

NJBIA

REPORT TO MEMBERS by Philip Kirschner, President

NJBIA Awards Highlight the Good News about Business

Businesses do a tremendous amount of good for their employees and their communities but too often don't get the recognition they deserve. That's why NJBIA holds its annual Awards for Excellence Dinner, where on October 18 we will highlight the impressive accomplishments of 11 member companies.

GENEWIZ, Inc. of South Plainfield, for instance, has grown into an international company by providing research services to top scientists. In fact, it counts nine Nobel Prize winners among its loyal customers. And pharmaceutical company Ranbaxy Inc. has kept investing in New Jersey right through the financial crisis and the recession, creating nearly 250 jobs over the past five years.

When it comes to the environment, businesses are on the front lines making a real difference. NJM Insurance Group brought a vacant, contaminated property back to life when it built its new claims-processing center and bank branch in Hammonton. It even designed an innovative way to prevent rainwater runoff and collect roof runoff to water the lawn. Datapipe, Inc. of Jersey City, a leading provider of IT infrastructure, now runs all of its energy-intensive data centers solely on renewable energy.

Many companies make tremendous efforts to ensure their employees live healthy lives and feel appreciated at work. Barnabas Health of West Orange, for instance, has created an entire virtual university on the Internet, giving its employees 24-hour access to continuing education classes.

Bergen's Promise of Rochelle Park, a nonprofit agency helping families in crisis, was able to dramatically reduce its employee-turnover rate by boosting its wellness programs and restructuring its workforce to foster teamwork. Hackensack University Medical Center of Hackensack revamped its health plan to better promote wellness among employees, including a program to assess risk among employees for six serious diseases.

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Finally, four companies are receiving NJBIA's Public Service award. Lowy's Moving Service of Neptune started to collect perfectly good food people were throwing out when they moved, delivering it to food banks instead. Lowy's has persuaded 142 other moving companies in 33 states to do the same thing. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation of East Hanover provides community organizations with thousands of volunteers through its Community Partnership Day, and opens its doors to local teens under its Multicultural Teen Corporate Mentoring Program. Prudential Financial of Newark provided seminars and materials to help charitable organizations develop new fundraising ideas and gives out more than \$100,000 in grants to those with the best ideas. And Seton Hall University of South Orange stresses community service to its students through its Division of Volunteer Efforts (DOVE) program, helping 25 area community organizations and even sending volunteers to El Salvador and Haiti.

Complete profiles of the companies and their achievements are published in this edition of NJ Business. Even in these tough economic times, companies are putting in time and resources to make New Jersey a better place in which to live and work. I invite you to join us in celebrating these wonderful accomplishments at the Awards for Excellence Dinner on October 18 at the Pines Manor in Edison. Visit www.njbia.org/awards for more information. **NJB**

