

The Post-Journal

Finest Saluted

Jamestown Community Chamber Honors 2012's Award Winners

February 13, 2013 By Dennis Phillips (dphillips@post-journal.com)

On Tuesday, the Jamestown Community Chamber of Commerce saluted the community's finest.

At the Dr. Lillian V. Ney Renaissance Center in Jamestown, the chamber held its 11th annual "Salute to our Finest" recognition reception. Seven organizations and individuals were recognized for their service to the community.

"We're here to celebrate the great work and great business many of our members do," said Greg Krauza, county Chamber of Commerce member development director.



The community service award was given to John Bauer, who was also the 2011 Axel W. Carlson Unsung Hero Volunteer Award winner. Bill Stevenson, award presenter, said Bauer volunteers his time to assist the YWCA, Reg Lenna Civic Center, the Babe Ruth World Series and the Jamestown Labor Day Festival, to name just a few of the organizations he helps.

"It is a pleasure to do volunteer work," Bauer said.

The pride of Jamestown award was given to the Gateway Center Train Station. In May 2010, an \$11 million renovation project started to rebuild the

closed railroad station. In October 2012, the building was reopened, which now hosts community events and activities. Lee Harkness, Gateway Center Train Station general manager, accepted the award.

"This honor goes to a lot of people," Harkness said about all those who worked on the train station renovation project. "I just have to tell you, I think we're on the right track," he joked to close his award acceptance speech.

The business of the year was Robo Enterprises Inc. The third-generation business owns gas stations, car washes, laundry facilities and the Tastee Corners.

"It's the community and our employees, we couldn't have done it without them," said Kim Carlson, Robo Enterprises co-owner.

"Being the new kid on the block, I see faces I don't know, but I hope to get to know each one of you," said Nash.

"This award is about a lot of people at Hope's Window's," Manitta said about the company's 200 employees.

The retailer of the year was Jamestown Mattress, which is owned by the Pullan family. The business has 10 retail stores in New York and Pennsylvania, and sells 40 different lines of bedding.

The service to humanity award was given to the Eastside YMCA. The center host after-school and academic support programs for Jamestown's youth. The Eastside YMCA assists an average of 60 children a day.