

## THAIS R. SULLIVAN, VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL CRA/COMMERCIAL LENDING OFFICER FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA AT VALLEY NATIONAL BANK



Thais R. Sullivan has been a devoted member of Palm Beach County for over 30 years and has worked in almost every position within the banking industry. From filing checks, to serving as a lender, and everything in between. Thais' hard work and passion to learn eventually landed her the position of Vice President, Regional CRA/Commercial Lending Officer for the State of Florida at Valley National Bank.

Thais wasn't always interested in working in the banking industry. When she was younger, she loved fashion and aspired to become a fashion designer. When Thais initially moved to Florida from Detroit, Mich., she learned that the school system did not offer the same type of fashion classes that they did up north. She ended up putting fashion on hold and decided to go in a different direction. Thais attended Barry University, where she received her Bachelor of Business degree. During her time there, she worked at Barnett Bank (which is now famously known as Bank of America) during the day, and attended school at night. While she worked at Barnett Bank, Thais was assigned to an executive who generously mentored her and encouraged her to get her degree and branch out within the banking industry. Thais continued to climb the totem pole and familiarize herself in all aspects of the industry. As the years passed, she was recommended to be a CRA Officer due to her extensive lending background and exceptional customer service skills. Combining her skills and love of helping others, Thais says that the day they hired her as a CRA Officer was the day she stopped working. It no longer became a job to her, but something she knew she was meant to do.

Thais' passion for helping those around her has led to her active involvement in multiple organizations – including The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Foundation, The Anquan Boldin Foundation, The Black Chamber of Commerce, The Boys and Girls Club of Riviera Beach and many more. Volunteering isn't just a hobby for Thais, it is what makes her, HER! That's why joining the AAA Scholarship Foundation and becoming a board member was a no-brainer for Thais. "It's one more tool to add to my toolbox!" she says.

Thais brings a work attitude that is second to none, which is why it is no surprise that she was recognized as one of the "Most Influential & Prominent Black Women in Business in Palm Beach County" by *Legacy Palm Beach*. Thais has been a friendly face to everyone she has encountered. She never shies away from an opportunity to teach others about affordable housing, or to simply inform them of the amazing shoe sale that's currently taking place at Nordstrom. When Thais isn't working, she likes to travel and spend time with her mom, husband and two sons. The five of them love to go bowling, and when asking Thais who the best bowler in their family is she says "Probably my husband, but of course I would never tell him that." Your secret is safe with us, Thais.