Read more about REALTORS® who are making an impact through charitable endeavors. *(See 2013 Good Neighbor Award Winners, page 29)*

Considering a run for public office? NAR's Campaign Services Program trains REALTOR® candidates on how to run an effective campaign and offers state associations funding to support them. To learn more, visit the REALTOR® Action Center at *REALTORactioncenter.com.*

Their Civic Duty

Practitioners pursue public roles that strengthen communities.

By Graham Wood

Photo by Juan Manuel Garcia © 2013

Watching the Waterways

As **Carlos Gutierrez** races up the coast of Miami on a boat, he can see new towers jutting into the air all along the skyline, a sign of the city's red-hot housing market. It would signal to him a plethora of commercial and residential real estate opportunities—if that were what he was looking for. But the Keller Williams Miami agent isn't cruising the Atlantic to shore up business. He's on patrol.

Since 2011, Gutierrez has been volunteering with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; as part of its boat crew patrol, he keeps watch over the Miami waters for boats in distress. He's also a flotilla staff officer in charge of human resources and personnel, responsible for running applications, fingerprints, and tests and collecting dues for new trainees.

"It's a way to get involved with an organization whose sole purpose is to do good," says Gutierrez, who typically devotes 12 hours a month to Coast Guard work. "You get to put on a uniform. You get to help people."

He is in training to be an interpreter for the Coast Guard. Aside from English, he speaks Spanish, French, and Brazilian Portuguese. That's where he sees a big portion of his value. In 2010, Coast Guard interpreters were essential to relief efforts after the Haiti earthquake, which killed more than 200,000 people. That's the kind of help Gutierrez wants to provide.

"It's a huge satisfaction," Gutierrez says, "just knowing that I could do something that could potentially save a life."

His experience as a leader in real estate has prepared him for the fast pace of the Coast Guard.

"Everything I've learned in the business world, I've used to help the Coast Guard—keeping all the members on the same page, keeping everything organized and flowing as smoothly as possible," Gutierrez says. Volunteering with the Coast Guard "makes me a little more confident, and it shows my contribution to my community."

And when it comes to his real estate business, his Coast Guard experience helps him stand out to clients. "It's something interesting to tell people that they don't hear every day," Gutierrez says.