



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BANTERRA BANK BRINGS AWARENESS TO THE NEED FOR FOSTER PARENTS IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS**  
**AND LAUNCHES SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE COMPANYWIDE**

**Marion, IL** – Banterra Bank is bringing awareness to the need for foster parents in Southern Illinois this holiday season with marketing and fundraising efforts. The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has an increasing need for 290 foster homes in Southern Illinois with currently only 86 homes in place. That unfortunately means many children will be placed in shelters because there simply are not enough foster homes.

To help provide these children with the best holiday possible, Banterra is raising money to purchase gifts for them. The company is inviting all residents to join their effort by making a monetary donation at any of their 26 Illinois locations until December 15<sup>th</sup>. The donations will then be utilized to purchase gifts for foster children in Southern Illinois shelters and homes this holiday season.

Banterra has also launched their Second Annual Community Food Drive that takes place companywide until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Non-perishable items may be donated at any Banterra location throughout the holiday season. These donations will be given to local food pantries.

“Throughout the year Banterra strives to serve the communities where we live and work,” said Jeff May, President for Banterra Bank. “I am pleased that we are doing our part by providing gifts to foster children that may not receive gifts otherwise this holiday season, in addition to donating to our local food pantries.”

To raise funds internally, Banterra sold company t-shirts to employees with all proceeds being utilized to purchase gifts for foster children and food for local pantries. They promoted “Food Drive Fridays” allowing staff to wear jeans on Fridays for purchasing a shirt or making a food donation that week.

Banterra strives to feature actual customers when possible in their marketing efforts. For Banterra’s Foster Parent Awareness Campaign, the company photographed customers Tim and Donnie Blankenship from Vienna, Illinois. The Blankenships were foster parents for more than ten years before becoming adoptive parents to six children. There is a critical need for foster parents in Southern Illinois. If you are interested in becoming a foster parent, contact Vivian Robinson at 618-244-8438 or go to [www.dcf.illinois.gov](http://www.dcf.illinois.gov) to learn more.

Banterra Bank began as a single bank in Ridgway, Illinois in July of 1975. Today, Banterra is the largest, locally-owned bank in the region with just under \$1.3 billion in assets and 35 locations in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Missouri. For more information, contact us at 866-BANTERRA (226-8377), or go to [www.banterra.com](http://www.banterra.com).

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