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CIANJ AND COMMERCE MAGAZINE TEAM UP TO RECOGNIZE “COMPANIES THAT CARE”

Midland Park, N.J. – Mar. 26, 2018 – The Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey (CIANJ) and COMMERCE Magazine recently hosted their Fifth Annual Chairman’s Reception – paying tribute to the kindness and generosity of the business community.

Thirty-nine companies, including leading manufacturers, retailers, hospitals, banks and colleges and universities, were honored as “Champions of Good Works” at the gala reception, attended by more than 200 business executives.

“For most of the companies that we are honoring tonight, their generosity and kindness is part of their culture,” said Anthony Russo, President of CIANJ. “The public is often unaware of the magnitude and scope of these good works. This reception is our way of shining a spotlight on “Companies that Care,” Russo added.

CIANJ is a statewide business advocacy organization, representing more than 900 corporate members from every industry sector. The organization asked the business community to share stories of its philanthropy. Their stories became a special section of the March issue of COMMERCE Magazine that was distributed at the reception, which was held at the elegant Nanina’s In the Park in Belleville.

This year’s champions were decided by a blue-ribbon panel of judges, which also named Wakefern Food Corporation as the 2018 Extraordinary Good Works recipient.

“It is truly staggering when you look at the amount of money and food that has gone to those in need -- Wakefern has done a tremendous job of addressing hunger around the state,” said Andrew Silverstein, chairman of the CIANJ board of directors and a member of the accounting firm, Dorfman Abrams, Music.

Wakefern, through the ShopRite Partners in Caring program, donates \$3 million annually to Feeding America foodbanks in ShopRite’s trading area. ShopRite associates volunteer and donate food to pantries and soup kitchens and engage customers in a “Round Up Your Change” register donation program. Since 1999, Wakefern’s donations total \$45 million, with more than a million pounds of turkeys and many millions of pounds of food to local Feeding America food banks.

Steven Hildner, Community Relations Advocate and Diane McCurdy, Events Planner for Wakefern Food Corporation, both accepted the top honor on behalf of all the employees who make the ShopRite Partners in Caring program possible.

A highlight of the evening was the inspirational keynote address given by the new president and CEO of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Carlos Rodriguez.

ASB was one of the companies honored as Champions of Good Works for the following:

Supporting New Jersey Charities:

Atlantic Stewardship Bank donated more than \$508,000 to more than 250 recipients in 2017, including CUMAC, which feeds the hungry; Habitat for Humanity; Oasis, a haven for women and children; and the Christian HealthCare Center, which offers senior living, short-term rehabilitation, and mental health services. The bank donates 10 percent of its annual taxable income (more than \$9.3 million to date) as a tithe to area charities.

About Atlantic Stewardship Bank

Established in 1985, ASB is a full-service commercial bank serving both individuals and businesses. ASB maintains 12 banking locations, in Hawthorne, Midland Park, Montville, Morristown, North Haledon, Pequannock, Ridgewood, Waldwick, Westwood and Wyckoff, New Jersey, and two offices in Wayne, New Jersey. ASB is pleased to tithe, or share, 10 percent of its taxable income annually with nonprofit, educational, charitable and/or evangelical religious organizations. To date, ASB's tithing donations total more than \$10.1 million. The bank is a subsidiary of Stewardship Financial Corporation, trading on the Nasdaq Capital Market under the symbol SSFN. The bank's website is www.asbnow.com.