

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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**Gateway Bank recently awarded 2010 President's
Volunteer Service Gold Award**
Award is a Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service

May 13, 2011 – (Sarasota, Florida and Bradenton, Florida) – Shaun P. Merriman, President and CEO of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida, announced today that the bank was recently awarded the prestigious 2010 President's Volunteer Service Gold Award for its contributions the community. In addition, four Gateway Bank employees received individual service recognition.

Established in 2003, the President's Volunteer Service Award was created by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to encourage more people to serve their communities. The Award is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service. Award eligibility is based on hour requirements varying by age. A record of annual volunteer service hours is submitted, and the number of hours logged determines the award level (gold, silver or bronze). Award recipients receive: 1) an official President's Volunteer Service Award lapel pin; 2) a personalized certificate of achievement; and 3) a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama.

"All of our employees are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent to support local nonprofit and educational organizations," says Merriman. "I am proud of the positive impact we are making in the communities we serve." Gateway Bank employees collectively contributed 1331 hours of volunteer service in 2010, thus earning a "Gold" group award.

In addition, four Gateway Bank employees earned individual awards. Michael Feduccia, Vice President and Financial Advisor, earned a bronze award for 134.5 hours of community service in 2010. "I am privileged to work in a country and for a company that appreciates people

who help others,” says Feduccia, president of Manasota BUDS (Bringing Up Down Syndrome). “I’ve always been a dreamer and believe one person can change the world for the better.”

Jamie Jones, Assistant Vice President and Credit Analyst / Portfolio Manager, also achieve bronze recognition with 103.5 service hours. Jones serves as the Young Professional Chair of Sarasota’s local RMA (Risk Management Association) chapter. “I obtain great satisfaction knowing that I have helped out either an individual or group of individuals within the community,” exclaims Jones. “Putting a smile on their faces gives me a sense of accomplishment!”

Susie Kruse, Vice President and Banking Center Manager, logged 101.5 hours and earned the bronze award. An avid volunteer, Kruse serves as board member for Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, and board member / treasurer for Anna Maria Island Kiwanis. Kruse explains, “The volunteer work that I enjoy most is time given to benefit children.”

Merriman was also recognized on an individual level, earning a silver award for 262 service hours in 2010. Merriman serves on a variety of local boards, including Doctors Hospital, United Way of Sarasota County, Van Wezel Foundation, and Team Tony Cancer Foundation. In addition, Merriman is Chair-Elect of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. “While community involvement helps to create and foster business relationships, I personally choose to become involved in causes that are near and dear to my heart, and where my business knowledge can be most impactful,” says Merriman. He added, “I am proud that Gateway Bank is aligned with this prestigious award. Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering.”

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD and to find out how to identify volunteer opportunities in this area, visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov or call 1-866-545-5307.

About Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida: Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida is an independent community bank serving business and consumer banking clients in Sarasota and Manatee counties. BauerFinancial (www.bauerfinancial.com) recently awarded Gateway Bank a 4-Star rating indicating the bank is well capitalized, exceeds regulatory compliance standards, and demonstrates high quality asset management.

Gateway Bank operates three full service banking locations. The main office is located at 1100 South Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. The University Parkway banking center is located at 6204 North Lockwood Ridge Road, and the Manatee Avenue Banking Center is located on the northwest corner of 21st Street West and Manatee Avenue West.

The shareholders and directors of Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida are primarily residents of Sarasota and Manatee counties. The Board of Directors includes: Charles J. Bartlett – Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen and Ginsburg, PA; Dr. Gary K. Bockhold – Center for Sight; Dr. P.T. “Bud” Fleuchaus – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; David J. Grain – Grain Management; David K. Maholias – Gateway Financial Holdings of Florida, Inc.; Shaun P. Merriman – Gateway Bank of Southwest Florida; Gavin W. Meshad – JWM Management, Inc.; Katherine K. Moulton – Resort Management Consultants; Wayne M. Ruben – Ruben-Holland Development, LLC; and David E. Sessions, Willis A. Smith Construction Inc.