

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 21, 2000**

**SLOAN FAMILY GRANTS CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON  
200 ACRES OF LAND IN SOUTHERN GREENVILLE COUNTY**

Helen Sloan and her five children announced today that they will grant a conservation easement on approximately 200 acres of land in southern Greenville County. The property, which Mrs. Sloan and her husband, the late John L. Sloan, acquired in the early 1960s, includes Huff Creek, a 25-acre lake, over 150 acres of woodlands, and rich wildlife habitat.

The conservation easement will reserve the right to maintain the family home and to build no more than three additional residences. No other development will be permitted. The easement will be granted to Upstate Forever, a non-profit organization which has established a Land Trust program to receive and enforce conservation easements in the upstate region.

Mrs. Sloan said that she and her children feel strongly about ensuring that the property's quality and character are preserved. She said, "It's distressing to see what is happening to land in this part of the county. We're losing so much beautiful land so quickly. We were determined that it was not going to happen to our property." Under the Greenville County zoning ordinance, a 280-home subdivision could have been built on the property, resulting in nearly 3,000 additional cars per day on Fork Shoals Road.

The Sloan property supports a wide variety of wildlife, including owls, hawks, wood ducks, and turkey. "Despite all of the growth around us," Mrs. Sloan said, "it's still a wonderful oasis with wildlife everywhere. In fact, more and more animals are seeking refuge on our property because so much of the habitat in this area is being lost."

Dennis Bauknight, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's District Conservationist for Greenville and Pickens Counties, has visited the property several times. "It's a beautiful piece of property, and I congratulate the Sloan family for preserving it. The rapid growth in this part of the county is causing serious fragmentation of wildlife habitat, adversely affecting our streams and consuming valuable open space. A conservation easement like this is one important way to reduce those impacts," Bauknight said.

Brad Wyche, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, praised the family for its decision. "This is a wonderful example of how conservation easements work," Wyche said. "The land will continue to be owned and enjoyed by the Sloans, while the easement will control what happens to it in the future. Meanwhile, the public receives significant benefits from the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat in this rapidly changing area of the county. I hope the Sloan family's decision will inspire other property owners in the Upstate to think seriously about using conservation easements to protect their lands."

The conservation easement will be signed by Mrs. Sloan and her children on Saturday, November 25 at 2 p.m. at the property. The press is invited to attend.

Mrs. Sloan's children are Dr. Helen E. Sloan of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina; Jane Sloan Cooper of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina; Dr. John L. Sloan, Jr. of Piedmont, South Carolina; Dr. David M. Sloan of Danville, Virginia; and Mary Sloan Andrews of Greenville, South Carolina.

For more information, contact:

Helen Sloan at 864-277-1736

Brad Wyche at 864-250-0500

Dennis Bauknight at 864-467-2775 (ext. 108)

Directions to Sloan property: Take Fork Shoals Road south from Greenville. About one mile after Fork Shoals Road crosses the Southern Connector, turn right onto East Sloan Road. At the point where the road turns to dirt, turn left at the cattle guard and follow the road to Mrs. Sloan's home.