




# BUSINESS AWARDS 2011

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# Good Evening

Welcome to the 2011 Business Awards. Tonight we are celebrating the success of some of our best and most diverse businesses and leaders in Flint-Genesee County.

The award recipients are playing a key role in the rebuilding and reinvention of our community. They are innovators, job creators and leaders in their respective fields.

In addition to their business and leadership strengths, our award recipients have also consistently demonstrated their commitment to our community. Whether it's through the donation of their talents or treasure or literally getting their hands dirty working on neighborhood beautification projects, our winning companies are actively engaged in the world around them.

Tonight's event gives us the proud opportunity to showcase these organizations and shine a bright light on their business excellence and positive contributions to our community.

In the spirit of camaraderie, I hope that you will personally congratulate the awardees. Shake their hand or give them a follow-up phone call or a note in recognition of their achievements. I know they will appreciate it.

Enjoy the evening, and let's toast the home team!



**Tim Herman**  
CEO  
Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce

## Program

### Registration

5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Cocktail Reception

5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

### Dinner

6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### Welcome Remarks

### Awards Presentation

Service Award

Retail Award

Manufacturing Award

Minority-Owned Award

Woman-Owned Award

Green Award

Corporate Citizen Award

Beautification Award

Robert P. Gerholz Award

C.S. Mott Award

Ambassador Award

Milestone Awards

### Closing Remarks

Music provided by the Ben Schlatter Trio

# Business Awards 2011 Nominees

## Service Award Nominees

### Bud Design & Engineering Services, Inc.



Established in 1972, Bud Design & Engineering Services, Inc. (BDE) and Bud Construction, Inc. (BC) now provide a multidisciplinary quality of architecture, construction, engineering and interior design services. Their staff, which includes a licensed A.I.A. and a licensed P.E., provides clients and communities with extensive experience in space planning, programming, architectural and engineering design, construction and construction cost estimating. With these specific capabilities and a diverse group of professionals, Bud Design is able to address unique situations for clients. The Bud Design team continues to grow the business.

Sales have increased by 36 percent from 2010 to 2011. They have acquired new, major clients such as Chrysler and Owens-Corning and have expanded service offerings to include alternative energies including solar, wind and geothermal.

### Teton Business Solutions



Teton Business Solutions (TBS) is a full-service recruiting and placement service company located in Flint with branches in Bay City, Caro and Warren. Through our subsidiaries, we are able to provide a variety of different placement products and also service different sectors of the business industry, which includes professional positions, light industrial, skilled tradesman and clerical. We strive to

create more effective staffing and human resource solutions that will not only save companies time and money, but will be customized to meet their specific needs. We also have an exceptional and experienced staff with over 35 years of business expertise. They will ensure that each company's human resources and employment needs are met daily. TBS offers competitive fees and is committed to exceeding the customer service expectations of each of their clients.



### I.N.C. Systems

I.N.C. Systems is a small but aggressive service business, which has developed a niche market in the Information Technology field. In business since 2004, I.N.C. Systems provides

technical support for small to medium-sized businesses by addressing all of their information technology issues and general maintenance of their computer systems. They also provide audio/video installations in commercial businesses and high-end residential homes and are always attending training and vendor events to keep up-to-date on the advances of technology to provide their customers with the appropriate knowledge and the best available options. I.N.C. is recognized for their unique ability to truly understand customer needs; design solutions that increase business efficiency; keeping customers' internal communications running smoothly and making complicated systems simple and easy to use.

### Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy



Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy has grown from a family-owned neighborhood pharmacy to become a large corporation with offices in Illinois, Florida and California. Headquartered in Flint, Diplomat is an independently held healthcare company providing medication management and clinical services. Earlier this year, Diplomat invested \$12 million in 340,000 square feet of the Great Lakes Technology Center in Flint. Occupying the former General Motors facility allows

the company to expand operations as well as streamline processes and systems. Diplomat is anticipating the creation of 1,000 new jobs over five years and 4,000 new jobs by 2028. Diplomat President and CEO Phil Hagerman joined his father's company in 1975 after graduating from college and in 1991 became president. Specializing in compounding, cholesterol screening and one-on-one patient counseling and community based wellness programs initially, Diplomat has expanded its compounding services as well as medication management and delivery programs for highly specialized medications.

### NorthGate



NorthGate is a second-generation family-owned and operated Flint-based company that has been in business for 27 years. Formerly known as Security Packaging, NorthGate recently changed its name to better represent the Genesee County region. President Teresa Witt believes

the region serves as the ideal conduit for goods transported between the Great Lakes region and major metropolitan areas throughout the Midwest because of easy access to major metro areas such as Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toronto and Montreal. NorthGate's proximity to an international airport and an intermodal rail yard provides connectivity for clients' goods to anywhere in the world. The company's innovations have grown beyond packaging, and it has become an advanced warehouse-based, third-party logistics provider, utilizing web based inventory management and radio frequency scanning technology. NorthGate's mission is to become the Great Lakes region's logistical partner for every stage of the supply chain while remaining devoted to the community and their employees.



## Retail Award Nominees



### Vogt's Flowers

Vogt's Flowers has been a family owned and operated business serving the greater Genesee County Area since the store opened in 1919. The florist's five stores and warehouse employ approximately 50 staff members. They all serve as hometown florists and community boosters. The owner, Greg Krueger, has always been a very creative and innovative leader in the floral industry and local business; in addition to his commitment as a fine florist, employer, neighbor, investor and community supporter. Greg Krueger has served as officer and member of many industry and non-profit boards of directors. They include the Michigan Floral Association, FTD, Teleflora, The Annual Bridal Show, the Red Cross, and the YMCA. Vogt's Flowers has been a great contributor to our community.

## Best Buy - Genesee County



Giving back to the community is central to the way Best Buy does business. Every year, Best Buy donates up to 1.5 percent of pretax earnings through their Children's Foundation and Corporate giving programs to help strengthen this community. Best Buy works with nonprofit organizations to support programs that provide opportunities for youth with a goal to provide positive experiences that will help them to excel in school, engage in their communities and develop leadership skills. Best Buy's community grants program allows every territory team to decide how Best Buy Children's Foundation funds are used to impact their local area. The company also encourages local volunteerism by providing charitable gifts to organizations where employees volunteer. Best Buy's @15 Scholarship Program awards over one million \$1,000 scholarships to students in grades 9-12 who demonstrate academic achievements, volunteer efforts and work experience. Scholarship dollars toward college tuition help prepare students for a brighter future.

## Skaff Furniture & Carpet One



Since 1911, Skaff Furniture & Carpet has been a part of the Flint community. Generation after generation of families from the area have relied on Skaff to provide high quality products, uncompromising service and excellent value in home furnishings. Still family owned after nearly 100 years, the Skaff organization has maintained high professional standards

while giving our customers a warm and friendly place to make selections for their home. In recent years, the pressure on the independently owned retailer has increased significantly from large, multi-store chains. In response, Skaff has made aggressive, tactical moves to make sure that the business stays relevant, competes in the new economy and stays true to the full service philosophy started three generations ago. While the organization has done many things to improve their appeal to customers, nothing takes the place of the great job Skaff does on the fundamentals: good service, knowledgeable staff and customer satisfaction. Additionally, the Skaff family has always been involved in making positive change in the community. The company generously supports organizations such as United Way, Young Life, The Flint Cultural Center, Big Brothers and Big Sisters and YMCA, just to name a few.

## Manufacturing Award Nominees

### Adaptive Manufacturing Solutions



In 2006, Laurie Moncrieff, President of Schmalz Tool & Die, started discussing the idea of a new company, which would represent and partner with many local manufacturing process businesses. In April 2007, AMS was open for business with local partners such as Richfield Industries, Burton Industries, Bobier Tool Supply, Complete Design, Soroc Products, Dort Steel Service and others.

This synergy is a text book example of networking and forward thinking, which completely supports the "Buy Local Support Local" mindset that is vital to the growth of Genesee County. Moncrieff utilized the Regional Chamber's PTAC services to quote government contracts and won her first Department of Defense contract worth \$6.8 million in September 2009. The work was distributed to some of the partners with capabilities to complete portions of the contract on time and on budget, thus creating a mutually beneficial relationship. Adaptive Manufacturing Solutions (AMS) has taken the lead in representing Genesee County manufacturing companies, tool & die shops, packaging companies, tool suppliers and logistics companies. It serves as a one-stop shop for manufactured products, systems, manufacturing advocacy and funding resources.

### Shaltz Automation



Shaltz Automation built its business around being Michigan's premiere automation and fluid power source supplier. Knowledge and expertise are the foundation on which Shaltz offers cost saving solutions for their customers' needs. Shaltz provides high level technical and application support; engineering, sizing print review and turnkey solutions; vendor managed inventory, managed in real time; training and educational seminars; quick-ship programs and 24-hour customer support. President and CEO Phil Shaltz joined his father at Shaltz Fluid Power in the late '70s, and the company evolved to become Shaltz Automation.



## Signs by Crannie

Since 1985, Signs by Crannie has designed, constructed, installed and serviced commercial signs throughout the United States and Canada. They are a local firm serving nationwide companies looking for dependable sub-contracted installations. Signs by Crannie understands that signage does more than identify your building. It builds brand recognition, shows permanent success in the

marketplace, displays pride in your business and community and is a vital part of an effective marketing strategy. They are committed to superior sign design, construction, installation and service – on time and on budget.

## Minority-Owned Award

### Accu-Shape Die Cutting, Inc.



In today's competitive market, Accu-Shape's responsive service and customer support is their top priority. Accu-Shape is always looking for new and innovative ways to meet customer needs, cut costs and improve the client's bottom line. They have the technology and capabilities to produce the highest quality die-cut parts from a wide variety of non-metallic materials to meet customers' applications performance requirements. Preston Means, President and CEO of

Accu-Shape, is an advocate of Michigan businesses doing business with each other. He strongly believes that supporting companies within our own communities will spread economic growth throughout our state.

### King's Catering & Banquet Center



Catering and Banquet Center

Flint native Richie King found a love for cooking and baking in the 8th grade, and now 40 years later, his dream has come true in a catering and banquet center on Clio Road in Mt. Morris. King's Catering is located in a 7,420 square foot building, which was vacant for nearly four years, then purchased and renovated by King into a beautiful facility. Putting his money where his heart is, he is successfully creating jobs for a community that he believes in. He has hired 25 employees,

and all but two employees were previously unemployed. King started catering for businesses, schools, hospitals and other occasions more than 10 years ago. Now with King's Catering and Banquet Center, the business can cater and host up to 750 people for one event.

### ERA Genesee Valley Real Estate

Leon "The Houseman" Knott launched ERA Genesee Valley Real Estate in 1987. As a tenured real estate agent and broker, he has remained active professionally for more than 20 years. Genesee Valley Real Estate has helped thousands of Genesee County residents buy homes. According to the Genesee Valley Real Estate website, more than 85 percent of all new homes in Flint were sold by "The Houseman's Team." Knott brings his message of the importance of home ownership to the airwaves each Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 1570 AM. The award winning ERA office was named Realtor of the Year in 2000 and received the Building Business through Diversity award from the National ERA Franchise organization in 2001. In addition, Genesee Valley Real Estate was voted the number one office in the ERA Franchise for the Northern Michigan Broker Council for 2001.

## Green Award

### Perani Arena & Event Center



The IMA Sports Arena opened in 1969 and was constructed by the Industrial Mutual Association. The arena was ahead of its time and considered by many to be one of the finest and best equipped ice arenas in North America. In September 2003, the naming rights to the arena were sold to former Flint General Bob Perani, and the IMA Sports Arena was renamed Perani Arena & Event Center. Last year, Perani staff worked with Firland Management, an ice arena management group, to make the necessary renovations to continue to provide semi-pro hockey, trade shows, the circus and other events for local

family entertainment. One of their primary concerns was energy efficiency. More than \$1 million was invested in an updated energy efficient roof, lighting and food service equipment. Next the arena was given a fresh coat of paint to highlight the new lighting and improve the overall experience for sports fans. It should be noted that nearly all renovations were performed by Genesee County contractors and everyone is encouraged to support the 2011 NAHL North Division Champion Michigan Warriors hockey team at Perani Arena & Event Center.

### Kroger



Kroger has 13 stores in Genesee County with more than 1,200 employees. Kroger started green practices before "going green" was so popular. Reusable shopping bags are replacing plastic shopping bags to reduce waste at landfills. The "green" bags also reduce the amount of paper bags used resulting in fewer trees being harvested. Most stores offer incentives to use the bags. Energy conservation is a priority with the Kroger executive team. Recently they have replaced original lighting with the most energy efficient

lighting available, motion sensors to turn lights off when no one is around, LED light bulbs in exit signs and sky lights that all work together to reduce store utility expenses. Refrigerated cases have been upgraded with variable-speed drive smart motors and lighter plastic fans, and thermal imaging cameras are used to evaluate the efficiency of cooler cases. Even fuel and logistics have been updated. The new Kroger fuel stations feature Ethanol pumps. Kroger delivery trucks feature lighter trailers and higher transmission gears. Many Kroger stores or distribution centers support local recycling programs with corrugated cardboard, plastic bags, glass, newspapers and other materials.

## Mid Michigan Solar



Howard Croft could have opened his business in Florida where he was working and raising his family, yet he chose to give back to Flint – his hometown. Once he returned to Flint, his services and projects were noticed very quickly, business began to grow and employees were hired. Mid Michigan Solar has grown from one employee to 14 in just two years. Croft

expects to add about five employees this year once a Consumers Energy grant aimed at decreasing the cost of solar energy is complete. Mid Michigan Solar is a previous “Genesee 10 to Watch” award winner through the eTEAM, a regional collaboration of entrepreneurial service providers. Seen as a local expert, Howard attended the delegation trip with Mayor Walling to Linköping, Sweden in June 2010 as a member of the Regional Chamber’s Energy Council, now known as the E3 Innovation Network. Last year Mid Michigan Solar worked with the Genesee Regional Young Professionals to supply the solar power to the group’s holiday tree, which is believed to be the first solar-powered holiday tree in Michigan.

## Green Energy Management Solutions Corp.



Green Energy Management Solutions Corporation (GEMSCO) is located in downtown Davison and offers both residential and commercial energy efficiency audits, energy automation systems and products like energy measuring devices, energy saving devices and LED lighting. Established in 2009, James Cowan, Partner and CEO; and Scott Brown, Partner and COO, believed commercial and residential customers could benefit from

state-of-the-art energy saving devices and systems. GEMSCO quickly discovered and utilized the Regional Chambers’ Procurement Technical Assistance Committee (PTAC) and became a certified vendor to local and federal government. The partners are quite proud of their achievements in such a short time. According to Brown, GEMSCO met with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to remove seven Michigan farms from their local electrical grid under the new REAP Program, saving those farmers thousands in electricity.

## Women-Owned Award



### Crichton Creations

Husband and wife team, Ron and Dawn Crichton created Crichton Creations in 2009 after Dawn retired from a long career in banking and law. Ron continues to work full time for Oakland County and assists Dawn on photo shoots. They both had many years of prior photography experience and training, which fueled their interest in pursuing it as a business. The Crichtons provide their

clients with beautiful, interesting and exciting photographs taken in a variety of locations. Their primary focus is portrait photography for high school seniors, weddings, events, family photos and commercial head shots. They provide great products at affordable prices while capturing people’s personalities and helping preserve special moments. As active members of the community, the Crichtons support Boys and Girls Club, Relay for Life and a variety of other organizations. Dawn, an attorney by trade, is the chair of the Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce’s Women’s Business Committee and a board member of the Greater Flint Sunrise Rotary Club. She previously served as a pro bono mediator at the Center for Dispute Resolution, helping provide an amicable way for people to resolve their differences.

## T & C Decorative Painting



After discovering her love of paint and color in high school, Tammy LaMay discovered the art of faux finishing while completing her interior design degree at Baker College in Flint. By merging passion with skill, Tammy decided to help others benefit from her talents. In 2000, she established T&C Decorative Painting. At T&C she teaches students how to utilize color, paint, glazes and stencils to create beauty in their homes and businesses. Ultimately, T&C combined faux finishing classes with custom framing, color coordination and furniture painting. As both a studio of interior design

and a retail store, T&C sells faux finish products, Benjamin Moore paints, unfinished furniture, finished furniture and unique home accessories. Tammy works with Interior Design interns from Baker College of Flint. The hands-on experience gives the students a whole new look at designing and the possibilities it offers. In the studio, Tammy’s current focus is buying American-made furniture. On the T&C website you can find a list of made in the USA vendors.



### Franklin Benefit Solutions

After 12 years of working for a major health care provider, Stacey LaFay decided to utilize her healthcare program expertise to open a business dedicated exclusively to understanding and meeting the health care and employee benefit needs of businesses and nonprofits. Franklin Benefit

Solutions works with all types of organizations, large and small, to meet their healthcare program needs. The result is often improved coverage and lower costs. Specializing in healthcare and employee benefit management has led to success for Franklin. Stacey is a licensed advisor and expert on Medicare health issues and is a member of the National Association of Healthcare Underwriters. She is also board president of the Flint Arts Council.

## Corporate Citizen Award



### Fifth Third Bank – Flint

Fifth Third Bank strives to be the best bank it can be so it can serve its customers, employees and shareholders well. The Bank is committed to investing its financial and human resources to make its communities stronger. The Company also believes that it alone is responsible

for its ethical business practices, quality service and level of community support. Fifth Third Bank has a long-standing desire to be a positive, contributing member of the communities it serves, originating from its belief that the Company is only as strong as the community it serves. Across the country and here in our county, Fifth Third Bank focuses on five key corporate social responsibility initiatives: financial literacy, youth education, community development, diversity and inclusion and environmental stewardship. Through these initiatives, the Bank ensures that both kids and adults have a strong financial knowledge foundation; commits to operating and funding programs that give children a solid foundation for the future; commits to meeting its Community Reinvestment Act obligations through a wide range of sponsorship and volunteers activities in the community; embodies diversity and inclusion as an Employer of Choice; and commits to operating in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner.



### Financial Plus Credit Union

For more than 60 years, Financial Plus Credit Union (FPCU) has been committed to enhancing the financial well-being of their members. FPCU is a Flint-based, member-

owned financial institution serving over 43,000 people in Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee counties. As one of the largest credit unions in Genesee County, they offer full financial services for businesses and individuals including checking, savings, loans, investments and Visa products. FPCU has a relentless commitment to being a good corporate citizen. They have shown their dedication to the communities they serve in a variety of ways such as offering free financial seminars, purchasing fans for families and the elderly during an unusually hot summer and teaming up with non profits to host a fundraiser. For example, FPCU has helped raise thousands of dollars for breast cancer research through the American Cancer Society. However, the organization does not simply give money, they give with their time and it starts with top leadership.



### American RV

American RV (ARV) is a full chassis repair facility including front end alignment, tire service, body shop, engine repair and complete diagnostic and troubleshooting services. The company carries a full line of parts for both RV and bus applications. They also install tracking systems from multiple manufacturers, install and service video equipment and install and service radio equipment. ARV places high value on professional development requiring their representatives to attend personnel training sessions so they understand all regulatory and safety requirements. ARV has a reputation for being both disciplined and flexible at the same time – a delicate balancing act. The company is also known for using its resources to meet the changing needs of its customers. As a result, their customers are doing a better job of providing services to their constituents.

**Skaff Furniture & Carpet One – See retail nomination.**

## Community Beautification Award

### Mott Community College



Mott Community College (MCC) continues to be a beacon of hope and inspiration in our community. They are helping stem the tide of blight and have a campus that students and the community can be proud of. MCC takes on many projects in an effort to clean and beautify areas in the community. For example, MCC worked with the landowner of property at Franklin and Robert T. Longway Blvd. to have a condemned building and asphalt parking lot that covered most of the property removed. The building had gone to disrepair and the lot had become overgrown and filled with weeds. MCC restored the property to a lush green lawn and worked with neighbors adjacent to the property to choose a privacy fence, which was installed on three property lines including the side facing MCC's parking lot. There are many other similar examples: restoration of the grounds at the old Army Reserve Building and maintaining the ball fields at Kearsley Park and Whaley Park, which helps to provide beautification and a green space for the community.





## Hurley Medical Center

"Think Healthy. Think Hurley." It's a memorable phrase, but the meaning goes so much deeper than these four words. For over a century, Hurley Medical Center has been the premier teaching hospital in Flint and beyond, providing world-class care for our community in a multitude of ways. Through neighborhood health and wellness events, school-based initiatives and targeted educational programs, Hurley is continually reaching outside the walls of the medical center to help the citizens of Mid-Michigan manage and prevent major health concerns such as asthma, diabetes, child abuse and smoking. From the '5-2-1-0' jingle campaign devoted to beating pediatric obesity to Injury Prevention Services, Hurley is here when people are in need. Green space is critical to the well-being of a community, and replacing blight with beauty is something that Hurley knows a little about. By transforming the community that flanks the medical center into a beautiful park-like setting, Hurley has repurposed land by creating green space in the community.



## International Academy

International Academy (IA) of Flint has been instrumental in spearheading the removal of graffiti along Saginaw Street and is coordinating the painting of several Flint-specific murals. Additionally, IA has planted flowers, shrubs and over 50 flowering trees on their property and has managed the mowing and maintenance of sixty vacant lots along S. Saginaw. International Academy is a K-12 school focused on preparing students from different backgrounds for university learning. Keeping the South Saginaw St. campus, which houses the lower, upper and middle schools, beautiful is an important aspect of IA's educational experience. The college-preparatory charter school is part of the Sabis international network of schools.

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The advertisement features a blue background with a subtle grid pattern. At the top, four people (three men and one woman) are smiling. Below them is the ABC 12 First Alert HD logo, which includes the ABC logo and the text "12 FIRST ALERT HD". Underneath the logo is the text "YOUR WEATHER SOURCE" and the website address "www.abc12.com".



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# Your Business Award 2011 Nominees

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Teton Business Solutions  
I.N.C. Systems  
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy  
NorthGate

## **Retail Award Nominees**

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Best Buy – Genesee County  
Skaff Furniture & Carpet One

## **Manufacturing Award Nominees**

Adaptive Manufacturing Solutions  
Shaltz Automation  
Signs by Crannie

## **Minority-owned Award**

King's Catering & Banquet Center  
Accu-Shape Die Cutting, Inc.  
ERA Genesee Valley Realty

## **Green Award**

Perani Arena & Event Center  
Kroger  
Mid Michigan Solar  
Green Energy Management

## **Women-owned Award**

Crichton Creations  
T & C Decorative Painting  
Franklin Benefit Solutions

## **Corporate Citizen Award**

Fifth Third Bank – Flint  
Financial Plus Credit Union  
American RV  
Skaff Furniture & Carpet One

## **Community Beautification Award**

Mott Community College  
Hurley Medical Center  
International Academy

## **Special Awards**

C.S. Mott Award –  
Congressman Dale E. Kildee  
**Robert P. Gerholz Award –**  
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**Skaff Furniture  
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