

# LAURA CHIESMAN

PRESIDENT AND WEALTHCOACH OF FIRSTWAVE FINANCIAL

“

When asked what she considers her greatest accomplishment, Laura Chiesman has a ready answer; “In my business life it is definitely my new role as president and owner of FirstWave Financial.

THIS IS A WONDERFUL company that I love and am grateful to have helped develop and grow over the last 14 years. I am so excited to continue the mission with our great team to help people we care about create the lives they dream about!”

After graduating from the University of Central Florida, where she earned her degree in finance, Chiesman borrowed her brother’s securities industry study materials and got licensed on her own. She then moved to Los Angeles, California and worked for Bear Stearns in Century City, describing this as an exciting time in her life. Thinking back on her career beginnings, there are a couple of things she might have done differently, explaining, “I’m very grateful for my journey just as it is, but I would have liked to have enjoyed and benefited by networking and connecting with professional women earlier in my career. I just

really began focusing on that in the last five years or so, and it has made a world of difference to me. My participation in the American Business Women’s Association and weVENTURE’s League of Extraordinary Women has provided safe, friendly forums to test out ideas and ask for advice, and that has been invaluable to me.”

Chiesman also sees many benefits resulting from the changes women in the workforce have made to American business culture. “The increasing number of talented, empathetic women in many different professions provides confidence and encouragement to them to seek out services and advice that they might have missed out on in the past. I also believe that the needs, talents and preferences of women are contributing greatly to the growth of new ways of doing business – at home, online, mobile services. It will be exciting to see what develops in the future.”

She credits FirstWave Financial Founder Tom Kirk as her mentor and role model, saying she is continually inspired by his vision, energy and consistent focus on what is best for their clients. She recognizes the team she works with as the key to enjoying her work, saying, “We’re here to help people we care about create the lives they dream about. With that mission and mindset, it’s natural for us to stay energized and excited.”

As a wife to husband Paul, mother to two children, son Stuart and daughter Lea, and grandmother to two active preschoolers, it’s amazing she finds balance in the mix with running a successful financial firm. “I make it a priority to spend time with family and friends – early morning coffee time and weekday dinners at home with Paul; time on the weekends with my friends and family. I have a big, wonderful extended family so I never lack for things to do!” ♦

Laura Chiesman