

2017 IMPACT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Aspiring Entrepreneur

- Anthony Grupido - Handsleight
 - His commitment to his craft is only second to his passion for speaking out on bullying and suicide. Both should be recognized and celebrated by the OACC in this way. Anthony donates his time to speak at local schools and other organizations for the benefit of spreading awareness and support to students and their families.
 - Anthony has built an incredible business and following at a very young age. He opens for national acts and performs at many local events and businesses. He shows up and brings his magical talents to many local events. He has built his business around helping and entertaining others, a wonderful combination.
- Peter Alexander – PMA Lawn and Landscaping
 - Peter started his business out when he was about 16 and he has grown through the years. Peter is the perfect example of this award. He is currently working, going to school for landscaping design. He is a family type business. He believes in our community and even though we don't see much of him i believe that he is deserved of this award. He continues to reinvest in his business by buying more equipment and his schooling will help him in the near future. He invested in our community by the fact that he started his business at a young age and that he works within the Orion Community. Many of his customers live in the Orion Community so he is helping keep the funds in Orion
 - Peter began by mowing lawns and has worked his way into having his own office outside of his home. His company has grown also by including landscaping as well as lawn mowing. He has hired employees and does an amazing job. His work ethic is outstanding. Peter has invested in this community by renting office space in Lake Orion as well as helping to maintain the beauty of our town and subdivisions.

Youth Impact

- Kristi Schons – The Daisy Project MI
 - I would like to nominate Kristie Schons and the Daisy Project for their continued efforts in making all of the children of Lake Orion feel as though they have a space to play! Incorporating safe play spaces for both handicapped and able-bodied children is a revolutionary idea and should most definitely be recognized and appreciated by the OACC.
- John Ball – Lake Orion United Methodist Church
 - John has worked with Chief Narsh to Create Clergy, Cops and Beer which raises money for the Cops and Kids charities. He also feeds the hungry in our area, and host community conversations to help foster constructive conversation in the community.
- Jerry Narsh – Lake Orion Police Department/Village of Lake Orion

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- Jerry works with John Ball on the Clergy, Cops and Beer events to raise money for underprivileged children in our area. He also helps to ensure children from surrounding communities have a great Christmas with his Shop with a Hero program.
- Maggie Razdar – Kids Standard Publication
 - Maggie Razdar, is founder and President of Kids Standard Publication, a magazine where children are the primary authors. Prior to launching this magazine, Maggie felt that due to the influence of digital technology in our daily life, children were losing touch with activities like reading, writing and research. In March of 2015 Kids Standard magazine was first released in the surrounding communities and two years later Maggie has help sparked the interests and talents of children and their authors within not only in the Lake Orion community, but in the communities of Clarkston, Pontiac, Auburn Hills and others. With themes like: stories that matter, number talk and family magic - Kids Standard is a must for your reading list! Read local!

Economic Impact

- Matt Pfeiffer – Northern Flooring and Interiors
 - Matt's recent move to his new location brought beauty and interest to what would have been an otherwise empty building on Lapeer Rd. He continuously promotes and supports other businesses whenever possible, greatly contributing to the success of others. Matt continues to get involved in every charity or cause in Lake Orion. He is the epitome of someone who has a positive impact on every aspect of our community.
- Allan Goetz, S. Loudon, M. Linc, B. Lowe, J. Richardson– 20 Front Street
 - 20 Front Street brings hundreds of people to downtown Lake Orion each month. Many who have never been there. 20 Front Street owners have turned a dilapidated building into a safe and beautiful place that has changed for the better.
 - Alan, along with his partners turned a dilapidated historic building into a beautiful entertainment venue. His business draws people from all over to our community, and helps to enrich the lives of all that live here.
 - Operating 3 new businesses. Employ local individuals. Positive environment. Employ local residents. Bring approximately 200 individuals at any given day from outside the community to see what Lake Orion has to offer. Bring new experiences with music and culture.
 - This business not only renovated an old garage in our downtown district, but they turned it into an amazing venue for music and art that our town was missing. They are bringing in artists who are attracting an audience from out of town, which promotes our economic impact on themselves and other retail businesses in the area. The social cafe and creamery adds a special touch where people can communicate, create and enjoy our wonderful town.

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- Rhonda Meyers & Amy Maxwell – Heartfelt Impressions Learning Center
 - In August 2011, Rhonda and Amy started Heartfelt Impressions Learning Center. They renovated a previous day care center into a cheerful space and opened their doors for business. They have now expanded to three centers: Lake Orion, Oakland Township and Clarkston, and employ 70 people. Heartfelt Impressions recently moved their Main Office to downtown Lake Orion and continue to develop ways to grow their business and to provide quality care for working families in our community. Rhonda and Amy also started a Mastermind Group to share ideas and coach other owners of child care centers, half of whom operate businesses in Oakland County. This group helps owners grow their businesses, expand their staffs and bring economic vitality to their communities. In addition to being business owners, Rhonda and Amy are Lake Orion moms who have been involved in the community for years. You will see Heartfelt's bright green tent and their employees at the Big Rig Gig, Dragon on the Lake, Barn Daze and other community events. They foster a family atmosphere amongst their clientele and employees. Recently the staff participated in the Whole Life Challenge, where Rhonda and Amy led by example in motivating 67% of their staff to make healthy lifestyle changes. They offer workshops for their teachers in financial health and are expanding their employee benefits package to attract the best caregivers for the families they serve and to positively impact the lives of their employees. Heartfelt Impressions hosts community events to encourage education and learning, like Literacy Night, which is held at each of their centers in March during Reading Month and is open to the public.
- Jorden Knudsen and Kim Wandrie – Knude Products
 - Knude Products continues to hire new people for both their store, their workshop, and their marketing. They have expanded their business as it has grown and have taken steps to keep that growth local. What started as a two-person team with family members helping out, is now an a 15pp team with an additional 10 pp for special projects plus special contractors on a case by case basis. Jordan and his team work hard to create a positive impact for the community. Last year they helped the Chamber and the DDA create the most successful tree lighting ceremonies we've had in downtown Lake Orion. Right now, his team is working to create an attractive customer loyalty program for the entire Business community to use. They are ambitious, creative and generous. Please consider Knude for the economic impact award (and just think of the fun things they'll say to spin their name!)
- Mike Pollard – Bad Brad's BBQ
 - Mike brought his unique brand of BBQ to Orion, which at the time was a big risk. This is his first Oakland County location and it is booming! He went above and beyond the design standards required by our ordinances and has set a new standard on Baldwin Rd. He employs nearly 100 at this location. Again, Mike went over and above the design standards required to create a "destination" restaurant. And

people come from all over and well outside of Orion to visit. And then they visit other local businesses.

Also, Mike does so much to support our first responders and local charities.

Community Beautification/Restoration

- Dr. Joe Mastromatteo – Orion Veteran’s Memorial
 - This memorial is a beautiful addition to our town. It is meticulously maintained by the board members and continues to be the location of so many important events celebrating both veterans and active service members.
 - They have done so many improvements and work tirelessly to keep our memorial a huge part of the community with just volunteers.
 - The constant investment and improvement makes our memorial one of the nicest in the state.
- Alan Goetz – 20 Front Street
 - The renovation of 20 Front Street greatly improved the area
 - I wanted to nominate the owner(s) of 20 Front Street for taking a nondescript building in downtown Lake Orion and reviving it to a charming musical venue that has brought life, music and ice cream to an otherwise sleepy part of town. The grounds near the ice cream shop is a pleasant space to enjoy a cone and take in a warm summer evening. It is a very nice addition to our community.
- Matt Pfeiffer – Northern Flooring and Interiors
 - He watched and waited until the opportunity arose to purchase this building; knowing its history of past library site. The interior design is beautiful, the process of refurbishing old barn wood for carpet bins; the building items & products in the store are pretty and fun to look at. The outside of the building is refreshed, flowers, re-surfacing all look great. And he was so gracious as an owner offering refreshments while looking at the new products available for flooring plus!
- Dr. Greenfield – Lake Orion Family Dentistry
 - Dr. Greenfield took the old Arby's building, knocked it down and built a beautiful building and redid the landscape. The area prior to Dr Greenfield building there was what I believe an eyesore and he has now made it much better. Also, I think that he has had the other businesses around him think and improve their landscape
- Mike Pollard – Bad Brad’s BBQ
 - Mike went above and beyond in the design of his restaurant including several very unique art pieces. It sets the standard for the "new" Baldwin Road. And he keeps adding to it.
- Dr. Dana Mosure-Judge – Oakland Sports Chiropractic
 - Great fix up on old building downtown

Entrepreneur of the Year

- Neal Porter, Jr. – Firehouse Subs
 - Neal Porter, Jr had an opportunity to open any type of sub shop in Lake Orion. He chose Firehouse Subs because a percentage of each sale is given back to local firefighters. The donations which are made on a regular basis help the Orion Township Fire Department buy new equipment. This year the Department received enough funds to buy Jaws of Life equipment for each of the four fire stations. This equipment is used to cut a person out of a vehicle that's been in an accident. It's a life-saving tool that has saved lives in the Orion area. Without the donation from Firehouse Subs, the Fire Department would have to have relied on 10-year equipment that needed fixing each time it was used. Neal Porter, Jr demonstrates future growth of business in the Orion area by encouraging others to serve the community. People like to do business with someone who gives back to the community. By urging other businesses to give back, he helps those businesses to grow and for the community to benefit. Also, he participated in the Sandwich Slam at the 2016 Expo and was voted the best sandwich.
- Pam Omilian – API Consulting
 - Pam Omilian deserves this award because she has never given up, never quit and always kept an eye on her target. Her business has been a life-long dream and with continued sacrifice she finally obtained it. The business named after Indie, apple and pucker, took more schooling, resources, time and finances to succeed. She still strives to make herself better, and will soon be taking her state tests. She succeeds in bringing in more business and customers every day and employs several people from the community which ensures the city and its citizens have a brighter future. She is the founder, CEO and owner of this company and dreams of owning and starting several more. Her contribution to Lake Orion keeps coming and I see it never stopping any time soon in the future!
- Brian Gannon – The Inside Coup Magazine
 - Brian started his new publication here just over a year ago, and has already made a big impact. He has grown to 2 publications, and plans to add a 3rd still this year. We don't have many local advertising options in North Oakland County, and the Inside Coup has been a very welcome addition. Not only does he run a great business, but he spends time coaching and volunteers countless hours as a Chamber ambassador. Brian Gannon exemplifies what it means to be an entrepreneur in this day and age! As mentioned above, Brian has already doubled his business by adding the Rochester territory, but he will be launching a Clarkston publication soon. Not only does this show huge growth for his company, but it also gives businesses throughout the area an opportunity to grow their business through an affordable, professional advertising solution.
- Allen Goetz – 20 Front Street

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- Allen Goetz had a dream to open an acoustic music venue in downtown Lake Orion. He looked at one of our eyesores - 20 Front Street and saw its potential. In less than a year, Allen and his crew have managed to open not just the music venue, but also a social cafe and a creamery on their location. Their complete transformation of this property is amazing. Allen's music venue now draws guests from all over - Canada, Chicago, all of Michigan - to enjoy the unique music experience they offer. In addition, 20 Front St is bringing attention to Lake Orion in the professional music community. The entertainers who come to 20 Front St also see our lively little community. Can you imagine how great it would be to have a celebrity decide to live here because of their performance at 20 Front St. Allen has gathered many talented people around him for his new and thriving business. He and his team continually think about ways they can expand their business and details to add that not only create a more inviting atmosphere but that also create good stories. Like the church pews that came from an old church up north and who perfectly fit in their venue. Like the Autographs all over their green room for future "we knew them when moments". Like the teepees in the yard outside the Creamery.
- Alexander Chudzinski – Cracked Electronic Repair
 - Alexander started Cracked Electronic Repair humbly at his family home with limited funds given by his mother. In his early days, he was completing repairs by word of mouth, armed with a small toolkit and meeting his customers wherever and whenever he could. He spent countless hours formulating a business plan, and soon was working hard and investing in both himself and the community to open his first location at the Legacy Center in Oxford. He soon was setting another goal for himself, one which will see him again investing in his community and opening a second location within Orion Township. He persevered in his many goals, in spite of countless challenges which may have been a hindrance to his business. He found ways to network with businesses in the community, never backing down from a challenge or opportunity to learn new techniques or even repair items which were deemed irreparable. Alexander is a true testament to what an entrepreneur can and should be. Alexander has forged a positive relationship with the Orion Area since the start of his business. From opening his flagship location in Oxford and soon opening a second location in Orion Township, his goal has always been to continue his business efforts within the community he loves. With countless opportunities for business development, he recognizes that his strongest opportunities lie within the community in which he was raised. He works strongly with local businesses to promote local growth and investment, and continues to look for ways to expand his business within the area. His commitment to excellence is a testament to the community which has supported his dreams for so many years.
 - As I sit here at my desk staring at two pages from the Orion Review I am in awe at how far Alex has come in not quite two years. The first page dated May 13th, 2015 shows him as a Senior at LOHS with a table at the Community Expo. At that time, he was known as LO Phone Repair. And had recently moved

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from doing repairs in our kitchen to a cubicle on Indianwood Road. The next article is dated October 25th, 2017 and shows him & Christian standing in front of his not yet completed unit in the Legacy Center. At this point he has a new business name of Cracked Electronic Repair and a business plan. He soon outgrew that unit and moved a few doors down doubling in size. He not only doubled in size he doubled the number of employees. He has partnered with Lake Orion High School by having two interns, several sponsorships including the Cell Out for Soldiers campaign. Alex has also been supportive in the Oxford Community. Alex is in the final stages of opening his 2nd Cracked Electronic Repair in Orion Township. Not only is he growing his own business. His services provide area business owners the ability to grow theirs by little down time due to broken devices.

- Valerie Penz – Holistic Health by Valerie
 - Valerie shows so much excitement and enthusiasm for healthy living in everything she does. She truly cares for people and how she can help them live a healthy life. She thinks of new ways to show the public how it can be easy to live a clean healthy life. Either from her cooking and tasting events, or her recent Facebook live event to show how other people are trying to live a healthy lifestyle. By working as hard as she does, she could grow out of her current place and maybe get an office in Lake Orion. She is constantly out talking and educating people.
 - When I think community leader and entrepreneurial creatively she embodies everything we look for. Constantly growing her business and connections in this community. Finding new ways to cross promote and bring others together. Valerie had done an outstanding job. She finds new ways to connect other businesses and encourages them to get involved and is a great ambassador.

Business Person of the Year

- John Rapanotti – Comfort King Mechanical
 - Always willing to help the community and all his customers, no questions asked! Supports local charities and is Always looking to do more (Christmas in action etc.)
 - John is a very caring person. He and his family are involved in his church and community service. He helps every year with a community service retreat for teenagers by donating his time and knowledge to help families in our community who are in need. He has a smile on his face and works hard. He steps up when asked and even when not asked. John is very supportive of the businesses in and around Lake Orion. His business has been going strong for many years and he donates to causes that he feels would help Lake Orion and the community.
- Gabrielle Boger – GB Training
 - I'm a client of GB Training Center and owner, Gabrielle Boger exemplifies the leadership skills in the community that mirror the Chamber's mission to advance the general welfare and prosperity of the

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greater Orion area. While other gyms, fitness centers and health clubs here in Orion are improving the lives of the people, they tend to cater to certain demographics or skill sets. Gabrielle's training center is truly a community based fitness facility that welcomes everyone. She actually posted this last night on GB Training Center's Facebook page: Guys. Gals. Teens. In-Shape. Working to get in-shape. Old. Young. Athlete. Weekend warrior. And everyone in between. The best part about our gym is that we have such an awesome mix of folks, all here with a common mission: to live life healthy and happy! We come together and support each other on this amazing journey, and we welcome YOU! It doesn't get more inclusive than that! Gabrielle strives to make a difference in the way people live and get everyone in the Orion area healthier and more active. She recognizes the therapeutic powers that a fitness program can have and that it is important for the people here to come together at the beginning or end of the day and do something meaningful. Gabrielle provides motivation, alternative solutions and nutrition advice through her social media outlets to help her clients in the Orion area meet their goals. She also encourages people to be more active and fit and spread the word of exercise and wellness that has helped her company to enduring success. She invests the time to make sure her clients are satisfied. She has occasionally reached out to me to motivate me as well as to solicit feedback including calling me personally to welcome my input to make my experience better. Gabrielle also sent out a survey just the other day to her clients to solicit additional feedback to satisfy client needs.

- Dr. Chris Bennett – Orion Family Spinal Center
 - First Dr. Bennett has been at every Expo, and other major events since he has been in the Chamber. He is a member of the Healthy, Body and Mind Expo Committee. While Dr. Bennett cannot make a lot of Chamber events he promotes Orion everywhere he is at. His practice is an up and coming type of chiropractic and he has established himself as a leading member of his profession. He has for many years been an exchange student sponsor. By doing this he is actively involved with our youth. Dr. Bennett has been an avid supporter of the Orion Chamber by always showing his support. Dr. Bennett believes that the Chamber is a great way to meet people and promote our community. Dr. Bennett works, promotes Lake Orion. He has patients from all over the state of Michigan who come to his office. His practice continues to grow. With this he has Orion in his heart and no matter where he goes he is promoting the Orion Township. Every interview when he says his office is in Orion that is promoting Orion. His positive social impact is his involvement with the exchange students. He is a role model for these students as I personally know that many of them come back to visit Dr. Bennett and his family. He is the President of his BNI group too
- Valerie Penz – Holistic Health by Valerie
 - Valerie is so passionate about not only the health and wellness of individuals, but also the health and wellness of our community. She has such a gift for bringing people together for both business and

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personal connections. Valerie consistently encourages others to excel in their business and personal lives and brings out the best in our community. She also serves as a role model for her active community involvement. Valerie is dedicated to helping build a healthy community. Not only physical health, but, also, social and economic health. Valerie's deep connection to our community allows her to play a key role in bringing people from other businesses together, to either collaborate, or to utilize each other's business offerings and skills, promoting both economic impact and heart-centered personal connections that create a warmth to our community. She is one of the most brilliantly shining lights in Lake Orion. <3

- Anthony Reighard – M&B Graphics
 - Anthony and his family are always looking for ways to improve their business, taking into account how it will benefit their community too. This year, Anthony decided to start sponsoring all DDA events, offering us free printing in exchange for sponsorship recognition. This has made a significant difference in how we spend the money we budget for projects. We are not the only organization Anthony donates generously to either. Lake Orion Lions Club, American Legion, Dragon on the Lake, and Wounded Warrior Project are a few of the long list of organizations and events they help and/or sponsor. Anthony has been an active DDA Board member since March of 2016. He helped us get started on our wayfinding plan and has negotiated for some great work at low cost for the project when we start getting the signs made. He offers his expertise about signs to be sure Lake Orion is getting the highest quality for the best price we can afford. This kind of advice is priceless! Also, Anthony hires talented people from the community. We like that his employees live and work nearby. This contributes positively to our community. M&B Graphics plans to expand their business to one of the lower levels of their buildings. This is going to allow for an additional 1800 square feet of retail store frontage to be available in the Downtown. Also, they will be expanding which will also mean hiring more local, talented people to complete the work and to employ when their business expands. Anthony and his family continue to look at other ways to invest in Lake Orion. His commitment to our community is clear. Please give him serious consideration for the award of Business Person of the Year.
 - Anthony sits on the board of the DDA. He is a member of the chamber. He tries to go to and support as many local events as he can. He donates to many different schools, and events in town. He attends as many events as he can and donates to many different schools and events.
- Ken Mathias, Sr. – The Complete Companies
 - Ken is 81 years old and still extremely involved in his business and the community. He has grown a small business into one of the largest in the area. His heart is big and he always steps up when there is a need. Ken is the not only the largest private employer in Orion Township, but an extremely charitable and kind person. A perfect example is the way his employees respect and look up to him. He is like a father figure

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to those he employs. He has caught the attention of Congressman Mike Bishop so much so, that he has been invited as a special guest for the 2018 State of the Union Address in DC.

- Kellie McDonald – The Goddard School Lake Orion
 - Kellie is involved in the community in many ways, through Goddard schools, Blessings in a backpack, her other non-profit participation (Crossroads, chamber, etc.) and her roots to the community. Goddard schools promotes a rich curriculum that educates our children to be future leaders, and they take part in many of the town's activities (Christmas parade, scholarships, etc.). She is on the board of the chamber, runs a non-profit, and owns/manages a business, this indicates that she can manage multiple responsibilities to the community, and has worked hard to make our town a better place to live and work. She promotes awareness of needs in the community (blessings in a backpack, crossroads, etc.), owns/manages a school (community involvement, enrichment and education to our youth), and donates to multiple organizations, including a scholarship to Lake Orion High School Seniors.