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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Heart Association gives Gateway Energy Highest Fit-Friendly Status**

MONTEBELLO, N.Y. – Gateway Energy Services Corporation, an energy marketer based in Rockland County, has joined the ranks of Campbell's Soup, GlaxoSmithKline, Merrill Lynch and Visa on The American Heart Association's 2010 Fit-Friendly Company Platinum Honor Roll.

Platinum Level status is the highest level a company can achieve. It is awarded annually to businesses that go above and beyond to help their employees maintain healthy lives. Criteria include offering employees physical activity support, increasing healthy eating options at work, promoting a wellness culture, demonstrating measurable outcomes related to workplace wellness and implementing at least nine criteria outlined by the American Heart Association in the areas of physical activity, nutrition and culture.

Gateway is the only company in the Tri-County New York region to achieve Platinum status. In 2009, it was awarded Gold Status for workplace innovations that included an in-house fitness center and personal trainer sessions.

"Our employees' well-being is important to us," said Gateway President and CEO Steve Maslak. "AHA research shows that healthy employees have increased productivity, reduced absenteeism and lower health-care costs. By supporting exercise and good nutrition, we are helping our employees live long and healthy lives."

American employers face increasing healthcare expenses and health-related losses in productivity that cost an estimated \$225.8 billion a year. Many American adults spend most of their waking hours at sedentary jobs. Their lack of physical activity raises their risk for a host of medical problems, such as obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes. Employers face \$12.7 billion in annual medical expenses due to obesity alone. Start! helps change corporate cultures by motivating employees to start walking, which has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity.

"Gateway Energy Services Corporation should be applauded for achieving the Fit-Friendly Platinum Level," said Tonya Addy, Executive Director of the Tri-County Region of the American Heart Association. "They have made impressive strides toward overall employee health. Changes in lifestyles at the workplace will make for healthier employees, which is a win-win for the company and the employees."

Besides the AHA, Gateway Energy's philanthropy extends to many organizations. Gateway has supported the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society since 2004, attending its yearly Light The Night event in Rockland County, NY. Gateway added the National MS Society Central Pennsylvania Chapter to its charities in 2010, and joined in its signature walk in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in support of an employee who was diagnosed with MS that year. Gateway was named Rookie of the Year



for its inaugural efforts. The company has also made donations to the AmeriCares' Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, and provided in-kind services and supported volunteerism among its employees, who have devoted time and expertise to many local organizations.

**About Gateway Energy Services**

Gateway Energy Services Corporation, based in Montebello, Rockland County, N.Y., is one of the largest independent retail energy suppliers in North America, providing natural gas and electricity to residential and business customers in New York, New Jersey, Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia and Ontario, Canada. Founded in 1997, Gateway Energy provides competitive energy products to consumers giving them more control over their energy costs. Visit us online at [www.gesc.com](http://www.gesc.com) and follow us on Facebook at Gateway Energy Services and Twitter at <http://twitter.com/GESCcom>.

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