Greater New Haven Chamber Of Commerce's Gary Ciarleglio Wins Prestigious Sales Award

New Haven: The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) has awarded Gary Ciarleglio of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce (GNHCC) with its 2024 Sales Contest award for dollar value of new sponsorship sales.

Ciarleglio placed second in the $500,000 - $2 million organizational dues income category for total sponsorship sales achieved during the 2024 calendar year. This honor comes after a highly competitive process with entrants from across the country submitting sales figures for consideration. Eligible sales were made between January 1 and December 31, 2024.



"Chamber sales professionals are a driving force behind building connections and amplifying their organizations' transformative impact on communities," said ACCE President & CEO Sheree Anne Kelly. "We honor and celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of this year's top industry leaders."

Ciarleglio's achievement will be formally recognized at ACCE's Membership and Revenue Development Conference in Cobb County, Georgia, taking place March 19-21, 2025.

Reflecting on the honor, Ciarleglio expressed gratitude to the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce team, saying: "Although I manage the relationships with our members, the entire GNHCC team is behind this success – from graphics and marketing to operations and the incredible events we produce that attract business support. This recognition is truly a testament to our collaborative efforts and the Chamber's commitment to supporting businesses in our region. It feels amazing to see the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce named among the top performers nationwide."

Ciarleglio's recognition also highlights the unique partnership between GNHCC and its affiliate organization, the Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce (QCC), demonstrating its innovative and successful approach to sponsorship sales.

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Warming Center at Keefe Community Center in Hamden

The Town of Hamden, in partnership with Columbus House, Inc., will open an overnight winter warming center for those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Hamden's Warming Center will be open now through March 31st, from 7pm-7am, seven nights a week. It will be stationed at the Keefe Community Center Gym, located at 11 Pine St in Hamden. Please enter through the George Street parking lot, located at 19 George St.

The Warming Center will be operated by trained Columbus House staff who will monitor overnight shifts and share community outreach information with our guests.

The Warming Center is not a "shelter" as no beds will be provided. It will offer a clean, safe, indoor overnight space to protect those in need from harsh weather conditions for those who would likely otherwise spend their nights outdoors. Hamden Police will provide walk-throughs on a nightly basis.

Organizations or agencies that are interested in providing dinners and breakfasts are encouraged to contact Columbus House at (203) 401-4400, ext. 138 or by email at sdimario@columbushouse.org.

Residents wishing to contribute to the Warming Center may do so by donating items such as non-perishable, pre-wrapped snack food items and beverages. Donations of new socks, new underwear, gloves, hats, umbrellas, and rain ponchos are also welcome.

Donations may be dropped off at the Keefe Community Center between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Donation receipts will be available.

For further information, please contact:

Keefe Community Center at (203) 562-5129

The Columbus House Emergency Services Team at (203) 768-7232

Deputy Chief of Staff, Alexa M. Panayotakis, at (203) 287-7100 or by email at apanayotakis@hamden.com.

3rd Marine Division Association Seeking Members

The Third Marine Division Association invites anyone who served with/or in direct support of the 3rd Marine Division at any time to join our association.

For a membership application or more information, please contact Ray Kelley at (508) 459-9937 or mgkm60@yahoo.com.

Winner -- No Loser

In my opinion there is no such thing as a loser because even though you have not come in first place, you could possess many attributes that will contribute to society. Sometimes we must settle for second or third place even if we have accomplished our achievements and goals. It's how we handle our disappointments that will allow us to be optimistic and persevere. Your achievements may seem insignificant at the time, however be proud and relish the idea that you have done your best.

In the meantime, treat people the way you want to be treated. You use less muscles when you smile than when you frown. If you are kind, people will gravitate toward you and when the chips are down, put your faith in God. He will always point you in the right direction.

Ron Johnson, Hamden

Are You Looking for a Rewarding Volunteer Tutor Job?

New Haven: If so, become a tutor at Springs Learning Center in New Haven. We are an educational Center supported and established by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. We provide a holistic literacy program for underserved adult learners with an emphasis on English as a Second Language.

The overall goal of the Center is to provide individual tutoring in basic literacy skills. The commitment is one hour a week and the learners are most grateful for the assistance. All training and materials are provided. If you can speak English, you can teach English!

To reach the Center, please call (203) 787-1025 or email annemarie.chuckrey@oppeace.org for further information. We encourage potential tutors to make an appointment and fill out an application.

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FOR SALE: Albums - all $4 each. Tommy, The Who; Three Dog Night - Suitable for Framing, Live At The Forum, It Ain't Easy. Call (203) 343-9017 •

WANTED: 1900 thru 1960 cars & trucks, parts, tools, road signs & memorabilia; (203) 265-2530, no texts •

FOR SALE: Antique 3 legged vase from Austria floral painted $20 text/call for pictures (203)970-5088

WANTED: Buying older beer cans, flats, conetops, single cans or entire collections; (203) 915-7662 •

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Ali Baba's Kitchen Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Picture (L-R): Matt Iovanne, Business Development Sales & Support Specialist, Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce; Noor Khalid, Sobia Khalid, Huda Khalid, Growth and Operations, Mike Freda, First Selectman of North Haven, Jamshed Khalid, Owner and Huma Khalid.

North Haven: The Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce was delighted to organize a Grand Opening - Ribbon Cutting ceremony for Ali Baba's Kitchen new location at 344 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Ali Baba's Kitchen is a family-owned business that began its journey as one of New Haven's first food trucks. A trailblazer in the local food truck scene, owner and founder Jamshed Khalid reflects on the restaurant's evolution: "It is humbling to see the journey this business has taken us. I am proud to have my family along with me to support its growth."

But that is just the beginning – Ali Baba's Kitchen is now stepping into the future with the next generation at the helm, Khalid's daughter, Huda Khalid, has joined the family business, bringing her expertise in marketing and a fresh vision for growth and innovation. Huda's involvement represents a commitment to preserving the restaurant's cultural roots while exploring new ways to connect with the community and enhance the customer experience.

"Ali Baba's Kitchen is about innovation and bringing bold flavors to adventurous palates," said Huda Khalid. "As we expand, we're excited to introduce more people – especially fellow tastebud adventurers – to the vibrant flavors we're so passionate about and to continue creating memorable experiences for our guests."

The opening of the North Haven location is a testament to the restaurant's enduring popularity and ability to adapt and thrive. With a menu that blends bold, authentic flavors with a welcoming dining environment, Ali Baba's Kitchen invites new and returning guests to come and experience their culinary journey.

For more information, visit https://alibabaskitchen.com/ or follow them on social media to stay updated on news and events.

HAMDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNOUNCING THE 2025 THORNTON WILDER WRITING COMPETITION

The Hamden Public Library's Thornton Wilder Writing Competition (TWWC) is now accepting submissions for 2025. The contest is open to all New Haven County public, private, homeschool, and parochial high school students. ***Entries are due by midnight on Sun., Feb. 23.***

A panel of judges will select a first and second-place winner, as well as an honorable mention, in fiction and poetry. Winners will receive $500, $300, and $100 respectively.

Students may submit up to one entry each for the fiction and poetry categories, and fiction works can be short stories, scripts, one-act plays, or excerpts from longer works. Submissions may not exceed 2,500 words and each entry must be accompanied by a completed application.

Entries should be sent to TWilder@hamdenlibrary.org.

For more information and a copy of the application, visit www.hamdenlibrary.org/twwc.

Now in its 39th year, the TWWC was established by the Friends of Hamden Library to honor longtime Hamden resident and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright and novelist, Thornton Wilder.

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