

## FOCUS ON Payroll: Checking it Out

– September 6, 2013

Labor Day is the unofficial last day of summer and a day for workers in America to celebrate their hard work. It's also the start of National Payroll Week, which is dedicated to recognizing the people who help us celebrate another special day for all employees—payday!



*Payroll team members with Paul Turner, Treasury Director (center)*

Gwinnett County's payroll team is dedicated to making sure that all employees are paid accurately and on time. During the winter storm in January 2011, County administrative offices were closed for a day due to the bad weather, but payroll staff worked from home to ensure payroll was processed in time to pay the employees who were busy keeping the roads clear and responding to accidents on the icy roads.

These finance professionals distribute Gwinnett County's annual payroll of about \$160 million throughout the year in more than 172,000 transactions. These days, almost all of the payments are made through direct deposit to employees' bank accounts. These keepers of the County checkbook are one of three parts of the Treasury Division. The payroll team reports to Malorie Truss, disbursements manager. Bill Swiger is the division's risk manager and Bill Rodenbeck serves as investments manager.



*Gwinnett County's Payroll team distributes an annual payroll of \$160 million.*

Since 2005, the payroll section has used a software system known as ERP, for enterprise resource planning, to track each employee's hours, benefits, and tax withholding. They get virtual help from timekeepers in various departments, especially police, fire, and corrections where hours vary significantly from week to week.

Treasury Division Director Paul Turner says, "Customer service is our number one priority. Our goals and how we achieve them are customer-service oriented." His customers include every County employee, and the work of his division affects the weekly cash flow of every one of them. It's a big responsibility that his team faithfully meets every two weeks.