



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarah Carpenter
262.264.5485
SCarpenter@WaterstoneMortgage.com

Waterstone Mortgage’s Margie Hennessey Expands Accessible Homeownership for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

Ashburn, Va. (April 28, 2026) – Waterstone Mortgage Corporation highlights the continued leadership of Margie Hennessey, VP of Eastern Region Sales and founder of Signing Home Loans™, whose work is transforming [the homebuying experience for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing \(DHH\) community nationwide.](#)

Raised by Deaf parents and fluent in ASL, Hennessey has built a career rooted in accessibility and education. She began her professional journey while working at the Tennessee School for the Deaf and then became a nationally certified ASL interpreter. When she transitioned into mortgage lending in 2003, she quickly identified significant barriers DHH homebuyers face — especially a lack of accessible information. She began partnering with DHH organizations to provide mortgage education and has since become a trusted leader in accessible lending.

Today, Hennessey provides direct ASL communication through video messages, Zoom meetings, and live consultations — eliminating the need for interpreters. She frequently assists clients with complex steps, including communicating with hearing family members during gift-fund verifications. Her approach ensures borrowers receive clear, accurate, and informed support throughout the mortgage process.

Hennessey is also involved in industry-level advocacy. She has worked with the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) on questions surrounding ASL interpreter requirements and often steps in when title companies or remote notary vendors fail to meet ADA accessibility standards. Her long-term vision includes creating more real estate and lending career opportunities for DHH professionals.

“Everyone deserves a clear and empowering path to homeownership,” Hennessey says. “My goal is to ensure that no one is left behind because of communication barriers.”

Through Waterstone Mortgage, Hennessey is licensed to lend in 48 states — supporting all homebuyers, and especially ASL-fluent clients, nationwide. She also has professional connections with Deaf financial planners, CPAs, and other finance experts. One first-time

homebuyer described Hennessey's guidance as "transformative," noting that Hennessey made the complex loan process "smooth and memorable."

In addition to her work with DHH borrowers, Hennessey and her husband, Sean, lead **HomebuyingFORrookies™ (HBFR)** — a free, unbiased homebuyer education program offered both online and in person in English, Spanish, and ASL.

"Margie exemplifies what it means to lead with both expertise and purpose," said Jeff McGuiness, Waterstone Mortgage President & CEO. "Her commitment to serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community isn't just a passion — it's a powerful extension of who she is, and it's making a meaningful impact on the lives of her clients every day. At Waterstone Mortgage, we're incredibly proud of the work she's doing, and our leadership team is fully committed to supporting and expanding this important mission. Margie's vision is helping shape a better future for our industry."

About Waterstone Mortgage Corporation:

Waterstone Mortgage Corporation is an innovative, strong, and forward-thinking company that has maintained a reputation as an elite mortgage lender for more than 25 years. The company's mission is to streamline the mortgage process via innovative technology, unique loan products, and effective communication – which gives their customers a clear path to homeownership. As a retail-only lender, Waterstone Mortgage focuses primarily on purchase loans, and offers a variety of home loan programs, including conventional, FHA, VA, and USDA loans; along with several no- and low-down-payment options and many specialty programs such as first-time homebuyer options and down payment assistance (DPA) programs. Founded in 2000, the company lends in 48 states.

Waterstone Mortgage has received a variety of industry and workplace culture awards, including: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* "Top Workplaces;" *Milwaukee Business Journal's* "Best Places to Work;" *National Mortgage Professional Magazine's* "Most Loved Mortgage Employers;" *Mortgage Executive Magazine's* "Top 50 Mortgage Companies in America," and "50 Best Companies to Work For;" *MReport's* "Top 25 Companies to Work For;" and *Scotsman Guide's* "Top Mortgage Lenders" and "Top Workplaces." The company is also a four-time recipient of the ICE Mortgage Technology Innovation Award.

Headquartered in Brookfield, Wisconsin, Waterstone Mortgage is a wholly-owned subsidiary of WaterStone Bank SSB, which, in turn, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Waterstone Financial, Inc. (NASDAQ: WSBF). To learn more about Waterstone Mortgage, visit www.WaterstoneMortgage.com.

###