

## COMPANIES THAT CARE

## COMMERCE NEWS

# CIANJ Chairman's Reception Honors Corporate Philanthropy



BY DEBRA ROMANO  
CIANJ VICE PRESIDENT

**T**HE COMMERCE and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) made the theme

of this year's Chairman's Reception, "Companies that Care: Giving Back, Paying it Forward," and honored 30 businesses for their efforts to help others, support local communities, and reach out to those in need. Together, their corporate giving efforts have sent more than \$1 million to charities, families and programs in New Jersey.

"For most of these companies, their donations, kindness and community outreach are part of their corporate culture and their mission," explained CIANJ Chairman Martin W. Kafafian, managing partner at the law firm Beattie Padovano LLC, in Montvale, New Jersey. "The public at large is too often unaware of the magnitude and scope of these good works. This event is our way of shining a spotlight on the *companies that care*."

More than 200 business leaders and their employees attended our 2nd Annual Chairman's Reception at the Stony Hill Inn in Hackensack, New Jersey, on March 11, 2015, where we had the opportunity to celebrate the kindness and generosity of our member companies, and their employees and execu-

tives.

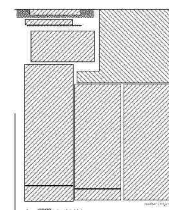
The top honor, chosen by the judges, was bestowed upon Sal Lauretta for Men, a family-owned men's clothing store located in Midland Park, New Jersey, which has raised more than \$460,000 for Eva's Village through "Behind the Seams," an annual fashion show and fundraiser.

"Eva's Village is a uniquely progressive and comprehensive non-profit social service organization dedicated to fighting homelessness and poverty," said Marie Reger, executive director of Eva's Village in Paterson, New Jersey. "Our mission is to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, treat the addicted and provide medical and dental care to the poor with respect for the human dignity of each individual."

Our panel of judges included CIANJ President John Galandak; Ramapo College Foundation Executive Director Cathy Davey; NJ Sharing Network Assistant Director of Resource Development Jackie Lue Raia; Ridgewood Moving Services President Cindy Myer; Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County Executive Director Jacey Raimondo; Bergen County United Way President Tom Toronto; and CIANJ Ambassador Judi Stewart.

The judges selected the following firms as "Champions of Good Works."

**Berkeley College** faculty and students provided assistance to Healing the Children, a project that offered medical care to children in Ecuador.



**Berkley Specialty Underwriting Managers** employees raised \$11,000 and collected hundreds of diapers and other items for Newborns in Need.

**CohnReznick** donated \$105,000 to Make-A-Wish in East Hanover for a total of \$1.45 million over the past 13 years.

**Cole Schotz** raised funds to renovate bedrooms and repair storm damage to the Holley Child Care and Development Center in Hackensack, where the firm has been a loyal supporter for the past decade.

**Columbia Bank** volunteered with United Methodist Aid in the Community to prepare bags of groceries for the needy in Paterson, and donated \$33,000 to buy a commercial freezer for the church's efforts to combat hunger.

**Connell Foley** volunteers donated thousands of hours to rehab at Camp Liberty, a summer camp for inner city kids.

**Goldstein Lieberman & Company** established the Goldstein Lieberman & Co. Cares Program to offer monthly donations to area non-profits, such as the latest \$1,000 donation to Equine Rescue in Orange County.

**Guardian Data Destruction** collected and donated computers and sporting goods to needy children in third-world nations.

**Hennion & Walsh** organized Jackson's Mulligan on Life Golf Outing to benefit an agency in Philadelphia that provides lodging and support to families of transplant patients.

**Holy Name Medical Center** offers internships to needy students at Christ the King Prep School in Newark, providing skills and training in healthcare, while helping student interns with tuition costs.

**IMPACT Group** contributed \$18,000 to United Way, and partners with Connections to Success to teach resume writing to those in need of career counseling.

**Jackson Lewis'** Morristown office placed second in the firm's nationwide fundraising efforts by raising \$15,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

**JCP&L** supports Employment Horizons, a non-profit that provides job training and placement services for people with

disabilities.

**Kearny Bank** partnered with Junior Achievement of New Jersey, provided \$50,000 in donations and volunteered to teach financial literacy to students.

**KPMG** volunteers distributed books to needy children in Newark and Paterson to combat illiteracy as part of the nationwide KPMG Family for Literacy program.

**Lakeland Bank** developed an innovative approach to "Jeans Day," by asking staff to make a \$10 donation for casual dress and using the money for monthly contributions to a variety of charities.

**Middlesex Water Co.** was the lead corporate sponsor for the Bowl for Hunger, which helps local food banks.

**NAI Mertz** participated in Jake's Run4Play, which raised funds for the construction of playgrounds for children with disabilities.

**NJMEP** created the Team Eagle Foundation, which has provided mentoring and leadership training to 107 young adults since 2010.

**Oritani Bank** staff delivered food to the Center for Food Action in Englewood, and made donations totaling \$75,000 this year.

**PSE&G** built playgrounds in neighborhoods in Moonachie and Little Ferry that were devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

**Samsung Electronics America** teamed up with Habitat for Humanity to help rebuild a home in Little Ferry for a family displaced by Hurricane Sandy, as part of the company's first nationwide day of service.

supplies to build a new home for Marine Sgt. Luis Remache, who was disabled in 2011 fighting for the United States in Afghanistan.

**TD Bank** organized 400 volunteers who planted more than 500 trees in cities across New Jersey as part of its TD Tree Days.

**Thomas Edison State College** adopted a U.S. military unit overseas through the college's Support Our Troops program, and sent more than 400 care packages

to the deployed soldiers.

**Valley National Bank** donated \$100,000 to The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers

Foundation for veterans and first responders.

**WithumSmith+Brown** raised \$300,000 for the Embrace Kids Foundation, which helps children with cancer and other serious disorders.

**Woodard & Curran** employees created a foundation to support environmental efforts, such as grants to Engineers Without Borders, bringing water to villages, and growing community gardens.

Lead sponsors of the Chairman's Reception included Gold Sponsor Lakeland Bank; Silver Sponsor Samsung Electronics Corporation; Bronze Sponsor

Connell Foley LLP; and Chairman's Circle Sponsors CohnReznick LLP; Guardian Data Destruction; HackensackUMC and PSE&G. Supporting Sponsors included Beattie Padovano LLC; Berkeley College; Cole Schotz P.C.; *COMMERCE Magazine*; the Foundation for Free Enterprise; Goldstein Lieberman & Company LLC; Holy Name Medical Center; IMPACT Group; JCP&L; Kearny Bank; KPMG, LLP; NJMEP; Oritani Bank; Sal Lauretta for Men; Stuyvesant Green Earth Press; Super Stud Building Products, Inc.; and Valley National Bank. ■





CIANJ President John Galandak described the business advocacy work of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey to attendees, and congratulated the award winners on "giving back by paying it forward." *All Photos by Russ DeSantis, Russ DeSantis Photography & Video, LLC*



CIANJ Chairman Martin W. Kafafian, Esq., presented the top honor—the “Extraordinary Good Works” award—to Sal Lauretta for Men, a family-owned men’s clothing store located in Midland Park, New Jersey. (Ralph Lauretta, left, is pictured accepting the trophy and at the podium.)



Eva’s Village Executive Director Marie Reger thanked “Extraordinary Good Works” award-winner Sal Lauretta for Men for their fashion show/fundraiser, “Behind the Seams,” which has raised more than \$460,000 in six years for the charity.



This group photo shows the team from Sal Lauretta for Men, winner of the top award at CIANJ’s 2015 Chairman’s Reception.

**Seton Hall University’s** Division of Volunteer Efforts performs more than 40,000 hours of service each year, including working at soup kitchens, river cleanups and on projects in Haiti and El Salvador.

**Singer Nelson Charlmers** is a longtime supporter of the People Against Children Starving, and helped to bring a truckload of food from Oklahoma to the needy in New Jersey.

**Stuyvesant Green Earth Press** Co-Founder Mike Roesch volunteers with the Coast Guard’s Heroes on Water program to help veterans.

**Super Stud Building Products** partnered with Homes for Our Troops to provide

*continued on page 12*



Lead sponsors of the Chairman's Reception included Gold Sponsor Lakeland Bank; Silver Sponsor Samsung Electronics Corporation; Bronze Sponsor Connell Foley LLP; and Chairman's Circle Sponsors CohnReznick LLP; Guardian Data Destruction; HackensackUMC; and PSE&G.



CIANJ's "Champions of Good Works" award winners demonstrated great character and compassion when they became aware of a need in their communities and quickly responded, offering resources and talents for the betterment of others.