

Another Quarter of Record Profitability for BNC Financial Group

In a market environment where Fairfield County community banks overall saw deposits drop nearly 1% over the last year, one family of banks continued to grow steadily. The The Bank of New Canaan, The Bank of Fairfield and Stamford First Bank all experienced increases in both loans and deposits, as the Holding Company, BNC Financial Group, achieved another quarter of record profitability. At September 30, 2011, BNC Financial Group showed a consolidated profit of \$1.3 million – a gain of \$870,000 and a 198.2% increase over last year’s profit of \$439,000 for the same period.

The Bank of New Canaan continued to demonstrate solid growth and profitability despite the costs associated with opening its new division, Stamford First Bank, in July 2010. The Bank of New Canaan’s net income through September 30, 2011 was \$1.8 million.

The Bank of Fairfield, marking its third anniversary in September, reached \$111 million in assets and experienced sustained profitability during the third quarter of 2011 as the Bank continues to establish itself as the only hometown bank in the community.

Stamford First Bank, in operation for just a little over a year, continued to demonstrate outstanding performance. Stamford First Bank ended the third quarter of 2011 with \$64.5 million in deposits, \$45.4 million in loans outstanding and a strong loan pipeline.

Some of the Bank of New Canaan’s other financial highlights for the first nine months of 2011 versus the same period for 2010, are as follows, and they include results for Stamford First Bank:

Total assets increased 26% to \$354 million. Deposits increased by 26% to \$283 million. The Bank’s loan portfolio increased by \$56 million to \$261 million, or 27% over 2010. The Bank’s net income for the first nine months was \$1.8 million, an increase of \$805 thousand, or 77%, over 2010’s net income of \$1.0 million.

Some of The Bank of Fairfield’s financial highlights for the first nine months of 2011 versus the same period for 2010 included total assets of \$111 million, a 48% jump from 2010, deposits of \$88 million, a 40% increase, and a Net Interest Margin of 4.48%, one of the highest of any community bank in the state.

CEO Jay Forgotson attributes the banks’ loan growth to the fact that “Management has an unwavering focus on credit quality, and we are able to be selective in our lending. The result is very few delinquencies or non-performing assets.”

While the economy continues to remain uncertain, Forgotson believes that “more and more consumers and businesses are recognizing the inherent advantages of conducting their banking and lending with a strong community bank.” He noted that the banks have seen significant growth in customer deposits following recent announcements of checking fees by big banks.