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## RUNNING TOWARD YOUR DREAMS







As the President of the West Coast Chamber, I lead a team that is passionate about bringing businesses together for the greater good. We make it our mission to be a Catalyst for business growth, a Convener of leaders and influencers, and a Champion for a thriving community. As the voice of the business community, we take pride in looking back over a successful year and look forward to a new year

of creating more opportunities to learn, to grow and to build the relationships that keep our community strong.

In this community, new businesses have the support and guidance of those who have gone before them. In this community, businesses prioritize philanthropy and in giving back to this place that we call home. In this community, people understand that keeping our businesses strong leads to the greater good for all. At the Chamber we understand that strong businesses lead to a strong community, and this is a community with a heart of gold. The possibilities are endless when we work together to make a positive impact in the place where we live work and play.

Jane Clark



Champer Staff

LEFT TO RIGHT: Colleen Schipsi Program Manager, Jodi Owczarski Vice-President, Caroline Monahan Director of Marketing & Communications, Keegan Aalderink Member Engagement Coordinator, Sheryl VanLoo Data & Accounts Coordinator, Jane Clark President, Emily Hostetler Marketing Coordinator, Britt Delo Director of Membership



#### **SPONSOR REMARKS** Sandy Ham, Blue Cross/Blue Shield and Blue Care Network

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REMARKS** Mike Dykstra, President, Zeeland Lumber, Past Board Chair Jennifer Remondino, Partner, Warner Norcross + Judd, Incoming Board Chair

#### **CATALYST, CONVENER, CHAMPION STORYTELLING**

CATALYST: Britt Delo, Director of Membership, West Coast Chamber CONVENER: Caroline Monahan, Director of Marketing and Communications, West Coast Chamber CHAMPION: Jodi Owczarski, Vice President, West Coast Chamber

### **BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

Presented to Ed Rietman, Owner, K & R Truck Sales Presented by Jon Lanning, Owner, INONTIME, Chamber Board Member

Presented to Kevin Phillips, CFO, Hudsonville Ice Cream Presented by Jim Hutt, President, Hutt Trucking, Chamber Board Member

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD**

Presented to Darcy Fluharty, Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Center Presented by Keri McCarthy, Business Lead, DISHER, Chamber Board Member

### Event Premier Partner Highlights Inside

Event Sponsors **EBW** Electronics GOLD

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#### MICHIGAN WEST COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **ANNUAL MEETING 2019**



#### WELCOME

Jane Clark, President, West Coast Chamber

### -LUNCH-

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** Patrick "Blake" Leeper, Olympic/Paralympic Games Medalist, World and American Record Holder

> **Comcast Business Global Concepts Enterprise** Leading by Design

**EVENT** Eastern Floral **PARTNER** Corporate Live

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## The Chamber is a Champion for a **Thriving Community**

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We brought members together to support the missions of non-profit organizations in our community at our May 15, 2019 Community Impact Day. 140 members participated in a half-day of volunteering at sixteen different organizations ranging from various social services to the arts to the humane society. It was the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the West Coast Leadership Program, and the launch of a new type of member engagement that focuses on giving back to the community.



## PREMIER PARTNERS AS CHAMPIONS

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## worksighted

## CELEBRATING CHAMPIONS

### Businesy Leadership Awards

#### Ed Rietman Owner, K&R Truck Sales

K&R Truck Sales Owner, Ed Rietman was born and raised in West Michigan. He attended and graduated from tech college in St. Louis, Missouri,

and began his career as a diesel technician. In 1982 Ed married Jane, and soon after was blessed with three daughters. While Jane was raising their children, Ed worked full time at a trucking company as a technician, did some part time farming and also started rebuilding trucks part time at home in their garage. Today, their business is truly a family affair. Ed said, "We have two wonderful son-in-laws and our daughters, who are very important parts of running and supporting the business." Ed and Jane are blessed with six grandchildren that they enjoy spending time with every chance they get.

#### About K & R Truck Sales

Ed Rietman and Jeff Kolean started K&R in 1989, as two men buying, rebuilding and then reselling wrecked vehicles, one at a time. In 1994, Ed took over the business on his own, and the two remain friends to this day. Ed went on to expand K&R, and in May of 2012 he acquired West Michigan International Truck dealerships and continued expanding into the Kalamazoo and Lansing markets. Today the team of K&R Truck Sales numbers more than 275 employees. Ed said, "This growth was possible thanks to God and the blessing of great employees."

K&R prioritizes giving back to its community, and actively participates in campaigns to support local charities. Over the past five years it has been involved in supporting Feeding America West Michigan, Love Inc and People Helping People, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, Starlite Shores Family Camp and Catholic Charities, and Saladin Shriners. The donations for 2019 will include support for Be Nice, Gilda's Club and the Outdoor Discovery Center.





#### Kevin Phillips CFO, Hudsonville Creamery & Ice Cream Company

Hudsonville Creamery and Ice Cream Company is

invested in making this community a great place to live and work. "Our community has a strong heritage of businesses and business leaders contributing to the long-term health and viability of its residents and institutions. We want to be a Company that continues that legacy and we take that responsibility seriously," says Kevin Phillips, company CFO.

"We're proud of the people at Hudsonville Creamery and Ice Cream Company, proud of their strong work ethic, their desire to make great products and their willingness to share our success with others. We're also very proud of the relationship we have with our Community and it makes us happy that our products are enjoyed by so many."

Hudsonville emphasizes with the team the importance and responsibility of supporting those in need and the organizations most effective in serving them.

This award means a lot to the team at Hudsonville. "While we try to go about our business without drawing a lot of attention to ourselves, it's nice to be recognized as an organization that strives to serve its customers, team members and community. That balance is important to us. It's in our DNA."

#### About Hudsonville Creamery and Ice Cream Company

Hudsonville Creamery was a co-operative created in 1895 by local farmers who were looking for a better way of selling their dairy products. Their first location was on Chicago Drive in Hudsonville, MI. The creamery started producing ice cream in 1926 and was making six flavors by 1940.

Today, Hudsonville Ice Cream produces over 50 flavors and is sold across Michigan, Illinois and Indiana.





## Community Impact Award

**Darcy Fluharty** Executive Director Children's Advocacy Center



As the founding director of the Children's Advocacy Center in 1998, Darcy spent her

professional career working in the child welfare system. She is passionate about bettering the lives of children and families and works with an outstanding staff and multi-disciplinary team committed to the task. Darcy's commitment to children both regionally and nationally has her involved as the Non-Profit Division Chair for Greater Ottawa County United Way, Treasurer for the Michigan Chapter of the National Children's Alliance, and board member for the Peaceful Hearts Foundation. Darcy holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a master's degree in Management. She has lived in the Holland area most of her life and is the proud mother of one daughter and one granddaughter.

#### About The Children's Advocacy Center

Founded in 1998, the mission of the CAC is to provide child centered prevention, advocacy, and team intervention in investigation, assessment, and treatment of child sexual abuse inclusive of all children and families. The CAC model is a unique, non-duplicative program that utilizes the expertise of multidisciplinary team working together to decrease trauma for child victims by streamlining the investigative process all under one roof. Staff members are specially trained to meet the special needs of the child victim. They also teach prevention training programs to youth serving organizations, community members, and anyone interested in keeping children safe. Trainings are offered in both Spanish and English and are free of charge.

All services at the Children's Advocacy Center are provided at no cost to the victim or their supportive family members.







## Running Toward Your Dreams with Blake Leeper

When it comes to thinking big about his future, few people are aiming higher than U.S. Paralympic athlete, Patrick "Blake" Leeper. Born without legs, he's not only run toward his dreams of being the fastest man on the planet, but he's crushing his goals and thinking even bigger. He's an Olympic/Paralympic Games Medalist, an eight-time Paralympic Track and Field international medalist, and the world record holder and three-time American record holder.

Born without legs from a congenital birth defect, Leeper did not start racing until 2010. It was at his first ever race in Edmond, Oklahoma that he caught the attention of the Associate Director of High Performance for U.S. Paralympics Track and Field, who convinced his parents to let their son move into the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California. That's when Leeper left the University of Tennessee to embark on a journey that no one could envision for a kid from Tennessee born without legs.

In June of 2018, running in a field of able-bodied runners, he shattered his own world record in the 400 meters, coming in at 44.42, the fastest time ever by an amputee. His medal-winning races began in 2011 at the Parapan American Games, then in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London (losing to South African Oscar Pistorius, whose world record of 45.39 seconds Leeper eventually broke), and in 2013 at the Paralympic World Championships in Lyon, France.

Leeper was chosen by the U.S. Paralympics to represent Team USA in Rio 2016. At the Paralympic trials, he set a new American and new America's records. He took silver in the 100m despite losing a prosthetic leg crossing the finish line live on NBC. In April 2018, Leeper set a new world record of 45.05 in a 400-meter race, not only beating Pistorius' record, but placing him in the top 10 amongst able bodied athletes. Leeper's medal collection includes one gold, six silver and one bronze.

Over his career, he hopes to win more medals than any Paralympic athlete in track and field. He is also striving to be the first American track and field Paralympian who qualifies for the able-bodied Olympic trials. Stats like this don't just happen. Blake Leeper has spent his career defining what it means to set your mind on accomplishing your wildest dreams.

## The Chamber is a Cataylst for **Business Growth** and **Development**

Providing opportunities to promote their brands is one way the Chamber supports small businesses in our community. Spotlighting our New Members, Ribbon Cutting Celebrations and West Coast Cash merchants in our magazine and on social media amplifies their stories to all of the Chamber's Connect readers, website viewers and social media followers.

## Chamber Board 2019-20



Joined

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Jennifer Remondino Chair Warner Norcross + Judd LLP, Mike Novakoski Vice-Chair/Treasurer Elzinga & Volkers, Inc., Kelly Springer At-Large Executive Committee Metal Flow Corporation, Jon Lanning At-Large Executive Committee INONTIME, Mike Dykstra Past Chair Zeeland Lumber & Supply, Jane Clark President Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce DIRECTORS: Francé Allen Ventura Manufacturing, David Bolt GMB Architecture + Engineering, Mandi Brower Quality Car Wash, Seth Bushouse Gentex Corporation,



Ed DeNave Cento Anni, Peter Haines Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, Brad Haverkamp Chemical Bank, Jim Hutt, Hutt, Inc., Bryan Jones JR Automation Technologies, Nolan Kamer Nolan Kamer Agency/ Farm Bureau Insurance, Nick Kassanos LG Chem Holland Michigan Plant, Keri McCarthy DISHER, Jennifer Owens Lakeshore Advantage





Providing educational programs and opportunities to connect is one way that the Chamber supports business leaders and their teams in pursuing professional development opportunities. Power Networking events offer expert coaching on maximizing opportunities to connect. Leading Edge Workshops provide hands-on learning in areas such as human resources, marketing and networking skills. Wake Up West Coast Breakfasts feature presentations from local and national leaders who share insights on current business trends and best practices.



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### The Chamber is a Convener of Leaders and Influencers

Bringing members together to discuss issues that affect our community is one way that the Chamber makes a positive impact. The West Coast Leadership Program gives participants a deep dive into significant issues in our community and individuals find ways to plug into their passion for giving back in a meaningful way. Monthly Governmental Affairs Breakfasts and Premier Legislative Events provide opportunities for members to connect face to face with elected officials and policy makers and to have a voice in issues that impact their businesses.



### Chamber Ambassadors

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an Upton to focus on

Julie Abel JabberDesign Mobile App Development Patrick Avery Best Version Media Bill Badran BandA Tech Solutions, LLC Robin Bartells Gordon Water Systems Jim Baum PNC Bank Lauren Boker Best Version Media Michele Chaney Consumers Credit Union Tricia Cranmer Hope College Steve Darrow De Boer, Baumann & Company Wayne DeBruyn Hilliard Lyons A Baird Company Josh Delo New Holland Brewing Company Darlene DeWitt Consumers Credit Union Cameron Dolbow, Edward Jones / Cameron Dolbow, Financial Advisor Brittany Dolly De Boer, Baumann & Company Shannon Dykstra Attorney Adam Zuwerink -West Michigan Law, P.C. Linnea Freriks Comfort Keepers JoAnna Gonzales Allegra Marketing/Print/Mail Joe Harbottle Community Members Barb Hermanson SERVPRO of Holland/W. Ottawa County Nolan Kamer Nolan Kamer Agency / Farm Bureau Insurance Raechel Kamphuis The Insurance Group Stacy Segrist Kamphuis 1 Doug Kamphuis Stacy Segrist Kamphuis 1 Doug Kamphuis Chervi Kilinski RE/MAX Lakeshore

Aris Knitter Five Star Real Estate Lakeshore, L.L.C. Rebecca Lamper Community Choice Credit Union Hope Lesperance Edward Jones / Hope Lesperance, Financial Advisor Kellie Lincourt Medilodge of Holland Tabitha Lohr Lohr Marketing Andrew Midgley Private Mortgage Wholesale, Inc. Russ M Miller Rotary Club of Holland Jerry Morlock AXIOS HR dba Staffing Inc. in Holland Kevin M O'Keefe Chemical Bank Alexander Overbeek Robert W. Baird & Co.



Helping members connect within the context of smaller groups is one way that the Chamber provides opportunities for sharing best practices within specific industries and focus areas. Network at Lunch events are convenient one-hour events that bring together professionals wanting to share about their business and make connections. Affinity Groups engage members in small groups segmented by business industry, job description, geographic location, mission and management profile. No one understands what you do better than someone in a similar

> role or industry, and the chamber helps make those connections.

nd Affinity Group (ZAG)

Sustainability Affinity Group

John Pasquinelli Fifth Third Bank Steve Pembleton Pembleton HR Consulting Lacie Perkins WM Benefit Strategies Raynetta Praest Five Star Real Estate Lakeshore, L.L.C. Jesse Prins First National Bank of Michigan David Purnell DP Creative Audio, LLC Jennifer Reeves Gill Staffing Kristopher Reinhardt Edward Jones / Kristopher Reinhardt Edward Jones / Kristopher Reinhardt, Financial Advisor Dan Robertson Chemical Bank Jesus Romero Herman Miller, Inc.

Tim Schreur Schreur Printing & Mailing Thomas Sharwarko Whiteford Wealth Management, Inc. Shelly Shepard Coldwell Banker Woodland Schmidt Penny Shuff Second Act LLC Lori L Sweeney Exclusive Marketing Concepts Ty Tanis Colliers International Kim Vandermolen Lakeshore Family Chiropractic, PLC Bria Wagner Five Star Real Estate Lakeshore, L.L.C. Dr. Andrew White Higher Health Chiropractic of Holland Donald Wilkinson Lakeshore Habitat For Humanity, Inc.



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