

Contact: Laurie Locklear  
706-364-1359

[llocklear@themeridianfoundation.org](mailto:llocklear@themeridianfoundation.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Meridian Merchant Services Launches Foundation for Empowered Giving**

### ***Unique Program Changes the Model for Donations***

### ***Foundation Will Allow Businesses to Support Not-for-Profits Of Their Choosing***

Savannah, GA—Meridian Merchant Services is launching The Meridian Foundation for Empowered Giving, a private foundation to address the ever-growing needs of not-for-profits by creating a sustainable, no cost model for obtaining contributions from businesses.

The goal of the Foundation is to support small, medium, and large businesses in their efforts to contribute to the not-for-profit organizations that inspire them, whether in their communities or around the world.

The Meridian Foundation for Empowered Giving will be headquartered in Augusta, GA, and be headed by veteran not-for-profit executive Laurie Locklear. With more than 20 years of professional service in public relations, marketing and development Ms. Locklear has worked for media giants, Disney, Viacom and Clear Channel; and not-for-profits including Habitat for Humanity, The Blues Foundation, and the Morris Museum of Art.

The Foundation will work with Meridian to allocate a portion of merchant transaction fees to support not-for-profit(s) without adding to the contributing business's expenses. In other words, a percentage of the monies that would traditionally be paid as fees are donated in the name of the business to the not-for-profit of their choice.

"We believe that businesses want to do more to support worthy causes. But, times are tough and every dime counts," said William Black, CEO of Meridian Merchant Service. "So, we created this foundation to help business owners help the organizations that inspire them. It's a wonderful feeling to be able to do something so fiscally and charitably responsible. It makes it easy to give and we just keep hearing that from the businesses we work with."

Michael Torrance, Meridian's CFO adds, "What we hope to achieve is a way to help support not-for-profits by providing our services and support to the businesses that they currently count on for funding. It is our hope and commitment that the Meridian Foundation builds to a national, and eventually global, community of support for many worthy causes."

The company that would eventually evolve into Meridian Merchant Services was started in 2003, when Mr. Black and Mr. Torrance left GO Software and Network Commerce, respectively. Having been involved in every facet of the credit card processing industry including sales, support, consulting, account management, and even bringing their own credit card processing software engine to market; Black and Torrance founded Meridian Merchant Services in 2005. Each has more than a decade of experience in merchant processing and both have worked with and consulted for multi-million dollar companies, hospitals, and military bases in the US, Canada, the Philippines, and Japan.

For more information on the Foundation go to [www.themeridianfoundation.org](http://www.themeridianfoundation.org).

###