



HIGHLIGHT HOMES, LLC
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"Your family is the HIGHLIGHT of your life. At Highlight Homes, we believe your HOME should be, too!"

PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia-based Companies Brand Mortgage and Highlight Homes Team up to Turn Foreclosed Houses into Homes

*Atlanta-area Builder Partners with Southern Mortgage Lender to Repair and Remodel
Distressed Properties for New Homeowners*

Atlanta, October 18 – In a lagging economy, the housing industry is often extremely hard hit. Rising above the news of bank failures and builders being forced to shutter their doors, two unlikely allies have teamed up in an effort to transform foreclosed and distressed properties into places their clients can call “home” for years to come. It was announced last week that Duluth, GA-based Brand Mortgage has designated Atlanta-area builder and remodeler Highlight Homes as one of the full-service lender’s Repair and Renovation Partners. Brand Mortgage – a subsidiary of the highly respected, century old Brand Banking Company – is focused on being the best and strongest lender in the Southeast, making it an excellent fit for Highlight Homes in their similar quest to be the best and strongest design-build firm in the Southeast.

“We’re very excited about this new relationship,” explains Highlight Homes’ Principal, Tony Pourhassan. “Both Brand Mortgage and Highlight Homes believe in putting the customer first, and that’s a rare thing to find in this day and age. We also share a common bond in our desire to not only achieve, but to provide excellence in our respective industries. I look forward to a long and rewarding partnership between my company and Brand Mortgage. With an inordinate number of distressed properties and foreclosures on the market today, it just makes sense for mortgage lenders and renovation professionals to form strategic alliances in order to help these homeowners mold their new houses into their own versions of ‘home sweet home’.”

According to a recent study by RealtyTrac – publisher of the monthly *U.S. Foreclosure Market Report* – Georgia ranked #5 on the list of states with the highest foreclosure rates in August 2011, indicating that on average one in every 346 housing units falls into foreclosure. There were a reported 11,743 foreclosure filings across the state during the month of August alone. Often, before a home falls into foreclosure – it can fall into a state of disrepair, which may get worse over time depending on how long the property sits on the market or is tied up in the court system. Armed with this knowledge and a major uptick in the number of loans on foreclosure properties, Brand Mortgage saw a need to have qualified repair partners standing by. Each repair and remodel partner is carefully screened before being selected.

“When doing repair escrow accounts, we need to be sure to have contractors waiting in the wings who will treat our borrowers with the utmost professionalism,” explains Sandi Flagg, SVP, Production Manager for Brand Mortgage. “A house is one of the biggest investments our borrowers will ever make. We need to ensure they have a great experience

and are very well informed. That's why all references are called and only those contractors with high reviews are chosen. Highlight Homes came highly recommended – everyone endorsed them because of their timeliness and professionalism. We love partners that take care of our borrowers during the repair process.”

Highlight Homes will prove a strong partner for the lender. With roots in the home-building industry, the talented team of designers, builders and remodelers can tackle any sort of issue or improvement – from basic home maintenance and repair, to custom renovations and room additions – allowing the new homeowner the opportunity to make their home uniquely their own. With such a large inventory of foreclosure properties on the market and historically low interest rates for buyers, this could be the perfect time to buy a new home. To learn more about Brand Mortgage and their wide variety of mortgage finance products, visit www.brandmortgage.com. To learn more about Highlight Homes and their custom construction and renovation services, call 678.873.9234 or visit them online at www.highlighthomesga.com.

About Brand Mortgage:

While the mortgage industry as a whole may be getting bad press, Brand Mortgage is standing tall on their century-long history of operating with respect, trust, and integrity. Brand Mortgage is a subsidiary of The Brand Banking Company, which was founded in 1905 and is one of the oldest privately-owned banks in Georgia. Brand Mortgage is focused on being the best and strongest lender in the Southeast. While they provide loans in 10 states, they have never outgrown their Georgia roots. Brand Mortgage is a full-service lender offering a wide variety of mortgage finance products. They help each and every client choose the best options to fit their budget and meet their individual needs. Brand Mortgage strives to take the guesswork out of the application process and explains all of the options in simple, straightforward language so their clients can feel comfortable and secure with their decision.

About Highlight Homes:

Highlight Homes, LLC was established in 2005 by builder, developer and architect, Anthony F. Pourhassan. The Atlanta-based company is founded on the core belief in the significance of what they are creating, firmly based in their lasting dedication to the clients they serve, and continually growing as word spreads of their unwavering commitment to quality. Because Highlight Homes, LLC is family-owned and operated – they truly care about their clients and their families. They listen carefully to their clients' wants and needs, then design and implement plans to fit both their vision and their budget. Each Highlight Home contractor is fully licensed, registered and insured, and is well prepared to tackle projects of varying size and scope – from a luxury custom estate in one of Atlanta's trendiest neighborhoods to a cozy, bungalow-inspired home in the sprawling suburbs.

After nearly three decades of experience in architectural design, construction, and development, Anthony Pourhassan and Highlight Homes have the know-how to take any project from concept to completion. They keep a steady pace with other leaders in their field through continued education and certification, as well as via affiliations with top-notch professional organizations such as the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, Certified Professional Home Builders of Georgia, National Kitchen & Bath Association, and National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Highlight Homes is proud to be a Better Business Bureau accredited business, as well as a certified Earth Craft House Builder, Energy Star Partner, and LEED Certified Home Builder.

Highlight Homes sets itself apart from the fray of other builders in the market through their attention to even the smallest detail, paired with their trademark of infusing unexpected touches and luxury finishes into every project they complete – at surprisingly affordable prices. They stand by every house they build by extending a one-year follow-up maintenance call to their homeowners, as well as a one-year full service warranty and an astounding EIGHT-YEAR structural warranty – all at no additional cost. In response to a growing need in Atlanta, Highlight Homes launched their renovation division in 2009.

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