

2006 Educational Foundation Recognition Awards

Beacon Federal



Beacon Federal began over 50 years ago as a member-owned credit union serving the employees of Carrier Corporation, the world's largest air conditioning company. In 1999, Beacon's membership voted to change its charter and become a depositor-owned bank, which allowed Beacon to add mortgage loans and commercial lending and deposit services. Today, with over \$500 million in assets, Beacon is recognized as one of the fastest growing companies headquartered in Central New York. Beacon's success is due to the focused, goal-oriented efforts of its dedicated employees.

With our success comes the ability and desire to contribute to the Syracuse community. Within the Syracuse City School District, Beacon's employees have "adopted" the Delaware School, participating for the last five years with the school's Reading Lab. Beacon has also funded numerous field trips, and supports the Annual Youth Day Barbeque event which benefits the Syracuse City School District with needed supplies.

Beacon's community support also includes Make a Wish Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Home Headquarters, Inc., American Heart Association, Vera House and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Beacon is proud of the fact that its employees support the communities in which they live by volunteering in schools, churches, non-profit organizations, and as coaches for local sports.

Beacon is a goal-driven organization. One of Beacon's five corporate goals is to have fun, and while part of the fun is succeeding at the other four, a bigger part - for us, anyway - is making a difference in other people's lives.

The Hartford



Founded in 1810, the Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. (NYSE:HIG) is one of the largest investment and insurance companies in the United States. To millions of our customers--businesses, groups and individuals--The Hartford Stag logo is a trusted symbol of dependability. Our 30,000 employees serve customers worldwide. Of this total, 27,600 are in the US. The company currently has offices in the United Kingdom, Brazil and Japan. Our corporate headquarters are located in Hartford, CT.

Continuing an eight-year tradition of supporting and recognizing the efforts of local nonprofit organizations, in November 2005, the Hartford donated a total of \$12,00 among ten different non-profit organizations in the Syracuse area. The Hartford feels strongly about

helping make Syracuse a better place to live and work. The Hartford recognizes the substantial strides local organizations have made in impacting the community at large. The Hartford has a vested interest in the Syracuse community, employing 800 members in the area's field offices. The company selected the following organizations to receive the most recent grants: AIDS Community Resources, Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation, the Food Bank of CNY, the Francis House, Inc., The Girl Scouts of America-Foothills Council, Inc., Jonathan Cancer Fund, the Matthew House, the National Kidney Foundation of CNY, the National Hemophilia Foundation, and Owego Community Opportunities, Inc. The Hartford's top priority is Education. Other priorities are: Aid to Individuals with Disabilities, Arts and Culture, Civic, Economic Development, and Mature Americans. Funding is provided to organization with strong financial and management track records that demonstrate creative program initiatives and financial sustainability. The Hartford, through its Group Benefits Division, has sponsored disabled sporting events, organizations, and athletes since 1993 and, in 2003, The Hartford became the founding sponsor of U.S. Olympic Committee that recruits and trains more than 500 elite athletes with physical disabilities.

George Wladis



The Wladis Companies, Inc., an employee benefits specialist company, was started by George Wladis in 1959. Today they serve businesses, physicians, dentists and attorneys throughout the state of New York. George's son Steven joined him in 1995 and today, he is president and chief operation officer. Being generous and helping people in need was something taught to George by his late parents Rose and Jack Wladis. They always gave their guidance and even though their resources were limited—they still donated to many local charities. About ten years ago George was reading an article in The Post Standard about somebody donating a few hats and gloves to Seymour School—and they still needed more. After speaking to the principal he realized these kids were in

trouble—no hats no gloves—550 students in all. So, he purchased 550 hats and gloves and he closed his office for a few hours –took all his employees and they went to the school to deliver the goods. The expressions on their faces brought tears to his eyes. He continued the tradition for a few years—expanding to two and then four schools. Today, with the help of Syracuse Fire Department Federal Credit Union, The Wladis Law Firm, Dermody Burke & Brown, Support Service Alliance, Welch Allyn, Pinnacle Investments, Inc., Zausmer-Frisch Construction and GMAC Mortgage, they now donate to 12 schools and 6,500 kids—this year they are hoping to increase the program to include 6,500 new jackets to every needy child—along with the hats and gloves. George has been chairman of The Syracuse Jewish Federation campaign for three years and co-chairman for one year. He also serves on the boards of The Syracuse City Schools Education Foundation, The Syracuse Symphony and The Syracuse Jewish Federation. He is a lifetime member of The Million Dollar Round Table of the insurance industry. George and his wife, Roberta, have taught the principles of charity and giving to his four sons and five grandchildren. He knows the Wladis tradition of being

charitable will be continued for the years to come.

