

MEDIA RELEASE

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WEST LEB FEED & SUPPLY HONORED

PLYMOUTH - Recognizing West Lebanon Feed and Supply's substantial corporate support for local charities and outstanding corporate success even in the face of economic recession, the Grafton County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) announced the selection of the company as Grafton County's 2009 Business of the Year.

The 83 year old Upper Valley animal feed and supply store was feted at the GCEDC's Annual Meeting on Wednesday (Sept. 16) at Plymouth State University. Owners Curt and Sharon Jacques were present with numerous employees to accept the honor.

"We were very impressed by West Lebanon Feed and Supply's hefty support for community projects such the Share the Harvest Program as well as charitable donations to groups such as the Lebanon Police Department's K-9 Unit and local animal shelters," stated GCEDC Vice President Bill Webb. "In addition, the company's 2007 construction of a larger retail center in the West Lebanon neighborhood is a strong indication of their support for that community and that area's future revitalization."

Supporting the company's nomination was their banking partner, Lake Sunapee Bank. The bank's chief executive officer, Steve Ensign, was among those who personally attended the award ceremony. "We are honored to participate in the recognition of a great Upper Valley company and customer. We've had a long and successful relationship with the company and are proud of their business acumen and community-minded spirit." Echoing Ensign's comment was Greater Lebanon Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Paul Boucher. "The Jacques' investment in West Lebanon is a reminder that confident and savvy business owners can make a true difference in their communities. Where would we be without businesses like West Lebanon Feed & Supply?"

Upon hearing of the Award, Grafton County Commission Chair Mike Cryans stated that "As a resident in Grafton County's Upper Valley, I know West Lebanon Feed and Supply's well earned reputation for customer service and community charity. Curt and Sharon Jacques have made West Leb Feed and Supply into a model corporate citizen." Cryans was joined at the event by fellow County Commissioner and Executive Counselor Ray Burton.

West Lebanon Feed & Supply owner Curt Jacques expressed pride and appreciation upon hearing news of the award. "This business has been a success thanks to the loyalty of Upper Valley residents and the dedication of our staff. Sharon and I could not have done this without them." The Jacques' were joined by a handful of employees at the event; many of whom contributed testimonials supportive of the award nomination.

A visibly touched Curt Jacques also expressed appreciation for the residents and business community in the Upper Valley. “The Upper Valley has been so good to Sharon and me. I can’t imagine living anywhere else and not having this true sense of community and family as we do here.”

The Grafton County Business of the Year Award was created in order to recognize those businesses that have the highest commitment to their community, employees and to corporate performance.

Headquartered in Plymouth, the GCEDC is a private, non profit organization that seeks to attract and retain businesses to Grafton County as well as support entrepreneurial initiatives.



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