banking. There has never been a more exciting time to be in Fort Worth, and we are delighted to be in the middle of all the excitement!

Over 2023, we made tremendous progress towards becoming the undisputed leader in the financial industry (our vision). Our ITIN and Affordable Home Loan Programs continue to put First Financial Bank on the map as a leader in our market. Since rolling out these programs, we have originated 175 loans for more than \$42 million, putting many families in their first homes. We are committed to leadership surrounding affordable housing in DFW.

During 2023, other banks in our market were forced to the sidelines due to rapid interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve. Naturally, this had an impact on business owners, investors, and residents. The Fort Worth Region, with the help of our local board members, used this uncertainty in the market as an opportunity to prove we have something different to offer. Our service philosophy of exceeding our customers' expectations resulted in more than 500 net new accounts across all of Fort Worth. Our bankers were ready to serve our community as they made \$245 million in new loans, with an average loan size of \$297 thousand. These loans were spread across our entire community to help families buy their first homes, businesses grow, and support investors who were making meaningful impacts in Fort Worth."



IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	EFFICIENCY RATIO
Dec. 31, 2022	\$405,277	\$398,247	\$154,869	\$5,025	3.40%	39.89%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$501,301	\$494,757	\$154,586	\$3,535	2.13%	52.26%

#### Senior Officers

Marcus Morris President and CEO David Moor **Executive Vice President** 

Carley Dyck

Matthew Sylvia Executive Vice President

Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Vianei Lopez Braun Chair of the Board Chief Development Officer Decker Jones, P.C. \*Lead Director

Marcus Morris President and CEO

Larry Anfin K&L Enterprises, Inc Smith A. Brownlie III CPA and Co-Founder Brownlie & Braden

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Mary Lee Cruz Retired

#### FORT WORTH REGION



President and CEO

MAIN OFFICE 1000 Forest Park Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76110 | 817.410.4970

Craig Zemarkowitz Executive Vice President

Hesper Derrick Senior Vice President Pamela Terry Senior Vice President

Murray Edwards Principal, The Edwards Group

Susan Miller Gruppi Co-Founder M2G Ventures

Tim Lyness Co-Owner Lyness Construction, LP

Matt Morris Area President HUB Fort Worth Hub International Texas

Mitchell J. Moses Partner Duane Morris LLP

#### **HEREFORD REGION**



HEREFORD OFFICERS MAIN OFFICE 212 E. Third St Hereford, TX 79045 | 806.363.8200

The Hereford team was responsive and adaptable in 2023, stepping up when the community needed us most. Our region grappled with unprecedented rainfall in 2023, leading to severe flooding in the Texas Panhandle. A significant downpour in June submerged many areas of the community and several local feedyards, leaving cattle stranded. Quick action from community leaders and local cowboys to rescue cattle played a critical role in protecting peoples' livelihoods. Our dedicated and professional bankers supported the recovery efforts by partnering with the Red Cross to help provide essential supplies to those impacted and meals to volunteers.

Throughout the year, our region embraced numerous opportunities to meet challenges head-on. Our continued focus on our ITIN and Affordable Home Loan programs, offering customers a path to realize their homeownership dreams with reduced down payments and flexible term options. We take pride having originated more than \$63 million in new loans, resulting in the substantial growth of our loan portfolio by more than \$16 million.

Our community looks forward to new development in 2024. A state-of-the-art \$6.5 million outdoor multi-use sports complex is under construction in Hereford and is anticipated to be completed by mid-2024. This facility is poised to become a premier tournament destination for baseball and softball teams across the Texas Panhandle and beyond.

Our gratitude extends to our customers who honored us with the title of Best Bank in Deaf Smith County for 2023 and recognized us for serving the Best Complimentary Cup of Coffee. With the ongoing expansion of our region, First Financial Bank eagerly anticipates opportunities in 2024 to offer the best service to our customers and community."

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>
Dec. 31, 2022	\$219,534	\$151,794	\$174,287	\$6,397	3.07%	43.81%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$184,726	\$171,050	\$149,609	\$3,860	2.00%	43.13%

#### Senior Officers

Robert de la Cruz **Executive Vice President** Senior Relationship Manager

Carley Dyck **Executive Vice President** Chief Operations Officer

Vice President Zach Lauer Vice President Devi Veliz Vice President

Johnathan Jeter

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Michael Carlson Farmer/Rancher, C Bar 2 Cattle

Mike Mauldin Director, Excellence in Banking Texas Tech University

Steve Lewis, D.V.M.

Consulting Veterinarian

Hereford Veterinary Clinic

Sally Novce Human Resources Manager Panhandle Express, LLC

Jerry Stevens Owner, Stevens 5-Star Car and Truck Center

Johnny E. Trotter President and CEO Livestock Investors, Ltd

\*Lead Director

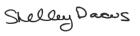
"In 2023, the Kingwood Region demonstrated robust performance, marked by remarkable loan growth that significantly contributed to our earnings. The region's expansive footprint covering Kingwood, Fulshear, El Campo, and Palacios provides tremendous opportunity stretching across the greater Houston area.

The region's many successes and achievements are attributable to our loval customers, dedicated professionals, and active board members. Our surge in account acquisitions stands as a testament to our commitment to expanding our client base and fostering enduring relationships with our communities. The El Campo office produced the strongest loan and account growth in El Campo's history.

The bank's focus on ITIN and Affordable Home Loan lending has been successful in highlighting our dedication to meeting the diverse financial needs of our communities. Realtor engagement and educational presentations have helped First Financial Bank in serving underbanked areas.

Many of the suburbs around our branches are vibrant and sought-after residential hubs. Fulshear/South Brookshire/Simonton communities were nationally recognized for the greatest percentage of home purchases in 2023. Kingwood was rated the second friendliest American neighborhood by All Star Home. Palacios ISD is nearing completion of its two new schools serving K-12. El Campo-based MidCoast Health system expanded in Trinity, TX.

Over the past two years, the Houston region has set records for job growth, construction starts, sales tax collections and port traffic. The region continued to create jobs and attract business from across the globe. Energy transitions and consolidations by the major oil companies will be a positive for 2024. The region has strong potential for companies and professionals seeking a thriving ecosystem conducive to both personal and professional success."



IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	EFFICIENCY RATIO
Dec. 31, 2022	\$621,737	\$547,389	\$519,550	\$12,830	1.90%	38.49%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$603,553	\$672,585	\$494,232	\$14,224	2.39%	40.76%

#### **Senior Officers**

Shelley Dacus President and CEO	Lee Warren Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer	Brian Bon Executive
Jeff Fuechec Executive Vice President Market President, El Campo	James Alexander Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager	Brandon Z Executive

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Robert C. Nickles Jr. Chirman of the Board Founder, Executive Chairman Alegacy Group, LLC \*Lead Director

Shellev Dacus

President and CEC

Chris Baughman President and CEO Conroe Region

Michael Gonzalez Principa The Gonzalez Group Angela Leviner

Vice President PAL Realty Inc.

Hereford Region | Annual Report 2023 | 30

## **KINGWOOD REGION**



President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 24080 Hwy 59 N Kingwood, TX 77339 | 281.318.4600

nner e Vice President

Zabodyn e Vice Presiden Keith Arrighetti Senior Vice President

Isaias Machica Senior Vice President Nancy Powell Senior Vice President

Anita Rod Senior Vice President

Stephen Lee South Texas Area Banking Executive

Adam McAlpine Owner and President McAlpine Interests

Lance McIntyre President DMAC Construction & Development, Inc.

Blake Poutra Managing Partner & Principal Big Enrichment

Rebekah Shipman President & CEO Reservoir Data System



**CHRIS EVATT** Chairman, President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 222 S. Koenigheim St. San Angelo, TX 76903 | 325.659.5900

"The San Angelo region enjoyed continued momentum in 2023. We had increased loans, deposits, and net new accounts. We were extremely proud of the growth, as all banks focused on deposit growth and increased liquidity. The latest deposit share report for Tom Green County shows the San Angelo region in the top spot with 33.48% of the total market share, which is up from 30.19% in 2022.

San Angelo is experiencing economic growth, which will continue as the I-14 and I-27 interstate projects advance and gain traction. Several new and exciting community projects were completed or began construction during the year. Shannon Medical Center completed its Oncology Center. Two local technology companies purchased the old Sitel building, which is being converted into class A office space under the new name, Technology Towers. Skyline Aviation began rehabilitating the old GTE hanger at the San Angelo Airport to house a new firstclass private jet terminal and flight training school for the Angelo State University commercial aviation program. It's an exciting time to serve San Angelo's banking needs.

We partnered with local businesses and organizations to provide financial education for the community. In October, we joined Angelo State University and Cyber Texas to host a cybersecurity and fraud awareness seminar. Another exciting event was a partnership with the newly formed Minority Alliance Network Organization to host and teach credit classes for their membership.

The bank is participating in two residential lot developments located in underserved areas of San Angelo, which will provide new affordable housing options. We continued to focus on our programs to increase the number of home loans financed in predominantly minority neighborhoods. We stand ready to finance these homes with our VA and FHA, secondary market, in-house, ITIN and Affordable Home Loan programs."



IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	EFFICIENCY RATIO
Dec. 31, 2022	\$1,116,134	\$326,196	\$979,710	\$16,974	1.54%	35.15%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$1,147,360	\$331,799	\$1,009,224	\$13,197	1.16%	42.90%

#### Senior Officers

Chris Evatt	Orlando Lara
Chairman, President and CEO	Senior Vice President
Luke Uherik	Wes Masters

Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager

Senior Vice President Mortgage Lending

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Chris Evatt Chairman, President and CEO

Liz Albert Attorney Beesley & Albert, PLLC Ana Artecona Vice President and **Chief Financial Officer** The Housley Group Ronnie Hawkins

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares, Inc. CEO. Hawkins Group

Steve Eustis Commercial Real Estate \*Lead Director

President, Angelo State University

Reagon Noble, D.D.S., M.S. Noble McClintock Orthodontics

**Carlos Rodriguez** Attorney Webb, Stokes and Sparks Mary Jane Steadman Attorney, Real Estate Investment

Management

Chairman and CEO Ronald D. Butler II

Stephen Lee

Dr. Snehal Doshi CEO Millennium Medical Group

Jim Gilliam First Financial Bankshares, Inc. Partner and Chairman, The HT Group

Dayna Simmons CEO/Broker Dayna Simmons Real Estate \*I ead Director

John Gothia County Judge Orange County, Texas

Gary Gragg Retired First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Owner and CEO, Bates & Co.

"In 2023, our region capitalized on opportunities created by a vibrant regional economy and the opening of our newest branch in Lumberton, Texas, which has surpassed all expectations, delivering record-setting growth in its first year. The branch has successfully captured a significant market share, attracting both personal and business customers by generating innovative banking solutions and successfully executing our Customer Service First philosophy.

Throughout the year, our region has experienced steady growth in loan and deposit portfolios. By effectively managing credit risk and maintaining strong relationships with our customers, we have achieved solid loan growth across various sectors, including commercial, real estate, and consumer loans, Additionally, our deposit base has expanded, reflecting the trust and confidence our customers have placed in us and a relentless regional focus on this crucial funding source for our business.

We have successfully improved the bank's net interest margin by implementing cost-effective strategies and optimizing our asset allocation. Our focus on risk-adjusted pricing and winning lower-cost deposits has contributed to this margin enhancement, enabling the bank to achieve a healthy balance between risk and return.

We are delighted to announce new leadership appointments. Blaine Caillier has been promoted to the position of President of our Southeast Texas Region. With his exceptional leadership skills, extensive industry experience, and deep understanding of the local market, we are confident that Blaine will drive further growth in our region. Additionally, we promoted David LeJeune as our new Mid County Market President. David's proven track record in relationship management, business development, and community engagement makes him the ideal candidate to strengthen our presence in the Mid County area and enable us to better serve the financial needs of our customers."

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>	
Dec. 31, 2022	\$945,940	\$633,436	\$802,914	\$19,841	2.03%	39.22%	
Dec. 31, 2023	\$1,012,947	\$696,539	\$862,824	\$18,073	1.82%	40.05%	
Senior Officers							

Stephen Lee	David LeJeune
Chairman and CEO	Market President, Mid County
Blaine Caillier	TJ Lingle
President	Market President, Hardin Cour

Lee Warren lardin Countv

Joe Love

**Regional Board of Directors** 

Jessica Hill CEcD Vice President Entergy Texas, Inc.

#### Orange | Vidor | Mauriceville | Newton | Port Arthur | Beaumont | Lumberton SOUTHEAST TEXAS REGION





**BLAINE CAILLIER** President

MAIN OFFICE 912 N 16th St Orange, TX 77630 | 800.300.8904

Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager

**Executive Vice President** Chief Operations Officer

Kim Dickerson Senior Vice President

Rebecca Doucet Senior Vice President Cindi LaChance Senior Vice President Mortgage Lending

Lani White Senior Vice President

Connie Browning Senior Vice President

Chad Mason Vice President Mason Construction

Dr. Ray Callas Managing Partner Anesthesia Associates, PLLC

Kevin Williams President Cypress Bayou Industrial

**Jim Wimberlev** Attornev Law Offices of Jim Wimberlev



SHELBY BRUHN Chairman, President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 151 W. Southlake Blvd. Southlake, TX 76092 | 817.410.2915

"2023 was such an impactful year for the Southlake Region. To witness our employees serve our customers and communities with passion and purpose is powerful. Their willingness to selflessly serve others is exemplified in so many ways and through various civic avenues. One of my personal favorites is when we all serve together in our annual bike build, assembling bicycles for underprivileged children in our surrounding communities on our annual Day of Service.

Because of their continued commitment to service, our region and employees are continually recognized for their many contributions. From a 40 Under 40 recipient, to a Citizen of the Year winner, to being recognized as the Best Bank in Tarrant County for the 10th year in a row by Society Life, our team continues to exceed expectations both in the office and in the areas we so thankfully serve. The opportunity to be part of the Southlake Region team is humbling and a joy.

Our continued commitment to excellence is vital as northeast Tarrant County continues to serve as a bright spot in the Texas economy overall and a bright spot for our bank, more specifically. With growth throughout the region, our employees performed admirably, delivering solid net income, meaningful loan growth, strong credit quality, and an increase in net new accounts. Each of these milestones helped foster a truly successful 2023 and allow us to look forward to 2024 with eager anticipation of what the future holds for our Southlake Region."

Stelling D. Brach

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>
Dec. 31, 2022	\$1,028,601	\$588,591	\$925,166	\$17,068	1.64%	40.59%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$950,760	\$611,664	\$840,501	\$14,097	1.41%	45.01%

#### **Senior Officers**

Shelby Bruhn Chairman, President and CEO	Carley Dyck Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer
F. Mills Shallene	Isbet Najera
Market President, Wise County	Executive Vice President

Chris Cregger ecutive Vice President Senior Vice President ief Operations Officer

Tracie Talkington Senior Vice President

President

Retired

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Shelby Bruhn Chairman, President and CEO

Traci Bernard President Texas Health Southlake

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Senior Relationship Mananger

William Rav Cook, Jr., CPA Cook McDonald & Company

T. Mikal Darden Greater Metroplex Interiors Inc.

J. Bruce Hildebrand, CPA First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Martin W. Schelling Conifer Real Estate \*Lead Director

Terry Wilkinson

Wyndham Properties, Ltd.

Berry White Attorney Berry White Law Firm, PLLC "First Financial Bank is well positioned for opportunity in the growing communities of Stephenville, Granbury, and Glen Rose. The entire Stephenville Region continues to benefit economically from Tarleton State University's growth. Tarleton reached record enrollment for the fourth-consecutive year while finalizing its transition into Division-I athletics and breaking ground on new buildings.

As one of the company leaders in net new account growth, the Stephenville Region continues to build new consumer and business relationships as people relocate to rural Texas. Granbury is preparing for the addition of Lakeview Landing, a planned development consisting of multi-family units, single-family lots, senior living, retail, restaurants, and a hotel. The new runway expansion at Granbury Regional Airport became fully operational this year, and construction of a new private jet terminal is coming soon. Lake Granbury Medical Center recently broke ground on a \$15 million emergency facility with completion expected in mid-2024. To fulfill a growing need for housing in the popular Glen Rose ISD, two large residential developments were introduced to Somervell County in 2023. The added population growth has attracted new restaurants.

Our employees serve as civic leaders in our vibrant, local communities. First Financial Bank of Stephenville was again recognized in the Stephenville Empire Tribune's Best of Erath Awards as Best Bank and Best Mortgage, and Trent Tidwell was awarded Best Loan Officer. We recently partnered with Stephenville Economic Development Corporation (STEDCO) in a loan program designed to support small businesses. Our dedicated team continues to strengthen relationships through customer service with an educational emphasis on fraud prevention. We are also planning presentations on financial literacy at local schools in the coming year.

Come see for yourself what is so attractive about rural living in and near the Cowboy Capital of the World."

Whent Dwearenge

IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	EFFICIENCY RATIO
Dec. 31, 2022	\$991,755	\$374,959	\$868,081	\$13,671	1.43%	43.60%
Dec. 31, 2023	\$985,453	\$398,652	\$869,191	\$12,415	1.24%	47.13%

#### Senior Officers

**Trent Swearengin** Bart Rodgers Chairman, President and CEO Market President, Granbury Vickie Pettit Blayne Baley Market President, Glen Rose

**Executive Vice President** Chief Operations Officer

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Trent Swearengin Chairman, President and CEO

Justin Culberson Culberson Construction, LLC

Walter Hardin III

Keith Brown Prime Building Components, LLC

**Real Estate Investments** 

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares. Inc.

Southlake Region | Annual Report 2023 | 34

## STEPHENVILLE REGION



MAIN OFFICE 2201 W. South Loop Stephenville, TX 76401 | 254.965.5036

Trent Tidwell Executive Vice President Senior Relationship Manager

Doug Dobbins Senior Vice President

Wendell Hollingsworth Industry and Economic Development

West Jones Ranching and Investments Doug Montgomery Texstar Kubota, Inc

Ron Pack Ranching and Investments \*Lead Directo

#### Weatherford | Aledo | Willow Park | Brock | Mineral Wells WEATHERFORD REGION



**JUSTIN B. HOOPER** Chairman, President and CEO MAIN OFFICE 101 College Park Dr. Weatherford, TX 76086 | 817.598.2600

"Parker and Palo Pinto Counties have experienced fantastic growth over the last several years, and this is readily apparent with the number of new businesses and homes that are being opened or built. We are home to incredible schools and cities and offer a short commute to our larger neighbor of Fort Worth to the east.

Aledo ISD is growing rapidly as subdivisions expand in East Parker County. Among its many accolades, Aledo High School just notched its 12th state football title in 2023. Parker County was ranked the 8th fastest-growing county in the nation according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Vintage 2022 estimates. This growth has assisted our region in obtaining substantial new account growth and strong loan growth in 2023. Part of this loan growth has come as we have helped families moving to the area through our ITIN and Affordable Home Loan programs. Additionally, our region continues to be the market leader, ranking first in deposit market share with Parker and Palo Pinto Counties combined.

The bedrock of our service culture starts with our 21 Customer Service Non-Negotiables that we commit to each and every day. It is this level of service that has contributed to our region being honored by the Weatherford Democrat in their Best of the Best issue for 2023. We were chosen as Best Bank and Best Mortgage Provider in both Parker and Palo Pinto Counties. Additionally, Amber Allen and Kathy Fowler were named Best Banker in Parker and Palo Pinto Counties, respectively.

We look forward to 2024 with great enthusiasm and expectation. As Parker and Palo Pinto Counties continue to grow at a rapid pace, we stand ready to support both new and existing customers alike as they also grow, diversify, and enjoy all that this area of Texas has to offer."



IN THOUSANDS	ASSETS	LOANS	DEPOSITS	NET INCOME	<b>RETURN ON AVG. ASSETS</b>	<b>EFFICIENCY RATIO</b>	
Dec. 31, 2022	\$1,351,417	\$525,307	\$1,158,883	\$22,234	1.65%	39.76%	
Dec. 31, 2023	\$1,309,710	\$576,916	\$1,101,866	\$16,436	1.25%	46.35%	

Paul Bruns

Senior Vice President

#### **Senior Officers**

Justin B. Hooper Chairman, President and CEO Tim Corzine Market President - Mineral Wells

Carley Dyck **Executive Vice President** Chief Operations Officer

> Mike Davis Senior Vice Presiden

**Executive Vice President** Senior Relationship Manager

Amber Allen

#### **Regional Board of Directors**

Justin B. Hooper Chairman, President and CEO

Ronald D. Butler II First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Adam L. Feriend Owner and COO JRJ Construction, Inc \*Lead Director

J. Bruce Hildebrand.CPA Retired First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Mitchel Johnson Vice President of Operations Sacramento Energy Resources

Kerry Kelley President / Director Kerry Kelley, Inc.

Tracev Kirsch Former Director & CEO Electromedical Products International

Kevin R. Lackey President & CEO 2662 Capital

Stephen E. Milliken Former President C.D. Hartnett Company/ McLane Express, Inc.

Jimmie Sue Lawson

Senior Vice President

Mike White, O.D. Retired Therapeutic Optometrist

## **FIRST FINANCIAL MORTGAGE**

The Texas housing market remains resilient and led the nation in new home construction in 2023. While demand for existing homes declined last year due to increased long-term fixed rates, those rates began to drop at year-end, which should lead to increased demand in 2024.

Our mortgage team successfully assisted 1,319 individuals and families with their home financing needs in 2023, totaling \$409 million in originations. We added a new team of seasoned mortgage professionals in our Bryan/College Station region. The team is led by Dell Seiter and is highly regarded and respected by the local real estate community.

First Financial Mortgage is well positioned in growing markets throughout Texas, providing great opportunities for our lending team. Our team of mortgage professionals has a wide array of products to meet customers' real estate needs. We are always ready to assist as you begin your homebuying journey.





#### **Senior Officers**



**Troy Fore** President

Executive Vice President



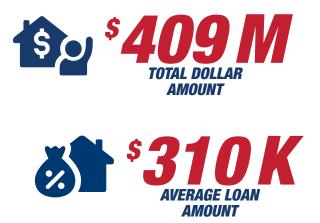


Ryan Craig

Addison

**Bobby Brennan** Senior Vice President Conroe

Irene Green Senior Vice President Austin





Kami Graves Executive Vice President Southlake



Tammie Harding Executive Vice President Fort Worth



Janet O'Dell Executive Vice President Abilene



Cindi LaChance Senior Vice President Southeast Texas



Wes Masters Senior Vice President San Angelo



**Dell Seiter** Senior Vice President Bryan/College Station



## **FIRST TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, INC.**

One of our primary focuses has been fraud prevention. In 2023, we invested in several enhancements to prevent bad actors from gaining access to user logins. These preventative measures had an immediate impact, reducing fraud and protecting customers' personal information

We created a new loan payment experience that offers customers more payment options, making it easier and more convenient to schedule and make online loan payments.

We delivered a new, more modern online and mobile banking dashboard, which is the foundation for ongoing enhancements as we continue to evolve the user experience. We also invested in infrastructure to deliver significant improvements to our online banking system's stability.

In 2024, we will continue to deliver and evolve security, authentication, and authorization technology to protect our customers and the bank. We are investing in state-of-the-art software and fintech solutions that will establish layers of protection, protecting customers and the bank well into the future.

#### Senior Officers





Deposit Operations

John Buzicka Chairman President and CEO

**Isabel Montoya** Cynthia Suarez Executive Vice President **Executive Vice President** Chief Information Security Officer

Maggie Tuschinski

**Executive Vice President** Chief Digital Officer

David Weems Larry Williams Senior Vice President

Senior Vice President **Technical Architecture** 



Help Desk and Network Support

Vice President

Andrea Smiddy-Schlagel **Executive Vice President Treasury Management** First Financial Bank

Trent B. Swearengin Chairman, President and CEO First Financial Bank, Stephenville Region

Clay Trumble Senior Vice President Credit Administration First Financial Bank

Lee Warren Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer First Financial Bank, Conroe Region First Financial Bank, Kingwood Region First Financial Bank, Southeast Texas Region

## LINE OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

#### Marketing:

The marketing team focused on new partnerships and incentives to drive awareness and customer engagement in 2023. We held promotions featuring country music star Aaron Watson and partnered with college athletes, including Behren Morton of Texas Tech University and Anthony Egbo Jr. of Abilene Christian University. We held contests to incentivize new accounts and deposits, including a tuition giveaway to support customers who are in college.

#### Training:

We focused on fraud prevention training in 2023. The retail frontline identified and prevented more than \$4.9 million in fraudulent items presented in teller lines and lobbies. We also conducted FFIN University, a year-long program for mid-management leaders to teach them how to run a high-performing bank. Session topics included national economics, regulation and compliance, presentation skills, handling media inquiries, and professional etiquette

#### **Retail:**

In 2023, we began developing a new platform that simplifies the account opening process, reducing a customer's new account opening experience by at least 15 minutes. It offers a much more streamlined process for both the banker and the customer. Our bankers will now have time to build stronger relationships with customers to offer solutions for their financial needs.

#### Treasury Manangement:

We strengthened our suite of Treasury Management products for our business clients in 2023. We recognize that not one size fits all businesses, so we identified gaps and offered customizable products to meet clients' unique needs. We also updated our international wire service and foreign exchange provider and added multi-currency accounts

#### Consumer Lendina:

Our team served more than 700 new customers in predominantly minority communities in 2023 through our Affordable Home Mortgage and ITIN programs, generating \$140 million. These programs serve customers with \$100,000 or less in household income or those who do not have a social security number. We also helped people take out home equity loans and offered a mortgage product that helps customers buy a home with no down payment.

#### Human Resources:

The Human Resources team has monitored the shifts in the labor market to ensure the company remains competitive. We implemented supplemental coverage that supports employees' physical, mental, and financial well-being. We also launched a dedicated website to increase awareness of our company's career opportunities for military veterans.

#### Customer Care Center:

In the past year, our customer care center managed almost 1.1 million inbound calls and made 275,000 outbound calls to customers. We have undertaken two projects to fortify our fraud prevention measures. The first initiative verifies that a call is coming from the device that owns the number. Our second project implements voice biometrics technology, which involves unique voiceprint identification. These solutions help safeguard customers and our organization against evolving threats.

#### Appraisal Services:

Despite unusual volatility in the real estate market in response to interest rate changes, the Appraisal Department focused on delivering reliable valuations to aid customers in their real estate investment decisions. The credibility of our real estate valuations is essential during periods of fluctuating market conditions. We look forward to increased momentum in 2024.

#### Property Management:

Our property management team led construction on two new branches and two branch remodels in 2023. We opened new branches in Huntsville and College Station, and we remodeled our Trophy Club and Vidor branches. Construction is underway on a new branch on Highway 21 in College Station, set to open in late spring of 2024.



**Michael Greenhaw** Senior Vice President Senior System Analys

#### Directors

John Ruzicka Chairman, President and CEO First Technology Services, Inc. Executive Vice President and CIO First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

April Anthony CEO, VitalCaring Group Managing Partner Anthony Family Investment Partners, LTD.

Ronald D. Butler II **Executive Vice President** Chief Administrative Officer First Financial Bankshares, Inc. Chairman and CEO First Financial Bank, Abilene Region F. Scott Dueser Chairman of the Board, President and CEO First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

**Tony Vargas** 

Senior Vice Presiden

Project Managemen

Carley Dyck Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer First Financial Bank, Fort Worth Region First Financial Bank, Hereford Region First Financial Bank, Southlake Region First Financial Bank, Weatherford Region

Ronnie Hawkins President, Angelo State University CEO. Hawkins Group

**Executive Vice President** Training First Financial Bank

Sammy Scott

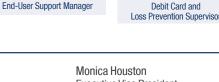
Vice President

Matthew Melbourne **Executive Vice President** Chief Operations Officer First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company

Blake Poutra CEO McAlphine Interests

Michelle S. Hickox Executive Vice President Chief Financial Officer First Financial Bankshares. Inc.

## **FIRST TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**



Laurinda Thomas Vice President

Chief Operations Officer



Megan Dobbs Executive Vice President Advertising and Marketing



Lori Hill Executive Vice President Retail Banking



Michael Wolverton Executive Vice President Consumer Lending



Frank Gioia Senior Vice President Customer Care Center



Monica Houston **Executive Vice President** Training



Andrea Smiddy-Schlagel **Executive Vice President** Treasury Management



Josh Brown Senior Vice President Human Resources



**Brandon Harris** Senior Vice President **Appraisal Services** 



**Gary Milliorn** Vice President Property Manager

## **FIRST FINANCIAL TRUST & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY**



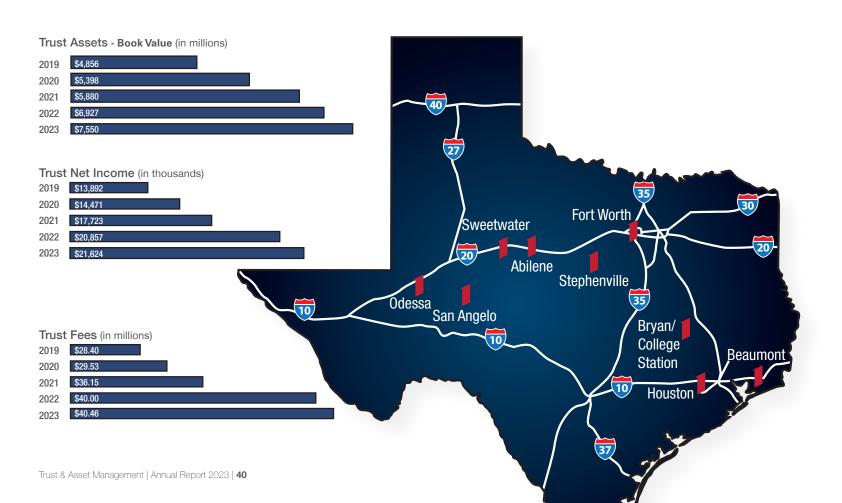
"First Financial Trust & Asset Management Company delivered excellent results in 2023. Total assets under management at year-end had a book value of \$7.5 billion, a 9% increase from \$6.9 billion at the end of 2022. The market value of the assets totaled \$9.8 billion, a gain of 11.7% from \$8.8 billion. For the year, total fee income increased 1.2% to \$40.5 million from \$40 million in 2022, and net earnings after tax increased 3.7% to \$21.6 million from \$20.9 million.

For the year, our revenue from oil and gas management totaled \$6.2 million. This was \$1.2 million less than in 2022 but still stands out as the second-best year for mineral management revenue by over \$1.4 million.

The trust company's investment performance was outstanding. All of our equity portfolios outperformed their respective benchmarks. The best performing portfolio was our Strategic Growth portfolio which had a return of 51.5%, followed by our Core portfolio which had a return of 29%. Both our taxable and tax-free bond portfolios had excellent returns of 7.2% and 5.3%, respectively, also outperforming their benchmarks.

We continue to have good growth in our newest markets in Beaumont, Kingwood, and Bryan/College Station, Our Beaumont office now has assets under management exceeding \$305 million, with Kingwood and Bryan College Station at \$193 million and \$255 million, respectively. Our Bryan/College Station office achieved profitability this year with net income of \$132 thousand, an increase over 2022 of \$242,000. Our pipelines continue to look very promising for excellent growth in these markets going forward."

**KIRK W. THAXTON** Chairman, President and CEO First Financial Trust



#### **Trust Office Managers**





Lon Biebighauser **Regional President** Ahilene

Konrad S. Halbert **Regional President** Fort Worth





Zach Reyes Executive Vice President San Angelo

Bradlev D. Brown Senior Vice President Beaumont

#### **Senior Officers**

Christopher N. Montoya Executive Vice President Manager, Equities

Matthew Melbourne Executive Vice President Chief Operations Officer

Executive Vice President Manager, Fixed Income

> Justin Bryan Senior Vice Presiden

Josh Brown, CPL

Senior Vice President

Manager, Oil and Gas

#### Directors

Bill Rowe

Kirk W. Thaxton Chairman, President and CEO First Financial Trust

Katie Alford President and CEO Abilene Community Foundation

David L. Copeland President SIPCO, Inc. and Shelton Family Foundation F. Scott Dueser Chairman of the Board, President and CEO First Financial Bankshares, Inc.

Jay Lawrence President MAL Enterprises, Inc.

Mark K. Rich **Director of Investments** Kimbell Art Foundation

Susie S. Stalcup Partner Elm Creek Ranch CR106, LLC



David Castleberry Executive Vice President Stenhenville



Wayne Chowning **Executive Vice President** Sweetwate



Brent S. Miller Senior Vice President Kingwood



Jeff Wind Senior Vice President Brvan/College Station

Aubrey Gideon Senior Vice President

Thad Jennings Senior Vice President

Trent Martin Senior Vice President Edward J. McGowan, Jr. Senior Vice President

Belinda Roensch Senior Vice Presiden

Jim Weaver Senior Vice President

#### Advisory Director

John L. Beckham Attorney, Beckham Rector and Eargle LLP



## FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES CORPORATE INFORMATION

## **FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES & FIRST FINANCIAL BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Executive Team**



F. Scott Dueser Chairman of the Board, President and CEO





Ronald D. Butler II **Executive Vice President** Chief Administrative Officer

Luke Longhofer

Executive Vice President

Chief Credit Officer

Javier Jurado

**Executive Vice President** 

Chief Audit Executive



**Executive Vice President** 

Chief Financial Officer

Kyle McVey, CPA

**Executive Vice President** 

Chief Accounting Officer

Keith Morton

Executive Vice President

Credit Administration

**David Bailey** Executive Vice President Chief Banking Officer

Randy Roewe

Executive Vice President

Chief Risk Officer

Mike Parker

Executive Vice President

Chief Compliance Officer



Kirk W. Thaxton Chairman, President and CEO First Financial Trust



John Ruzicka Executive Vice President Chief Information Officer



#### Senior Team



**Rett Everett Executive Vice President** Credit Administration

#### **Corporate Information**

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 Abilene Convention Center 1100 N. Sixth St. Abilene, TX 79601 10:30 a.m., or via livestream at ffin.com/live-events

#### TRANSFER AGENT

Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company 212.509.4000 www.continentalstock.com

FOR FINANCIAL AND INVESTOR INFORMATION: Michelle S. Hickox **Executive Vice President** Chief Financial Officer 325.627.7361

CORPORATE OFFICE 400 Pine St. | Suite 310 Abilene, TX 79601 325.627.7038

SEND CERTIFICATES FOR TRANSFER AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company 1 State Street, 30th floor New York, NY 10004

#### CORPORATE MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 701 Abilene, TX 79604

#### ADDRESS SHAREHOLDER INQUIRIES TO:

Eric Bonnell

Senior Vice President

Enterprise Risk Management

Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company 1 State Street, 30th floor New York, NY 10004

#### INDEPENDENT

PUBLIC AUDITORS Ernst & Young LLP Dallas, TX



#### Directors





F. Scott Dueser Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, First Financial Bankshares Inc. Year: 1991 Committee: 1

**April Anthony** CEO, VitalCaring Group, Managing Partner Anthony Family Investment Partners, LTD. Year: 2015, Committee: 2



**Murray Edwards** Principal The Edwards Group Year: 2006 Committee: 1 4 5 6

Dr. Eli Jones Former Dean of Mays Business School, Professor of Marketing, Lowry and Peggy Mays Eminent Scholar Year: 2022 Committee: 3

Johnny E. Trotter President and CEO Livestock Investors, Ltd. Year: 2003 Committee: 1,3,4

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

- 1. Executive Committee: F. Scott Dueser, Chairman 2. Audit Committee: David L. Copeland, Chairman 3. Compensation Committee: Tim Lancaster, Chairman 4. Nominating/Corporate Governance Committee: Murray Edwards. Chairman 5. Risk Committee: Robert C. Nickles, Jr., Chairman

- 6. Bank Directors' Loan Committee: Murray Edwards, Chairman

Certain statements contained in this annual report may be considered "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the belief of the Company's management, as well as assumptions made beyond information currently available to the Company's management, and may be, but not necessarily are, identified by such words as "believes," "expect," "plan," "anticipate," "target," "forecast" and "goal". Because such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations include competition from other financial institutions and financial holding companies: the effects of and changes in trade, monetary and fiscal policies and laws, including interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board; changes in the demand for loans, fluctuations in value of collateral and loan reserves; inflation, interest rate, market and monetary fluctuations; changes in consumer spending, borrowing or saving habits; and acquisitions and integration of acquired businesses, and similar variables. Other key risks are described in the Company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which may be obtained under "Investor Relations-Documents and Filings" on the Company's website or by writing or calling the Company at 325.627.7155. Except as otherwise stated in this annual report, the Company does not undertake any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements because of new information, future events or otherwise. Note: Market share data is calculated from June 30, 2023, deposit information compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation



Vianei Lopez Braun **Chief Development Officer** Decker Jones, P.C. Year: 2020 Committee: 3.5



David L. Copeland, CPA President, SIPCO, Inc. and Shelton Family Foundation Year: 1998 Committee: 1.2.4.5



Mike Denny President Batjer and Associates Year: 2019 Committee: 2,6



Tim Lancaster Former President and CEO Hendrick Health System Year: 2013 Committee: 1 2 3 4 6



Kade Matthews Ranching Investments Year: 1998 Committee: 3.5



Robert C. Nickles, Jr. Executive Chairman Alegacy Group, LLC Year: 2019 Committee: 1.4.5

## FIRST FINANCIAL BANKSHARES, INC."

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