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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GATEWAY HEALTHCARE'S VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRADUATION TO TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>

PAWTUCKET, RI – June 7, 2010 – Nine students from Rhode Island will receive Completion of Program certificates from Valley Community School (VCS) at graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, June 9, 2010. The event will recognize and celebrate the students' successful completion of coursework in VCS's educational program for students (ages 6-21) dealing with emotional and behavioral disorders. Ceremonies will take place at the Valley Community School Gymnasium, on the corner of Roosevelt Avenue and Blackstone Street in Pawtucket, at 10:00 am.

This year's graduating class is comprised of students from all three of the Valley Community School campuses; Pawtucket will graduate six students; Cranston will graduate two; and Middletown will graduate one student. In addition to obtaining the Completion of Program certificate from VCS, each graduating student will also receive a diploma from his or her high school. The diplomas will be presented by a representative of the Division of Special Education at the high school graduation ceremony from the student's city or town of residence.

There will be several special guests and presentations at this year's graduation. **Mayor James Doyle** of Pawtucket will award the students with an achievement citation for their completion of the program; **Captain Derren H. Delaney** from the Rhode Island State Police will speak to the graduates about setting and achieving goals; and former VCS graduate **Edwin Lewis** (class of 2000) will share his experience with Valley Community School and how the positive experience helped to shape his success.

Special recognition will be given to students receiving scholarship support for advanced education. Two students will receive a scholarship award from the Jeanne Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund. **Charrell Maxwell**, former board member of Gateway Healthcare, Inc. and daughter of Jeanne Hughes, will present the recipients with the scholarship award. Kristen Brescia from the Associated Builders and Contractors will also present a scholarship from the RI Construction Training Academy at the graduation to one of the graduates.

Educators and staff at VCS are dedicated to providing exemplary academic and behavioral programs that will allow for the students continued success. VCS classes and programs are implemented within the school's structured learning environment, at the core of which are educational, vocational, and behavior-management goals. The VCS staff includes a superintendent, program managers, special education directors, certified special education teachers, teacher assistants, behavior specialists, physical education teachers, job coordinators, employment specialists, nurses, computer teachers, art teachers, master-level social workers, a school psychologist and psychiatric consultants.

*ABOUT GATEWAY HEALTHCARE: Gateway Healthcare, Inc., is the largest non-profit behavioral healthcare organization in Rhode Island, providing a broad spectrum of preventative and treatment programs for children, adolescents, families, and adults suffering from severe mental illness, substance abuse problems, and emotional and behavioral disorders. Gateway Healthcare is headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Gateway serves over 15,000 unduplicated children, adults and families, providing more than \$3 million in free care each year. For more information, please visit [www.gatewayhealth.org](http://www.gatewayhealth.org).*

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