

HALLMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES INC
 Form 4
 January 04, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 SCHWARZ MARK E

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 HALLMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES INC [HALL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 200 CRESCENT COURT, STE 1400
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/30/2011

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Executive Chairman / see attached explanation

DALLAS, TX 75201
 (City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)				
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Options	\$ 6.99	12/30/2011 ⁽⁴⁾	A		14,157		<u>(1)</u>	12/30/2021	Common Stock	14,157

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SCHWARZ MARK E 200 CRESCENT COURT STE 1400 DALLAS, TX 75201	X	X	Executive Chairman	see attached explanation

Signatures

/s/ Mark E. Schwarz 01/04/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Represents grant of employee stock options which become exercisable July 1, 2012.

(2) 229,157 stock options (including the grant of 14,157 stock options reported herein) are held by Mr. Schwarz.

The Reporting Person is also a member of a "group" for purposes of Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended and accordingly may be deemed to beneficially own shares of the Issuer's Common Stock owned in aggregate by the other members of the Section 13(d) group. The Group consists of the Reporting Person, Newcastle Partners, L.P., Newcastle Capital Management, L.P., Newcastle Capital Group, L.L.C. Newcastle Special Opportunity Fund I, L.P., Newcastle Special Opportunity Fund II, L.P., Newcastle Focus Fund II, L.P., DSC Services Inc. and Detroit Stoker Company, L.L.C. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of the Issuer's Common Stock owned by the other members of the Section 13(d) group except to the extent of its pecuniary interest therein. Other than the derivative securities reported in the footnote 2, members of the Section 13(d) group hold no other derivative securities of the Issuer.

(4) The option was granted on December 30, 2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.