



For Immediate Release

June 14, 2010

For More Information

R. Paul Maxwell, VP & Corporate Communications Manager
228.563.7953 or paul_maxwell@hancockbank.com

Hancock Horizon Fund Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Hancock Horizon Value Fund Receives Five-star Rating over a ten-year period from Morningstar

GULFPORT, Miss. (June 14, 2010) – In recognition of Hancock Horizon Funds’ tenth anniversary, Hancock Holding Company (NASDAQ: HBHC) is celebrating the long-term strength and stability of the company’s unique family of funds with special recognition going once again to the Hancock Horizon Value Fund.

Having grown to \$900 million in assets to date from \$245 million at its inception, the Hancock Horizon Funds is one of the largest mutual fund families in Mississippi and the Gulf South region.

“We are especially proud of how our Fund complex has performed and it is exciting for the Value Fund to receive Morningstar’s highest overall rating as we commemorate this milestone,” said, Hancock Horizon Fund Senior Vice President, Director of Equities and Research David Lundgren. “In the last decade, the Value Fund has performed well returning 5.6 percent annually compared to the S&P 500 which had a slightly negative return for the same period. Overall, the Hancock Horizon Funds’ growth serves as a reminder of Hancock Bank’s resilience and the pivotal role our company plays in helping the people of our communities achieve their financial goals.”

Morningstar’s five-star rating is given to the top 10 percent of funds with similar investment styles. The Morningstar Rating™ is objective and based entirely on mathematical evaluation of past performance — both return and risk.

“Hitting a good balance between return and risk is key to good money management,” said Lundgren. “Everyone is interested in receiving a good return, but it’s essential to manage the amount of risk necessary to get the desired return on an investment. The Morningstar rating serves as good starting point for the fund evaluation process.”

The Hancock Horizon Funds encompass seven funds that are individually style specific and designed to complement other funds in the Hancock Horizon family. The Value Fund was original to the Fund complex when it was introduced by Hancock Bank in 2000.

-more-

“Prior to the start of the Hancock Horizon Funds, only the largest institutional and individual accounts had the ability to invest with Hancock Bank’s investment management team,” said Hancock Holding Company Executive Vice President & Chief Wealth Management Officer Clifton J. Saik. “Launching the Hancock Horizon Funds gave everybody with investment needs the opportunity to access Hancock’s investment management expertise.”

A key factor to the success of Hancock Horizon Funds can be attributed to the fund management process.

“In addition to our technical and fundamental analysis, we utilize a quantitative model that replaces emotion and subjective ‘hunches’ with logic and investment discipline,” explained, Hancock Horizon Fund Senior Vice President, Chief Investment Strategist John Portwood. “This proprietary approach has given Hancock Horizon Funds the endurance to stay the course and serves as good example of why the market index is not the only measure to consider when making investment decisions.”

While the Hancock Horizon Funds were built to appeal to customers ranging from the most conservative to the most aggressive investors, Hancock Bank continued to seek out growth opportunities that would bring something different to the Hancock Horizon family.

Inspired by a recognized educational program in equities research at Tulane University, Hancock Horizon Funds added the Burkenroad Mutual Fund in 2001. This small-cap fund invests in companies that are located or doing business in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

“Hancock investment managers utilize Tulane University’s *Burkenroad Reports* as part of the fund management process,” Portwood said. “For investors seeking a unique investment opportunity, the Burkenroad Fund’s focus on smaller, lesser known companies makes the Fund an offering worth considering.”

About Hancock Bank

Hancock Bank was founded in 1899. Hancock Holding company (NASDAQ:HBHC), parent company of Hancock Bank, has assets of approximately \$8.6 billion. *Forbes* recently ranked Hancock 14th among America’s best banks; and Bauerfinancial, Inc., recommended Hancock Bank as one the most financially sound U.S. financial institutions for more than 20 consecutive years.

Hancock Bank subsidiaries include Hancock Investment Services, Inc., Hancock Insurance Agency and its divisions of Ross King Walker and J. Everett Eaves, and Harrison Finance Company. Additionally, Hancock has corporate trust offices in Gulfport, Jackson, MS, Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and Orlando. More corporate information and e-banking are available at www.hancockbank.com.

About Morningstar

© 2010 Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

For each fund with at least a three-year history, Morningstar calculates a Morningstar Rating™ metric each month by subtracting the return on a 90-day U.S. Treasury Bill from the fund's load-adjusted return for the same period, and then adjusting this excess return for risk. The top 10 percent of funds in each category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5 percent receive 4 stars, the next 35 percent receive 3 stars, the next 22.5 percent receive 2 stars and the bottom 10 percent receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a fund is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. As of 5/31/2010, the Hancock Horizon Value Fund received an overall Morningstar Rating of 4 stars. The Hancock Horizon Value Fund was rated against 1142 Large Value Funds over a three-year period; 956 over a five-year period and 487 over a ten-year period. With respect to these funds, the Hancock Horizon Value Fund (Trust share) received a rating of 4 stars, 4 stars and 5 stars respectively; the A share class received a rating of 3 stars, 3 stars and 5 stars respectively and the C share class received a rating of 3 stars, 4 stars and 4 stars respectively. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Mutual fund investing involves risk including loss of principal.

Performance of the Hancock Horizon Value Fund through March 31, 2010 is: Trust share: 34.44% (one year); 1.89% (five year) and 6.10% since inception; A share: 34.16% (one year); 1.64% (five year) and 5.84% (since inception) and C share: 33.15% (one year); 0.91% (five year) and 5.09% (since inception). Inception date is 5/31/00. Past performance does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original costs. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance quoted. The total expense ratio is 1.07% (Trust share); 1.32% (A share) and 2.07% (C share). For performance data current to the most recent month end, call 1-888-346-6300 or visit the website www.hancockhorizonfunds.com.

To determine if this Fund is an appropriate investment for you, carefully consider the Fund's investment objectives, risk factors, and charges and expenses before investing. This and other information can be found in the Fund's prospectus, which may be obtained by calling 1-888-346-6300 or visiting www.hancockhorizonfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

Hancock Horizon Funds are distributed by SEI Investments Distribution Co., which is not affiliated with Hancock Holding Company or any of its affiliates.

Not insured. No guarantee. May lose value.