

Meet Richard Blankenship

Richard has been with Franklin Street partners for 20 years, after starting his career as a portfolio manager in the Trust Department of North Carolina National Bank. Currently a Principal and Relationship Manager at the firm, Blankenship specializes in working with individuals, families and institutions. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the North Carolina Society of Financial Analysts and the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute. His community service includes board membership for the Carol Woods Retirement Community of Chapel Hill and the Ronald McDonald House of Durham, Treasurer of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, and the board of advisors of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Division of Student Affairs. Richard spends significant volunteer effort teaching financial literacy and personal finance to undergraduates and graduate students in campus workshops and classrooms.



Long-standing commitment and dedication run in the Blankenship family. He and his cousins currently manage the family “farm” in Warren County. Originally purchased by Blankenship’s great-grandfather in 1862, this farmland changed to lakefront property after portions were flooded in 1963 to form Lake Gaston, for flood control and to support hydroelectric power generation. He and his family have dedicated time, energy and hard work to preserve this beautiful property so that their family and others can relax, rest and find enjoyment there. Richard feels as though he is just a steward of the land, which is often used for retreats and meetings by the Boy Scouts, church groups, extended family, Teach for America and even corporate gatherings for Franklin Street Partners.

Richard feels keeping the environment surrounding their lake home as natural as possible helps others remember what is important in life—people, family and friends. To emphasize this to his family, he gave each of his children and grandchildren an oar, when their home was completed to decorate in any way they wanted. They were to illustrate it with what was important in their life. Then the oars were hung around the house to be a constant reminder of family and friends. The family developed a “crest” for the property including its date of origin and an image of an oar; reflecting the family’s motto, “We Pull Together”. In his free time, Blankenship enjoys playing golf, hiking, boating and most of all, spending time with family and friends.



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