

# 2023 Business of the Year Winners

**Business of the Year**  
East Dallas Automotive

**Chairman's Award**  
The White Rock Lake Foundation

**Entrepreneur of the Year**  
McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails

**Live Local**  
Dallas Piano Academy  
HG&CO Home Improvement  
Shakespeare Dallas

**R.S. Munger Business Pioneer**  
Art on Main

**People's Choice**  
The Children's Center  
Runners Up: Momo Italian Kitchen Lake Highlands; McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails



**Photo by Carol Hensley**

Lisa Emmick, Dallas Piano Academy; Christy Tornelli, The Children's Center; Herman Guerra, HG&CO Home Improvement; Kathleen Foley, White Rock Lake Foundation; Mike McRae, McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails; Andrea Lamarsaude, Art on Main; Chris Brezic, East Dallas Automotive; Marin Sandoz, Shakespeare Dallas.

### **Entrepreneur of the Year - McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails - Mike McRae**

The restaurant opened up and immediately changed the neighborhood and area by elevating food and atmosphere. With his name on the door and 50 years of hospitality experience behind him, restaurateur Mike McRae is intensely focused on his latest concept, McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails. It opened in July at 9913 Garland Road with a 5 star rating which immediately changed the neighborhood and area by elevating food and atmosphere.

It is located in the heart of his old stomping grounds. He grew up in East Dallas and had a paper route just 900 feet from the restaurant when he was a kid. Mike's first job at 15 was as a busboy at The Sizzler Steakhouse just down Garland Road. Now the 66-year-old Bryan Adams High School grad is welcoming friends and neighbors at his namesake establishment and the response has been overwhelming.

"McRae's is the culmination of years of ideas that came together with a lot of teamwork, luck, long days and late nights," says Mike, who saw an opportunity to manifest his vision in the unfinished lounge space left by a previous tenant. "I took it over because this is my neighborhood; it's where McRae's was meant to be. And the best part is having so many guests tell us we're a great addition to the community."

Mike is also the creative mind behind the award-winning Table 13 restaurant, a Sinatra-esque fine dining and entertainment experience in Addison. He also owns the legendary Stan's Blue Note on Lower Greenville – Dallas' oldest, continuously operated drinking establishment. And he owns Dodie's Cajun at The Harbor in Rockwall and at The Village in Allen. He even had a hand in Dick's Last Resort in the West End until he sold it in 2021.

The entire McRae's American Bistro & Cocktails family is driven to serve the East Dallas community. Since opening in late summer, they have hosted fundraising events and welcomed groups like the Dallas Exchange Club (which Mike is a longtime member) and East Dallas Advocate. They gave away a ten-person, chef prepared wine dinner for the auction at the Jewel of Dallas Gala, in support of White Rock Lake Foundation. They encourage their team members to give back in their own ways as well. Their manager Stephanie is active with a suicide prevention organization.

### **Live Local Award - Dallas Piano Academy - Lisa Emmick**

Because of her many years of teaching experience, Lisa Emmick created Dallas Piano Academy with a focus on providing a wealth of opportunities for students to perform, meet goals and grow as musicians. As a mom, Lisa Emmick wanted to also focus on friendly customer service and establishing clear policies to make it easy for parents and new customers to sign up and be part of the Academy. Each and every student and teacher is valued and important to the success of the school, and every business decision is made with benefit and efficiency for all in mind to make Dallas Piano Academy a rewarding place for teachers to work and for students to learn and create. Starting in February 2020 with 1 teacher and 20 students, growth was delayed a bit due to covid! By October 2021 Dallas Piano Academy was renting rooms from a church with two teachers and still operating as a home based business. August 2022 saw a move into a brick and mortar location which allowed significant growth by having more physical capacity for teaching lessons and by hiring teachers who share a passion for teaching music. New customers are often referred by existing students and their growth is only limited by space and being selective with hiring.

Dallas Piano Academy supports arts education in our community by sponsoring the Lake Highlands High School Band, purchasing ads in programs such as Lake Highlands Espre, and providing auction items to area schools and non-profits such as Rainbow Days and Best Buddies. In addition, owner Lisa Emmick and teacher Elizabeth Comstock donate their time and resources to cast, direct, choreograph and rehearse a full theatrical musical each year at a local private high school, First Baptist Academy. Lisa Emmick has also volunteered with other productions (dance, theater, etc.) for both schools and professional companies, and has given time to serve as a judge in scholarship pageants and talent competitions, most recently serving as a state judge for the Miss Teen Texas Volunteer Pageant.

### **Live Local Award - HG&CO Home Improvement - Herman Guerra**

After leaving the restaurant business- ONE90 Smoked Meats- Herman formed HG&Co which has transformed from a repair company to a full Design/Build service with a beautiful design center near the Dallas Arboretum serving the White Rock community. He streamlines the process from Architect/Engineering plans to permits and product selection, such as, tile, flooring , lighting and more.

Herman has provided financial sponsorship to Hexter Elementary, Hill middle school, Lakewood elementary, Riley Elementary, Booker T. Washington as well as the White Rock Home Tour and White Rock United Methodist Church

Articles have been written about Herman in Candy's Dirt, Advocate and Voyage.

Born and raised in East Dallas, he lives on Peavy Road and the Design Center is located on on Garland Road. He is proud to be a part of East Dallas. His employees and sub contractors are EastDallasites. They are at the doors and in the houses of neighbors on a daily basis. With the design center, they are able to keep money in the East Dallas network.

They have made a significant impact on homes throughout East Dallas and hope to leave a mark on East Dallas building. The Design center is a one of kind boutique space for the neighborhood. He has been able to solidify the trust between client and contractor. There is no space like HG&CO around the lake.

### **Live Local Award - Shakespeare Dallas - Marin Sandoz**

Shakespeare Dallas is one of the longest running outdoor festivals of its kind in the US. Last year they celebrated 50 years of bringing theater to the community. They started at the State Fair Bandshell then moving to Samuell Grand Park and have put East Dallas on the map. Shakespeare Dallas is perhaps best known for Shakespeare in the Park, the outdoor performance series held each summer and fall. The company performs fully produced plays featuring classically trained actors with a pleasing, family friendly setting, affordable ticket price and the ability to bring in your own food and beverages. Shakespeare in the Park has been a staple of many North Texan's cultural experiences for years.

They serve 30,000+ patrons and 5,000+ students each year. We employ hundreds of artists, designers, actors and technicians. Every year we gift 2,000 free tickets to underserved communities through Dallas Parks & Rec centers, and then another 2,000 free tickets to teens through the Summer in Dallas, teen all-access pass program. Children under 10 have free admission. Additional discounts are provided to seniors, military (active and retired), and students discounts.

In addition to four major productions, Shakespeare Dallas has other robust year-round programming. For kids K-12, Shakespeare on the Go brings stories into schools-including many East Dallas Schools, two fully produced matinees are performed in the fall that draw thousands of students from 6 surrounding school districts (often Title 1 schools seeing shows for free), and summer camps in the summer. Since its inception in 1984, these programs have served over 500,000 students in North Texas. Adults can enjoy book clubs (play analysis), podcasts, and lecture series throughout the year.

Adult Education was added in 2006. Our community engagement programs serve a diverse community of adults with book clubs, events, acting workshops and more.

Shakespeare Dallas is active on Social Media channels. We have 7.9K followers on Facebook! And we have a Shakespeare Book Club - all found through our Face Book page.

Beloved by generations of attendees, the company positions itself as the Peoples Theater. Many of the company of actors live right here! Many of our staff and board members also live in East Dallas. Lauren York, Board President lives in Hollywood Heights. We are proponents of Live Local East Dallas!

### **People's Choice Award - The Children's Center - Christy Tornelli**

The Children's Center is a school for young children nestled between the Casa Linda and Little Forest Hills neighborhoods. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 school and currently have 88 of East Dallas's youngest residents enrolled. Our staff of 22 also call East Dallas home and most are also the parents of former TCC students. We are proud to be a local school educating local children, since 1952.

When an organization sits down to identify its mission and vision statements, part of the process is to consider what is at the heart of what they do. As a school for young children, our mission statement guides our day-to-day practices while our vision statement captures the lasting impact we strive to weave into the hearts of our children and their families. The ways in which our students, and therefore our families, impact the East Dallas Community is a key part of what we do each day, "To inspire children to be excited life-long learners and confident, compassionate participants in their community." Engaging young children to be participants in their community is two-fold. First, directly through activities such as coat drives for local schools, helping find the home of a lost bird that showed up on our playground, or by welcoming a lonely, local senior citizen to our Sing Song. But the greatest influence on the hearts of our young students is through modeling how we, the adults, support our community. Actions speak louder than words for children. Our parents are encouraged to give time to LECPTA by co-hosting a house on the home tour, we sponsor craft tables at Lakewood Elem, Hollywood/Santa Monica neighborhood, and other local events such as ones hosted by Annie's Place/Mommies in Need. As a community school, we strive to be an active part of the community, we see our families learn ways in which they can be active members of the community, and we celebrate that in the last 71 years, this has translated into countless ways in which our families have and continue to be engaged as we bring life to our vision year over year.

### **R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award - Art on Main - Andrea Lamarsaude**

Art on Main is a fresh and beautiful space which includes multiple gallery areas and numerous art studios. Besides the natural light and skyline view, perhaps the true shine of Art on Main comes from the woman operating it. Andrea, as an artist herself, understands the needs of her fellow creatives, as well as the importance of marketing and managing a space which is supportive to not only the artists, but also the community. In addition to the 24 artists who call Art on Main their studio home, Andrea seeks out other artists



to offer the opportunity of exhibiting their work at Art on Main in one of the multiple gallery spaces. Some of these artists have never displayed in a gallery before, so the opportunity is an honor as well as a welcomed commitment. In addition to supporting the Dallas community through her offering of unique and interesting cultural experiences, through Art on Main, Andrea connects people in the Dallas community, as well as guests who are visiting Dallas through studio tours, artist talks, art demonstrations, and creative workshops. Andrea's upbeat, positive yet business minded attitude provides a professional and wonderful family-friendly environment for people of any age to have access to a true cultural experience at Art on Main.

Andrea has started an initiative to form an East Dallas Arts District with a team of creatives in the art business in East Dallas. The goal is to connect with the people in East/Old East Dallas and DFW via annual art walks, exhibitions, artist open studios, pop ups, and other art focused events. She is working towards launching the first East Dallas Arts District art walk in the first half of 2024.

### **Chairman's Award - White Rock Lake Foundation - Kathleen Foley**

White Rock Lake Foundation has been actively raising funds and completing projects at White Rock Lake Park for the past 34 years. As a non-profit, they are tasked with oversight and adherence to the White Rock Lake Master Plan and its many components as well as protection of the many historic structures within the park.

The organization raised in excess of \$336,000 dollars in the past 12 months for specific lake projects. They are beginning the extensive remodel of the Winfrey Point Building complex in 2024. They are also currently in the process of installing eleven trail marker signs at the park that note a person's present location, and mileage to other points at the lake.

They were instrumental in the late 90's for the \$18M dollar dredging project to the city bond package and are working on that same project currently in conjunction with multiple city entities. In addition, they have completed multiple signage projects at the lake along with many other projects such as the baseball field remodel at Winfrey Point and six shade structures for the spectators at a cost of approximately \$50,000. They also have added multiple park benches, tree plantings and lake cleanup projects.

They host two fundraisers annually raising at or above \$100K each year. Approximately 99% of funds raised go directly to projects which heavily enhance White Rock Lake Park. White Rock Lake Foundation members are stewards and protectors of this incredible east Dallas asset.

### **Business of the Year - East Dallas Automotive - Chris Brezic**

East Dallas Automotive is an auto dealership and collision and automotive repair center servicing the Dallas Fort Worth area since 1999. Over the years we have grown to provide you with all of your pre-owned car sales, collision repair & automotive repair needs. Our services include full automotive repair, paint and body work (on site) as well as auto part, wheel and tire sales & full auto detailing services. Although we specialize in Cadillac and GM service and sales, we welcome and are equipped to maintain all other MAKES AND MODELS of vehicles.

East Dallas Automotives has donated thousands of dollars and many volunteer hours for local charities. Chris has supported Boy Scout Troop # 80 - Dallas Chapter by teaching the Automotive merit badge to the troop of High School Scouts. He has donated and installed tires and decals for the troop trailer. He has also supported and donated to White Rock Lake Foundation Jewel of Dallas Gala, The Bridge Breast Network, Brotherhood for the Fallen, SPAN – Survivor Pet Assistance Program, Spinal Bifida, Alzheimer's Association Dallas Chapter, Dallas Amputees Network, Dream 2 Walk, VFW Post #6796, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles #3108. For the

FOE, he donates thousands of dollars per year and over 100 hours of volunteer time per year. He and his wife Sally host the New Years Eve Party at the FOE to raise money for Diabetes research. Chris runs split-the-pot and door prizes for weekend events like chili cook-offs and BBQ competitions throughout the year which involves soliciting donations.

# 2022 Business of the Year Winners

## **Business of the Year**

White Rock YMCA

## **Chairman's Award**

Caddo Office Reimagined

## **Entrepreneur of the Year**

Botolino Gelato Artigianale

Humble Pies

## **Live Local**

Brown Mountain Art Restoration

Maggie Riba Marathon Training

Talulah & HESS

## **R.S. Munger Business Pioneer**

Hari Mari

## **People's Choice**

FASTSIGNS of East Dallas

Runners Up: Yard Card Queen, White Rock Alehouse



Tim Slaughter, Caddo Office Reimagined; ason Myers, FASTSIGNS of East Dallas; Maggie Riba, Maggie Riba Marathon; Training; Lila Stewart, Hari Mari; Elizabeth Mast, Talulah & HESS; Sallie Martinez, White Rock YMCA; Laura Pate, Brown Mountain Art Restoration; Erin and Sean Jett, Humble Pies.

## 2022

### **White Rock YMCA – Business of the Year -Sallie Martinez**

Most long time East Dallas families have a connection with the White Rock YMCA. Founded in 1955, the White Rock YMCA has been the leader in youth programming within the community. The Y represents the diversity, history, and beauty of East Dallas and has been referred to as the "hub of the community."

The Y is one of the nation's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. the White Rock YMCA serves thousands of men, women, and children each year, regardless of age, income, or background. Anchored in neighborhoods across East Dallas, the White Rock Y has the long-standing relationships and physical presence not just to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. The White Rock Y ensures all people have equitable access to the essentials needed to become thriving members of the East Dallas community. Daily, the Y bridges and fills individual and community needs as a catalyst for impactful change. The White Rock Y makes accessible the support and opportunities that empower people and communities to learn, grow and thrive.

In 2022 the White Rock YMCA secured over \$200,000 for the Annual Campaign, which ensures no one goes without having the opportunity to secure after school care, membership, health and wellness guidance, summer and holiday camp, diabetes prevention, swim lessons, and youth sports programming for their families. These funds were secured through campaigner solicitations -sharing the stories of impact, not by fundraising events. 25% of the White Rock YMCA members and program participants receive assistance, funded by the Annual Campaign. Each year the White Rock YMCA assists over 50 families in East Dallas (160 children) in the Angel Tree Program, in a member to member giving event in December. The board has also created a Thanksgiving Meal Program, that sponsors the Thanksgiving meal for 25 families each year. The White Rock YMCA allows community members to better their community through various programs and campaigns. The White Rock YMCA empowers individuals to strengthen their neighborhoods by lifting others.

### **Chairman's Award – Caddo Office Reimagined – Tim Slaughter**

Caddo Office Reimagined provides members with their ideal neighborhood office: a place to work that is near home, but not at home. Their standalone neighborhood office buildings offer private office suites with four hard walls and a lockable door with a 60-day cancellation, no-term lease. This unique model provides an ideal combination of focus, credibility, and balance – while keeping costs low and terms fair and transparent – so that members can focus on their business and the things that are most important to them.

Their first building to ever buy as a company was Lakewood Towers in 2010 and helped to launch the company. Their experience leasing Lakewood Towers to smaller East Dallas businesses helped inspire our pivot into coworking in 2019 and eventually the delivery of coworking in the heart of Lakewood with Caddo Office Reimagined - Lakewood.

They have sponsored and hosted many events including LECPTA Home Festival Donor Party and Mah Jong Night, St. John's corn hole tournament sponsor, FaLaLa Lakewood Parade, hosted Chamber New Member Orientation, hosted GEDCC Live Local Networking Building Blocks event, and have hosted many retirement parties.

### **Entrepreneur - Botolino Gelato Artigianale - Carlo Gattini**

Carlo creates gelato and frozen desserts with ingredients that are pure, natural, and wholesome. Everything is made from scratch in store every day, using traditional methods. Whether sourcing the fruit from Texas farmers or from



around the world, they always use the best basic, raw ingredients that are entirely free of artificial flavorings, colors, and preservatives. Crafting the gelato in a way that no other has – many recipes abound all over the world, Carlo have taken it to the highest level - it continues to get recognized as the best. In June of this year, D Magazine awarded it the best ice cream in Dallas- even though it is gelato! – and it has D's Best Ice cream 3 out of the last 4 years. This summer, YELP named it the number 12 restaurant in the state of Texas. Carlo has lived and worked in East Dallas for nearly 40 years with 2 businesses.

### **Entrepreneur – Humble Pies – Sean and Erin Jett**

Humble Pies is an artisan pie shop owned by a local chef Sean Jett and his wife Erin. Everything is made from scratch with the secret ingredient being love. They try to incorporate as many local ingredients in their pies as well. For example, the flour is milled in Saginaw, bourbon distilled right here in Dallas and even the occasional beer from Lakewood Brewing! They are known best for layered cream pies such as the Bayou Goo. They have been featured in D Magazine as one of the things for living a beautiful life in Dallas.

When they opened, they set aside a portion of monthly profits to use as donations to the local schools and community groups. Most all of the elementary schools in the area have received gift cards or pies. When the school PTAs ask for help with Teacher Appreciation week, they gladly give their pies at cost to make sure they are well fed. And local 5Ks can always count on gift cards to donate to their runners. Finally, you will almost always find them at the Arboretum for the various Food and Wine events, providing samples to everyone.

### **Live Local - Brown Mountain Art Restoration – Laura Pate**

Brown Mountain Art Restoration has been preserving and restoring sentimental and fine art pieces for more than 20 years. Tucked away in East Dallas' vibrant and bustling Knox-Henderson corridor, its team of conservators and artists have earned an enviable reputation of excellence from art collectors, antique dealers, designers, galleries and the community. Brown Mountain is home to 4 conservators with over 85 years of combined experience preserving and conserving paintings, porcelains and ceramics, gilded frames and mirrors, and other works of art. The team also treats large scale art and public art works. Whether it be a painting passed down for generations or a mural created to bring a community together, Brown Mountain strives to preserve all types of art for future generations.

Brown Mountain frequently assists families when they have experienced the tragedy of disaster. The team has rescued prized possessions and historically significant heirlooms from houses that have suffered through tornadoes, fires and floods. They have been able to restore many of these salvaged pieces for future generations and families. BMR also collaborates with other conservators to maintain and treat public art, often in underserved areas. For example, BMR, in collaboration with Adapt/re: Adapt Preservation and Conservation, treated Gerald Evans' mural "The Park" in 2021 in William Blair Park.

### **Live Local - Maggie Riba Marathon Training – Maggie Riba**

Maggie Riba is a champion of East Dallas, living in the area, supporting local businesses and the community at large, and running her own fitness business. Maggie is a personal trainer and running coach. Most days of the week, throughout the year, she can be found leading groups of people through their paces to get ready for road races of all distances. This may not sound like anything significant (there are many fitness programs in East Dallas), but that is a wrong assumption. Maggie has built a program that is both unique and special. She has inspired hundreds of people to set goals and achieve them, while at the same time getting fit, having fun doing it, and being part of a family. She is a champion of the individual—no goal is too small nor too great, and none are unachievable—Maggie can get you there, cheering you

along the entire way. It is no surprise that the people Maggie has trained and coached come back season after season, year after year. Her program is simply “that special.”

Maggie Riba and her husband George are massive supporters of anything East Dallas especially anything around White Rock Lake and running marathons. Maggie leads a group of runners through constant marathon training programs. She may have quietly built the largest amount of Boston Qualifiers from one group in all of Dallas, maybe Texas. She helps runners hit PR's, she helps runners achieve what they once thought wasn't possible, and she does it continually - rain, sun, sleet or snow. She isn't some big corporate business. She isn't advertising across all mediums. She's just running a small business in a wonderful community helping people fall in love with marathons and the lake. Maggie is a massive lover of WRL.

Maggie is an absolutely glowing example of someone who Lives Local, who literally runs a business locally, and someone who makes East Dallas better. The success of Maggie's Marathon Training is a function of her dedication to the people she works with and to our East Dallas community.

### **Live Local – Talulah & HESS – Elizabeth Mast**

20 years ago, Elizabeth Mast opened Talulah Belle in a small store front in the East Dallas neighborhood of Lakewood. Since they first opened their doors, their primary focus has been the relationship with their customers and East Dallas community. Their success over two decades of business has been largely due to the incredible support of their neighbors and the personal relationships built with clients and neighboring businesses. This ignites their fierce commitment to supporting fellow local businesses, schools, & organizations. They are honored to support the community by extensive outreach, including investing over \$50,000 (in the last three years alone) into local schools, neighborhood organizations and charitable foundations like Operation Kindness and Paper For Water. Additionally, owner Elizabeth has been involved in the community through her work as an appointed member of the Landmark Commission for District 14, a founding member of Friends of Aldredge house, and as the founder of Light Up Lakewood, an event started as a thank you to the neighborhood and is just one event that has helped move East Dallas into an up-and-coming destination for locals and visitors alike. They have won the East Dallas Advocate's 'Best Gift Store' several years running and recognized by D Magazine as one of their recommended stores.

### **R.S. Munger Business Pioneer Award – Hari Mari – Lila and Jeremy Stewart**

Hari Mari began in 2012 with the simple mission of making comfortable, premium sandals and footwear for men, women, and children. The Texas company celebrated its 10th anniversary this year and has grown from a flip flops-only upstart to a serious footwear and apparel brand. Founders Jeremy and Lila Stewart grew up in Dallas, but in 2007 they found themselves living and working in Jakarta — Jeremy was filming a documentary and Lila volunteered for the American Women's Association, focusing on orphanages and children's charities. During their time there, they got married, embraced the local culture and wore a lot of flip-flops which were breaking down quickly and needing regular replacement in the hot, tropical climate.

When they returned to Dallas, R&D led to their first line of men's and women's flops and the comfortable memory foam toe piece they're now famous for. They launched in 2012, calling the company Hari Mari after the Indonesian word for “sun” and the Latin word for “sea.” Lila's expertise and experience in Wholesale, Public Relations, Retail, and Sales Management helped place Hari Mari in over 1,000 retail locations across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas.

The couple's true passion is the brand's philanthropy - Hari Mari donates 1% of sales to help children and families battling pediatric cancer. It's called #FlopsFightingCancer.

Hari Mari has transitioned their sandal-related success into more products, including boots, shirts, hats, shorts and accessories. They recently opened their first retail store on Knox Street.

**People's Choice – FASTsigns of East Dallas – Jason Myers  
(Runners Up: Yard Card Quees and White Rick Alehouse)**

FASTSIGNS® of East Dallas is locally owned and operated sign and graphics company, under the ownership of franchisee, Jason Myers, who officially purchased the center January 1, 2019. Myers has been a part of the FASTSIGNS network since early 1996 when his parents opened a FASTSIGNS location in High Point, North Carolina. Myers later joined the FASTSIGNS International corporate team in 2001 as a member of the Technical Services team. Eventually, he transitioned into the training team where he was promoted to the Director of Training and later promoted to Director of Education and New Center support.



# 2021 Business of the Year Winners

## Business of the Year

Dickey's Barbeque Pit

## Chairman's Award

Flatbread Company

## Entrepreneur of the Year

Le Caveau Vinotheque  
Minuteman Press East Dallas

## Live Local

Curiosities & Curious Garden  
For The Love of The Lake  
Well Grounded Coffee Community

## R.S. Munger Business Pioneer

Mariano's Hacienda

## People's Choice

Charlie's Treats – Kid Made, Kid Owned

**People's Choice Runners up:** MoMo Italian Kitchen, Texas Telcom Credit Union



Front row: John Leake, Flatbread Co.; Renee Roozen, Dickey's Barbeque Pit; Charlie Kobdich, Charlie's Treats; Jane DeNike, Curiosities; Back Row: Brad Grist, Chairman; Dominic Harwood, Minuteman Press East Dallas; Kyle Flowers, Mariano's Hacienda; Mike Huscheck, Well Grounded Coffee Community; Z Zsohar, For the Love of the Lake.



Winners unable to attend:

Terry and Jason Cohen, Curiosities; Laura Dickey, Dickey's Barbeque Pit; Jim Harrison, Flatbread Co; Theirry Plumettaz, Le Caveau Vinotheque.

# 2021

## **Business of the Year** - Dickey's Barbeque Pit – Renee Roozen

Dickey's Barbecue Restaurants, Inc., the world's largest barbecue concept, was founded in 1941 by Travis Dickey. The first Dickey's was established on Central at Henderson – the location is still there! For the past 80 years, Dickey's Barbecue Pit has served millions of guests Legit. Texas. Barbecue.™ At Dickey's, all our barbecued meats are smoked onsite in a hickory wood burning pit.

Dickey's proudly believes there's no shortcut to true barbecue and it's why they never say bbq. The Dallas-based, family-run barbecue franchise offers several slow-smoked meats and wholesome sides with 'No B.S. (Bad Stuff)' included. The fast-casual concept has expanded worldwide with international locations in the UAE and Japan. Dickey's Restaurant brands have over 550 locations nationwide. In 2016, Dickey's won 1st place on Fast Casual's "Top 100 Movers and Shakers" list, was named a Top 500 Franchise by Entrepreneur in 2018 and was named to Hospitality Technology Industry Heroes in 2021. Led by CEO Laura Rea Dickey, who was named among the country's 50 most influential women in foodservice in 2020 by Nation's Restaurant News and was recognized as one of the top 25 industry leaders on Fast Casual's 2020 Top 100 Movers and Shakers list, Dickey's Barbecue Pit has also been

recognized by Fox News, Forbes Magazine, Franchise Times, The Wall Street Journal and QSR Magazine. They are celebrating their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a party in October. They are proud to be celebrating Legit. Texas. Barbecue. The business is **notable for a technological business innovation**. Laura Rea Dickey developed Smokestack, which is their proprietary data software. Laura Rea Dickey (CEO) and Carissa De Santis (Chief Information Officer)

The Dickey Foundation, formerly known as Barbecue, Boots and Badges, supports first responders in communities across the United States. The foundation provides financial opportunities, safety equipment such as helmets, shields, respiratory masks and overall support for local first responders. Although its reach is national, the efforts are extremely local and supports several programs including Invest in a Vest.

"The Dickey Foundation was created to support the brave men and women who risk their lives every day to ensure their communities safety", says Maurine Dickey, Founder of The Dickey's Foundation. "Our goal is to continuously give first responders and their families the necessary support to ensure their safety and success in the communities they serve."

The Dickey Foundation also creates partnerships between law enforcement and communities that are crucial in orchestrating crime reduction programs and initiatives. The foundation indirectly serves by providing educational programs to the public that will enhance safety, build career awareness, encourage volunteer opportunities and provide funds to enhance these services.

During the 2019 holiday season, The Dickey Foundation partnered with The Angel Tree Foundation to fulfill the Christmas wish lists for twenty five children involved in three Dallas Police Dept./Youth Outreach programs: Police Activities League (PAL), Explorers and Junior Explorers. We were honored to bring some joy, gifts and smiles to these wonderful children.

In the aftermath of the October 2019 tornados that brought destruction and despair to North Texas, The Dickey Foundation provided over 400 meals to First Responders assisting in disaster relief efforts.

On Friday, June 2, 2017, HEB/Central Market showed their support of the men and women of Dallas law enforcement with a generous donation to the Invest in a Vest program. This support will provide life-saving resources to 50 officers using the best technology for safety and durability.



Dickey Foundation conducts fundraising initiatives across the country to support police and fire. Along with traditional fundraising Dickey Foundation is also sponsored by Dickey's Barbecue Pit and Frito Lay. The two companies have created a shared initiative to give back to the community by donating a portion of all Frito Lay products sold in Dickey's Barbecue Pits nationwide to the charity.

#### **Chairman's Award - Flatbread Company – John Leake**

Flatbread Company is an organic locally sourced wood-fired pizza restaurant on Lowest Greenville. They support local communities with benefit bakes, support local schools, churches, and other non profits with pizza donations. The company gives back to the East Dallas Community through the benefit bakes and pizza donations as well as hire local high school students. Flatbread Company joined the Chamber a year before the location opened. The restaurant was opened in March 2020 when everything was shut down for COVID-19. They re-opened when allowed by regulators and has managed to remain open during the COVID crisis. Chamber member Jim Harrison has attended Chamber after hours events, and hosted one at his location. He has given generously with \$100 gift cards to the many events for door prizes and giveaways. Accepting the Award is John Leake.

#### **Entrepreneur of the Year - Le Caveau Vinotherapie – Thierry Plumettaz**

Le Caveau is a small neighborhood wine shop specializing in wines that can be paired with all style of cuisine from Asian to classical French, sushi or Italian. The selection is small by design and bringing high value wines at a great price. Extensive Burgundy and Rhone wines selections. Plumettaz came to Dallas in 1986 to work as the cellar master at the Mansion on Turtle Creek and has worked for the Ritz Carlton in Houston, the Crescent Court in Dallas, the little bistro named Watel's on McKinney Avenue, and Glazer's, now called Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits.

In 2006, he left Dallas for Atlanta to manage the prestigious wine portfolio of Louis Roederer Champagne. He came back to Dallas in 2013 to represent the wines from Louis Jadot, Champagne Taittinger and Domaine Zind-Humbrecht for the importer Kobrand in 2013. Then sometime in 2016, Plumettaz said he reached a crossroads as to what he wanted to do. He worked at every level of the wine business and always enjoyed educating consumers via wine seminars or wine dinners. It was time to jump and do it full time for a neighborhood small store. The timing was perfect. The space and location is what he had envisioned. The timing was perfect because he saw the Dallas market as dominated by large chain stores with very few independent fine shops. It created a void for specialized esoteric wines. Part of the reason he wanted to open the store was to be able to promote and offer these products. Le Caveau is a small, colorful shop with shelves of wine bottles lining the walls. A long table in the center surrounded by chairs displays two large Burgundy vineyard maps under glass.

On a recent weekday afternoon, a customer came into the store looking for a wine for his wife, who likes Burgundy. But he confessed that he really didn't know where to begin. Plumettaz asked some price parameters and offered a few choices that might impress the customer's Burgundy-loving spouse.

Value is important. Plumettaz looks first for value for the bottle and he likes smaller family wineries or, if in the case of a larger negociant (wine merchant) like Jadot, he concentrates on their smaller single vineyard wines. He only carries wines that he has researched, either by tasting, meeting the winemaker, or visiting the winery or estate. Provide a level of service and attention to the neighborhood. Open 6 days a week to serve our wonderful customers. Before COVID restrictions, he organized weekly tastings as well as food and wine pairings to give customers an opportunity to try smaller producers and more obscure appellations, all in a non-pushy, relaxed setting. Also before COVID, he organized trips to France and Italy limited to 6 people.

Le Caveau has been a Chamber member since opening three years ago. In December 2019, Texas Monthly named Le Caveau Vinotherapie one of the best wine shops in Texas. It is the most unique wine shop in Dallas. Plumettaz is a

certified specialist of wines and stocks wine selections are from France, Italy, Spain, South America and The USA. The selection is composed from wineries that he has visited over the years. Food & Wine pairing recommendations. Delivery is available. Thierry lives and works in East Dallas. He is an East Dallas resident and the winery is located in Lake Highlands.

### **Entrepreneur of the Year - Minuteman Press East Dallas – Dominic Harwood**

We're a locally owned franchisee focused on providing printing and marketing services for local small businesses. We specialize in high quality fast turnaround digital printing, offering a wider range of substrates and options than most online competitors. We have also invested heavily in equipment to enable us to create more custom printed products in smaller runs, a challenge for smaller businesses that don't want to pay for longer runs of specialized items. Member of local chambers of commerce. Dominic services on the Greater East Dallas Chamber's Marketing committee, Economic Summit committee and attends happy hour networking events. The business sponsors and supports local non-profit organizations, specifically ones that are involved with helping foster kids and 100 Men of East Dallas. Dominic has received franchise recognition for professional excellence in customer service, quality and exemplary business performance. They are located in East Dallas and are very much a community resource. Most of their customers are East Dallas businesses or individuals.

### **Live Local - Curiosities & Curious Garden – Terry Cohen and Jason Cohen**

Curiosities was founded by Terry Cohen and her son Jason Cohen. It was born out of their mutual love of antiques. Terry and Jason along with five other dealers have honed finding the weird and wonderful to an art. Side show banners, medical devices, porcelain advertising signs, tramp art, vintage cowboy apparel – Curiosities, located in historic Lakewood, isn't your typical antique store. Jam-packed with antiques and oddities, this is a great place to rediscover childhood memories or find that special piece for your space. A visit here is not one that is soon forgotten. They participate in the Hollywood/Santa Monica Membership Association wherein members can enjoy a 10% discount on their purchases in the store. They donate to many local school fund raisers. Also help supply costumes for school plays such as "Our Town". They annually participate in Light up Lakewood and sell tickets for the Hollywood/Santa Monica Home Tour. They host a 4th of July parking lot party with food and live music for customers. Curiosities is frequently recognized as the best antique store in Dallas based on Google Reviews.

Curiosities has been in business for 15 years! And 5 years ago, a second store, Curiosity Garden, was opened on Garland Road across from the Arboretum. Curious Garden has opened its space to local clubs where they can hold their meetings and offers a variety of classes - in fact a Carnivorous Plant workshop was held recently. Curiosities rescued the iconic neon Glo sign from the dry cleaning shop on Abrams that no longer exists - forever keeping it in Lakewood (and no it isn't for sale but thanks for asking!). The dealers are very active in acquiring vintage Lakewood and Texas for collectors. In April 2016, Curiosities hosted and was witness for a Guinness World Record. Rachael "Frankie Stiletto" Williams set a new record for straight jacket escape while swallowing a sword. Part of Curiosities appeal is that the shop "keeps Lakewood weird". You can always expect the unusual at Curiosities. Terry and Jason both have resided in the East Dallas area for 20 plus years. People always say they should charge admission but the real fun is watching the customers enjoy themselves at their store - marveling at all of the...curiosities.

### **Live Local - For The Love of The Lake – Z Zsohar**

We are a non-profit organization whose volunteers support programs to preserve and enhance White Rock Lake Park. We organize regular cleanup activities, tree planting events, and raise money needed to fund improvements to White

Rock Lake Park. For the Love of the Lake (FTLOTL) organizes a Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce Up (S4) for volunteers to gather litter in White Rock Lake Park (WRLP). Volunteers come to our office to pick up supplies (trash grabbers, trash and recycle bags and gloves) before they do the cleanup of the park.

Through July 2021, FTLOTL have cleaned the WRLP 304 consecutive second Saturdays. FTLOTL also accommodates groups (companies, schools, organizations) who want to do a community service event. FTLOTL has agreed to formulas with Dallas Park and Recreation Department (DPARD) to measure the value of FTLOTL volunteers to DPARD and to estimate the volume of trash gathered. In the past twelve months our volunteers have provided DPARD a value of \$247,000 and have collected an estimated 300 cubic yards of trash.

In September FTLOTL initiated a program called Padillacs, which are volunteers who go out on White Rock Lake in canoes or kayaks to pick up trash along the shoreline that is not accessible by foot. Most of our volunteers have their own boats, but some do not so in November 2020 we purchased six canoes and two kayaks for the volunteers that do not have their own boats. Most of the trash gathered is in White Rock Creek and the large volume of trash collected does not end up in White Rock Lake.

To further our efforts to keep White Rock Lake clean of trash, FTLOTL purchased a floating trash collector called Seabin. Seabin is located at Corinthian Sailing Club (CSC) and in partnership with CSC, who provide the electricity and empty the trash bin, Seabin is helping keep the lake clean. To further our efforts to keep White Rock Lake clean of trash, FTLOTL purchased a floating trash collector called Seabin. Seabin is located at Corinthian Sailing Club (CSC) and in partnership with CSC, who provide the electricity and empty the trash bin, Seabin is helping keep the lake clean. Another program that FTLOTL has is called Celebration Tree Grove (CTG). Donations of \$1000 or more to CTG are commemorated with a Bronze plaque installed in the stone monuments at the Grove Plaza located near the corner of Poppy and E. Lake Highlands Dr. Donors use these plaques to honor, remember, or celebrate friends and loved ones by planting and maintaining trees at White Rock Lake Park. CTG donations have been used to reforest the park for years. In November 2020 CTG in Partnership with White Rock Lake Foundation planted 50 trees in the park on the west side of the lake. CTG provided the funds for the required irrigation for the trees.

FTLOTL has a water monitoring program. The Texas Stream Team is a network of volunteer citizen scientists. dedicated to protecting the environment. The local stream team collects and tests water at White Rock Lake and its streams. Their data joins the data from stream teams throughout Texas in the stream team database at Texas State University. The data they collect is especially relevant to communities, government agencies, businesses, and industries making resource management decisions. For the Love the Lake is a member of the Chamber. I attend the social happy hour on the fourth Tuesday of the month to network with others and let others know what FTLOTL is doing for East Dallas. 2017 - Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding volunteers service to Dallas Park Maintenance Services 2004 - North Texas Corporate Recycling Association Environmental Vision Award Up until April 2020, FTLOTL office was open on the second Saturday Shoreline Spruce Up (S4) event and we would have volunteers park their cars, sign in and enjoy fellowship and refreshments before going to the park to do the cleanup. Due to the required office closure, we could not provide the supplies needed to clean the park. That did not stop some of our dedicated volunteers to go out and clean the park on their own in April 2020 to make sure FTLOTL consecutive S4 event was not interrupted. The use of WRLP increased significantly at the beginning of the shutdown and we needed a way to get our volunteers the supplies they needed in an attempt to keep the Park as clean as possible. Before the May 2020 S4 I worked with DPARD to come up with a safe way to get supplies to our volunteers. I proposed a drive through S4 event where we would ask our volunteers to stay in their cars and we would provide sanitized trash grabbers, trash and recycle bags and gloves in the trunk or back of their cars. Masks were required and we would social distance to the extent possible. This drive through S4 has turned out to be highly successful and have continued it to this day. There is not a lot of innovative opportunities in picking up trash in the park. As mentioned in a previous response, our drive through S4 has proved to be highly

successful during the pandemic. Also, FTLOTL recently purchased Seabin, a floating trash collector and also began the Padillac program mentioned in a previous response.

We are working with DPARD to put signs with a QR code below the 911 location markers on the trails around White Rock Lake. The QR code would launch an application that would show a map of White Rock Lake and Park and with GPS would show where the individual is at the Lake. Other links added to the map that will give information about the activities, parking lots, drinking fountains, restrooms and other facilities and amenities at the lake and surrounding areas. For the Love of the Lake is funding the project and partnering with Dallas Park and Recreation who is developing the application. Hopefully, we can implement within the next two months. FTLOTL has a fifteen member board, most who live in East Dallas. This is a working board and are very active in supporting East Dallas. In addition to being president of FTLOTL, I am also on the board of the Friends of the Bath House Cultural Center. Also, I live on W. Lake Highlands Drive and face the lake and park and can see the Bath House from my home. We value our partnership with Dallas Park and Recreation and we both are dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of White Rock Lake Park as an urban oasis and to ensure those who enjoy White Rock Lake Park actively engage in service to maintain the environment for future generations.

#### **Live Local - Well Grounded Coffee Community – Natalie Huscheck**

We are a Non-profit Coffee House. We give 2nd chances to formerly incarcerated moms by hiring and training them and resourcing them with education and community based opportunities. We offer amazing coffee and food! We give the opportunity to partner with us in giving 2nd chances. We invite the community into the classes, trainings and events we have at the shop and in our meeting room. We just joined the chamber a month ago and attended the Happy Hour event where we met many fabulous people. We received an award from East Dallas Networking Group last Fall and have been recognized in Dallas Morning News, The Advocate, and several other local media venues. Yes, for employing mom's with felons who would otherwise struggle to find employment that pays a "living wage". They have a WORK structure that allows the Baristas to move up through a Tier process where they "master" 7 critical skill sets and eventually will be prepared to manage their own business. We own a home in Casa Linda/White Rock. My brother also owns a local business (White Rock Alehouse). Love the area, lake, people, networking:) My husband, Michael Huscheck is co-founder.

#### **R.S. Munger Business Pioneer - Mariano's Hacienda – Kyle Flowers**

If there were ever a perfect time to celebrate with a frozen margarita, May 11 would have been the day. On that Taco Tuesday, Mariano Martinez celebrated the 50th anniversary of his invention of the frozen margarita machine which revolutionized the restaurant industry. The original Mariano's restaurant location - also 50 years old in May - was on Greenville Avenue in Old Town Shopping Center, just a stone's throw away from its current location on Skillman.

The frozen margarita machine was duplicated throughout the nation, and it ushered in the National Drink of Baby Boomers. The original machine now sits in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, Martinez opened his first restaurant, Mariano's Mexican Cuisine, in Dallas by selling everything he owned to obtain a S.B.A. loan. Now, 50 years later, Mariano currently owns and operates six Mexican restaurants in North Texas that employ more than 600 people and serve 1.3 million guests per year.

Martinez used his father's margarita recipe in his new restaurant. Mariano used his show business contacts to generate word-of-mouth about the new Mexican restaurant, Mariano's Mexican Cuisine, which resulted in large crowds.

Demand for his blended margarita was high, but the bar staff could not keep up with orders, as over 200 per night were produced from just one blender. Customers complained that the drinks tasted different each time and Martinez realized

that his bartenders did not take the time to measure out the drink's ingredients. His head bartender complained that the drink was too complicated and threatened to quit. Faced with both unhappy bartenders and dissatisfied customers, Martinez resolved to find a better way. At a local 7-Eleven, he noticed the Slurpee machine, and he realized he could premix the margarita and the bartenders would simply pull the lever to dispense it. He tried to buy a frozen drink machine, but was told no, as they were leery of his intention and said his idea would not work because alcohol does not freeze.

Martinez finally bought a used ice cream machine on May 11, 1971 and modified the machine and his recipe to make frozen margaritas. It was a "simple spigot with a lever, a steel cup holder in which to place a glass, some buttons and vents". The machine was moved to Mariano's bar where it was placed front and center, and soon customers began to ask for the frozen margarita by name. Mariano invented the frozen margarita machine which was duplicated throughout the nation. As restaurant chains like Chili's, Applebee's, and Steak and Ale followed suit and rolled out frozen margarita machines to Americans in all 50 states, the tequila-based concoction became the national drink of choice.

El Fenix was one of the first restaurants to use the machine and the success of the frozen margaritas pushed Tex-Mex food to the forefront. Tex-Mex is now recognized as one of the most popular cuisines throughout the culinary world. El Fenix was founded right here in Dallas and recently celebrated 100 years in business. Together Tex-Mex and frozen margaritas each helped make the success Mariano's and El Fenix.

The company provides coupons for schools, fundraisers, etc. We employ local and minority workers and students. Although Mariano and his wife Wanda did not have children, they actively supported the Lakewood Elementary school fair each year. Mariano and Wanda Martinez also just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

### **People's Choice – Charlie's treats – Kid Made, Kid Owned – Charlie Kobdich**

Runners up: Momo Italian Kitchen, Texas Telcom Credit Union

A quick study of history's Titans of industry, commerce, and innovation, yields several notable names – Carnegie, Rockefeller, JP Morgan, that guy that invented the pet rock, and of course Charlie Kobdich. In November of 2017, at the age of 10, Charlie told his parents that he was tired of doing chores for money, so he was going to start his own business. Charlie's Treats – Kid Made, Kid Owned was born. What began as a holiday business serving friends and neighbors in East Dallas, quickly grew into a year-round enterprise, shipping spiced pecans to his PECANTourage around the world. Having outgrown the capacity of his home kitchen, production moved to a commercial kitchen, where in December of last year alone, over 500 lbs. of pecans were made to fill corporate gift orders.

Knowing the East Dallas community in which he lives is largely responsible for his success, Charlie donates 5% of his profits annually to local charities like White Rock Center of Hope, Good Local Markets, and East Lake Pet Orphanage.

This 14 year-old PECANtrepreneur has been seen on WFAA Channel 8, and Only Good TV, interviewed by Spencer McGowan for his Net Worth Radio Leadership Series, and featured in Edible DFW, the Dallas Morning News, Boys Life Magazine, and most recently, White Rock Lake Weekly.

Last month, he competed against professional chefs and restaurateurs in the World Food Championship at Fair Park, placing an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 37, and 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the Top 10 Round. His Southwestern Shrimp and Grits Chowder was a real hit.

A freshman at Cistercian Preparatory School, he plays baseball, and is a member of the Finance Club.

Charlie hopes to attend the Wharton School of Business and become a hedge fund manager.



# 2020 Business of the Year Winners

## Business of the Year

Bowlski's Lakewood  
Meso Maya

## Chairman's Award

Dallas United Crew

## Entrepreneur of the Year

Jeremy Turner

## Live Local Business of the Year

Dallas Coffee News  
DELEON PROVISIONS

## R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award

Yoga-Art-Music

## People's Choice Business of the Year

CC Young

**Runners-up:** Dallas United Crew, Lakewood Veterinary Center



Craig and Jennifer Spivery, Bowlski's Lakewood; Jesus Yerena, Meso Maya; Jeremy Turner and Family; Lisa Miller and Dave Slear, Dallas United Crew; Trey and Jen Jhnson, Yoga-Art-Music; Kam and Teri De Leon, DELEON PROVISIONS; Adam Jochelson, Dallas Coffee News; Russell Crews, CC Young.

# 2020

## **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:**

### **Bowlski's Lakewood - Craig and Jen Spivey**

Bowlski's Lakewood is an entertainment center in the historic Lakewood movie theater. 10 bowling lanes were installed that were removed from a closed bowling alley in Mineola, Texas. In the balcony area, floors were leveled and 4 pool tables were added along with vintage and current arcade games, a private game suite, and a golf simulator. The projector room was turned into a speakeasy style bar.

The employees and management all live in East Dallas. They work with the schools, churches, organizations, and businesses in the area to host their events, fundraisers, and team building events. And they host "tons" of birthday parties too for East Dallas families.

The Lakewood Theater and tower was dark for many years before Bowlski's moved back into the area. Bowlski's saved the Lakewood Theater from being divided into multiple businesses.

Earlier this year, Bowlski's won a Dallas Preservation Award for interior finish out of the theater and were on the cover of International Bowling magazine in December 2019.

It is a one of a kind environment if you have not seen it! Exposed bowling machines, suspended on a steel frame, with a live music stage above the bowling lanes.

Owner Craig Spivey designed and built Bowlski's along with lots of ideas and suggestions from friends and families. He has a graphic design background and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. This is his third bowling alley and it was really fun to work within the restrictions of the historical classification of the theater and the importance it has to the community.

This covid has been really difficult on Bowlski's since they just opened in August 2019. Craig and his family are all working hard to keep the tower lights on every night. He launched a new site to support local businesses, called [saveneighborhoodrestaurants.com](http://saveneighborhoodrestaurants.com) that focuses on East Dallas businesses, and recently launched a gofundme to help fix up the shopping center fountain.

He has lived in East Dallas since 1996 and currently lives Parks Estates where his front yard is lit up with the Lakewood Theater tower lights! He is a member at Lakewood Country Club and both children attended Saint Thomas Aquinas and his daughter is now at Bishop Lynch High School.

## **Business of the Year**

### **Meso Maya – Jesus Yerena**

Meso Maya has been bringing authentic, interior Mexican cuisine to the Lakewood area since 2016. From the herbs and spices used for homemade adobos and salsas, to hand-ground tortillas, to the entrees and sauces created from scratch, every dish is prepared with a reverence to the states of Mexico—glorious places like Yucatan, Vera Cruz, and Chiapas.

Meso Maya Lakewood has been open and serving the Lakewood community throughout the pandemic, transforming its operations to accommodate our guests' needs. Meso Maya has been named "Best Regional

Mexican" by D Magazine in 2015, 2018 and 2019. The Lakewood location specifically was named "Best Mexican" by the Lakewood Advocate in 2019. The Meso Maya Lakewood staff live and work in the Lakewood area.

### **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD - Dallas United Crew – Dave Slear and Lisa Miller**

Dallas United Crew's mission is to UNITE and EMPOWER DALLAS through Rowing and Dragon Boating. DUC is the only inclusive rowing organization in the southern region through its programs and scholarships for disadvantaged youth, wheelchair veterans and breast cancer survivors. DUC was established in 2002 and since then has become the premiere rowing and dragon boating program not only in Texas but in the region. With over 300 participants in their programs annually, they are also the largest club in the State of Texas.

DUC's rowers and paddlers are known regionally and nationally. DUC youth won 16 regional championships and qualified for nationals for five consecutive years. Their student athletes are actively recruited by colleges and awarded scholarships around the US. And they have sent rowers to the United States National Team. They equip students for success on and off the water with abundant life lessons learned in a racing shell: accountability, resilience, integrity and perseverance. Currently, 150+ middle and high school student athletes from 35 DFW area schools participate in the youth programs.

Dallas United Crew gives back to the East Dallas Community with numerous programs:

ROW DALLAS, a partnership with DISD, along with Gaston Middle School and Townview High School, designed to get help children succeed on and off the water.

FREE COMMUNITY ROW and PADDLE EVENTS

FREE VETERAN AND ADAPTIVE ROWING programs

DUC is an important steward of White Rock Lake. They have received multiple awards from For the Love of the Lake for our shoreline clean up efforts. You can find DUC youth and adults out every second Saturday doing their part to preserve White Rock Lake. And DUC is routinely involved in different activities around the lake, manning tents and offering support. Taking care of 'their home' at White Rock Lake is one of their most important tasks.

### **ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR - Jeremy Turner - The McFly, The SLATER, The Topanga Airbnbs**

Jeremy Turner creates unique and original small businesses in East Dallas. His most famous is the Ugly Christmas Sweater Shop which has been an east Dallas staple for the last 7 years. It was featured on Good Morning America and Sunday night football. Nightline and ABC World news even did a segment on their unique hiring policy applicants are required to send a video of their favorite dance moves when they scaled to 3 stores and needed to hire jolly employees very quickly.

Now, he is pivoting to focus more on unique and experiential airbnbs. He has created the first ever 80's and 90's kid airbnbs and they are like walking into an immersive and experiential time capsule. They searched far and wide to curate spaces that create a nostalgic feeling.

For Jeremy, it is actually like making art as they are original and his intent is to change the way guests feel when they are in his airbnbs. Guests feel like they are kids again. He has been featured in both local and national press.

These original small businesses are part of the fabric of great places to live and visit. He has had countless guests thank him for making these immersive airbnb's that take them back to their carefree days of childhood. We all want to have unique experiences that help us feel more alive and joyful.

These reviews from recent guests might explain this better...

"AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!" -Courtney's review, The Topanga

"BEST.AIR BNB. EVER." Melissa's review, The SLATER

"We will be talking and thinking about this place forever!" Crystal's review, The SLATER

"By far the best airbnb in Dallas! Edgar's review, The McFly

"The magic you feel when you walk in the place is out of this world!" Kaytie's review, The Topanga

"The best experience ever." Malcolm's review, The SLATER

His wife Kelsey is an Art Teacher for DISD and she is a huge part of all his successes. She has done murals in each of the airbnbs and has also created the logos.

Jeremy and his family have lived in East Dallas for over 10 years and love it so much he owns the domain loveeastdallas.com.

### **Live Local Business of the Year**

#### **DELEON PROVISIONS – Kam And Teri De Leon**

DELEON PROVISIONS is an East Dallas food company that was founded in 2019 by Kam and Teri De Leon. As working parents they understand how busy life can get; it's hard to balance everything and still get quality delicious food on the table for your favorite people. They deliver scratch made meals and snacks Monday – Friday as well as baked goods from local bakeries.

They frequently give their time and talents to East Dallas neighborhoods, but it is often hard to know where Kam and Teri end and DELEON PROVISIONS begins. They are frequently called upon to donate or subsidize meals and events for local schools and nonprofits. They are always happy to work with the folks to stretch their budget, make donations, and sponsor their events.

When the Chamber's LIVE LOCAL EAST DALLAS sign campaign was announced, they launched THE LOCAL BOX which is a premium version of their signature grazing boxes and features specialty items from five local craft food artisans: Charlie's Treats, Hippos and Hashbrowns, The Jelly Queens, Village Bakery; and Wackym's Kitchen.

They have been East Dallas residents for 16 years and have become fully involved in the life of the community through connections with church, school and local organizations.

They are active members at White Rock United Methodist Church and Kam manages The Garden at White Rock, the community garden on the church campus. Chef Teri serves as a local celebrity judge at the annual Fraternal Order of Eagles BBQ cookoff benefiting the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

Of all their community activities, they are most proud of the work we've done volunteering at Alex Sanger Preparatory where their two boys attend school. Since 2013 they have actively served on the PTA and various school committees, including the site based decision management team (SBDM ) which oversaw the bond package for the middle school new building.

### **Live Local Business of the Year**

#### **Dallas Coffee News - Adam Jochelson**

Dallas Coffee News is a weekly entertainment newspaper providing fun reading at restaurants for families when they're out together. It also provides a budget-friendly advertising for local businesses.

Their motto is "Here to Enrich Our Community" and regularly promote community events that neighbors can each other and enjoy, and especially promote events organized by the police community outreach team. They also sponsor several local business networking groups.

Dallas Coffee News was awarded the Best In Action Coffee News publisher worldwide in 2018. This meant that in the opinion of our fellow Coffee News publishers across the globe, they were the best at getting out and doing good in our communities.

Coffee News itself is an internationally recognized entertainment and advertising phenomenon for over 30 years. Dallas Coffee News carries on the beloved tradition of printed newspapers

Everyone in the group lives in East Dallas.

**R.S. Munger Business Pioneer Award** - Anyone with business/community ties to East Dallas area who is notable for some technological, creative or business innovation.

### **Yoga-Art-Music – Y.A.M.**

#### **Jen and Trey Johnson**

In 2019, Yoga-Art-Music – Y.A.M. opened to help enhance culture in East Dallas, and to help ensure that the reopening of the Lakeridge Village Shopping Center, located on Walnut Hill at Audelia, was a great success in reflecting a community focus.

Y.A.M. is a community center- unique for our area. They offer daily yoga classes, display and sell local art, have live music performances, and rent their space for special events. Jen oversees the yoga, Trey and Jen curate the art, as art is something we have loved enjoying together for over 30 years and Trey oversees the music.



But their legacy in Dallas goes much further back. Trey has been performing in Dallas since 1985 and was a Dallas music instructor for many years, and now owns state fair records which supports many Dallas musicians (including lake highlands John Pedigo and east Dallas Joshua Ray Walker), and curates music for the State Fair of Texas.

In 2001, Jen along with her brother Kurt founded the nationally recognized yoga system, American Power Yoga in a studio on Greenville Avenue across from Old Town Shopping Center. It was one of the first yoga studios in East Dallas. Students and instructors were trained in the revolutionary APY method, spawning thousands of yoga enthusiasts.

Y.A.M. was established in 2019 and was growing steadily in the first year of business. Yoga classes are in the daytime and the studio is open in the evenings for events and a variety of entertainment including musical groups, singers, and comedians. It is BYOB and closes at 11 p.m. so makes a fun evening for the community to come and enjoy and get home early!

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way they operate. They quickly pivoted all their services virtually and even offer special packages to companies that want to enhance their corporate culture. They now provide Yoga in the park, drive-in movie night, live virtual classes, YAM Cam, virtual art, and virtual concerts.

The yoga-art-music concept is unique – no other similar venue bringing all 3 of these arts together under one roof. They help the community by elevating and providing income to local yoga teachers, artists, and musicians. They hosted a Give Back day where east Dallas local non-profits have a booth to educate the community about how they can help east Dallas (i.e., Love of the Lake, East Lake Pet Orphanage (ELPO), Zounds Sounds - way into music!).

They have lived in the Lake Highlands area for over 20 years and have two children.

### **People's Choice Business of the Year** **CC Young – Russell Crews**

2020, a year of such promise, took an unexpected turn with the arrival of COVID-19 in March.

More than 100 years earlier, CC Young's founder, Rev. Christopher Conley Young, was at the pulpit in 1918 when the Spanish Flu pandemic arrived in Dallas. He was quoted in area newspapers encouraging all individuals to find alternative ways to worship while the churches were closed. Like Rev. Young, CC Young has found alternate ways to do *everything*. Life goes on. Hope is not canceled at CC Young. In fact, in spite of it all, the campus is thriving.

As such, we are pleased to present CC Young with the 2020 People's Choice Business Award in recognition of your commitment to those you serve and continuation of Rev. Young's mission and ministry in East Dallas.

**Runners-up:** Dallas United Crew, Lakewood Veterinary Center.

# 2019 Business of the Year Winners

## **Business of the Year Award**

Highland Park Cafeteria

## **Chairman's Award**

Ferguson Road Initiative

## **Entrepreneur of the Year**

Element Dallas Downtown East

## **Live Local Award**

Good Local Markets

20 Feet Seafood Joint

Greenville Avenue Pizza Company

## **R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award**

Promise of Peace Gardens

## **People's Choice Award**

Jesse's AC & Appliance Repair

**Runner's Up:** Sign Dreamers Dallas & Park Cities, East Dallas Automotive



Photo by Maggie Murphree

*Front Row – Vikki Martin, Ferguson Road Initiative; Erika Konig and Carina Trejo, Element Dallas Downtown East; Sammy Mandell, Greenville Avenue Pizza Company; Sue and Marc Cassel, 20 Feet Seafood Joint; Back Row: Chamber Chairman Mike Nurre; Jesse Simmons, Jesse's AC & Appliance Repair; Casey Cutler, Good Local Markets; Elizabeth Dry, Promise of Peace Gardens; Jeff Snoyer, Highland Park Cafeteria.*

# 2019 Business of the Year Awards

**Business of the Year Award**  
Highland Park Cafeteria

**Chairman's Award**  
Ferguson Road Initiative

**Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Element Dallas Downtown East

**Live Local Award**  
Good Local Markets  
20 Feet Seafood Joint  
Greenville Avenue Pizza Company

**R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award**  
Promise of Peace Gardens  
**People's Choice Award**  
Jesse's AC & Appliance Repair

**Runner's Up:** Sign Dreamers Dallas & Park Cities, East Dallas Automotive



*Front Row – Vikki Martin, Ferguson Road Initiative; Erika Konig and Carina Trejo, Element Dallas Downtown East; Sammy Mandell, Greenville Avenue Pizza Company; Sue and Marc Cassel, 20 Feet Seafood Joint; Back Row: Chamber Chairman Mike Nurre; Jesse Simmons, Jesse's AC & Appliance Repair; Casey Cutler, Good Local Markets; Elizabeth Dry, Promise of Peace Gardens; Jeff Snoyer, Highland Park Cafeteria.*

## **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR: Highland Park Cafeteria**

When something is good, you don't let it go. That's why we still use favorite recipes from decades past, like our famous Squash Casserole. That's why we hold on tight to the best cooks, like Mr. Ernest Bowens, who's been cooking for us 63 years. And that's why owner Jeff Snoyer saved the Highland Park Cafeteria after it had fallen on hard times. The restaurant will celebrate 95 years next year.

Our food tastes so good that people often ask us if we have a special ingredient. According to our longtime cook Ernest "Mister B" Bowens, it's "come-back." That's right, we put a little "come-back" into everything we make, so you'll want to come back again and again. And we'll be happy to see you. "The atmosphere of Highland Park Cafeteria is also decidedly old-fashioned: Portraits of every U.S. President (and First Lady, thank you very much) line the walls of the buffet line and dining room. "Other Dallas restaurants may be focused on innovation, but the key to Highland Park Cafeteria's success has been keeping it old-school."

Highland Park Cafeteria and Jeff Snoyer support the Dallas Police Department at various events, including providing a meal for 300 people to help make the Annual Health Fair a success. He provides a free meeting room for the East Dallas Networking group's weekly meetings which has an average weekly attendance of 70 for the networking lunch.

He has provided leadership and financial support for the Ferguson Road Initiative, Dallas United Crew, White Rock Lake Task Force, Bishop Lynch High School and numerous other neighborhood groups.

Highland Park Cafeterias has adopted two medians at Garland Road and Buckner Boulevard, providing clean-up and maintenance landscaping.

If a neighborhood organization asks Jeff for assistance, he steps up and provides it without asking to be recognized.

## **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: Ferguson Road Initiative- Vikki Martin**

The Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) is a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and revitalization of Far East Dallas (boundaries: Garland Rd, I-635, Mesquite Boundary, I-30, White Rock Creek). Our mission: To engage and empower a community of advocates to advance a safe, beautiful, proud and prosperous Far East Dallas. Our vision: Far East Dallas is strong and vital. Our motto: Working together for the greater good.

FRI effectively advocates for, communicates, leads and connects with our 80,000 residents, 37 organized CW and VIP groups, 2000 unique businesses, 13 schools, 60 apartment complexes, and 30 faith communities.

FRI facilitates the community's vision for the complete economic revitalization of Far East Dallas, guided by core values; Leadership, Community, Respect, Integrity, Stewardship. Established in 1998 as a nonprofit 501(c3) organization, the Ferguson Road Initiative was formed by neighborhood leadership. They united and began proactively addressing crime issues that were the root cause of the area's urban blight, business degeneration, retail abandonment, poor DISD school performance, substandard multi-family housing and diminishing property values. Today, FRI engages in law enforcement, community policing, health, education,

and housing initiatives in a holistic effort to restore this Far East Dallas community through crime reduction, public safety, economic development, and quality of life programs benefiting more than 73,000 residents.

If it weren't for FRI, and Vikki Martin at the helm, not much would have been done for the Far East Dallas community. For over 20 years, FRI continues to work hard to make it better for all to live here regardless of income or race. Sharon Grigsby of the Dallas Morning News said it best when she wrote about Vikki and FRI, "In the years since, Martin has helped shut down problem motels and apartment complexes. She's pressured others to clean things up. She's reported absentee landlords and code violations. Facts and figures about FRI's successes are impressive — crime is down, home values are up, the White Rock Hills Branch Library was completed in 2012."

### **Ferguson Road Initiative Awards & Accolades**

2001 Weed & Seed Accreditation, Department of Justice, FRI  
2005 Resolution, St. Senator John Carona, Vikki Martin  
2005 Weed & Seed Official Recognition, Department of Justice, FRI  
2006 Dreamers, Doers & Unsung Heroes Award, The Real Estate Council Foundation, Vikki Martin  
2006 Special Recognition, Mayor Laura Miller, Vikki Martin  
2006 Local Hero Award, Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Award--Bank of America, Vikki Martin  
2006 Certificate of Achievement, Foundation for Community Empowerment FRI  
2008 Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership, Center for Nonprofit Management, Vikki Martin  
2009 Resolution of Recognition--DISD, FRI  
2009 Governor's Volunteer Service/Community Motivator Award--State of Texas, One Star Foundation, Vikki Martin  
2009 Special Recognition, Mayor Tom Leppert, Vikki Martin  
2009 Stakeholder Partnership for Education & Communication Department of the Treasury--IRS, FRI  
2009 Stakeholder Partnership for Education & Communication Department of the Treasury--IRS, FRI  
2009 Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) Length of Service Award, Department of Justice, FRI  
2011 Proclamation, U.S. Attorney's Office, Sarah R. Saldana, FRI  
2011 Community Service Award, Lakewood Service League, Susan Walker  
2013 Proclamation & Texas Flag, St. Rep. Eric Johnson, Vikki Martin  
2013 Community Builder Award, Roy Stanley Masonic Lodge, FRI  
2014 Certificate of Appreciation, Be Covered Texas, FRI  
2015 Community Volunteer Leadership Award--Dallas Historical Society, FRI  
2018 Resolution House of Representatives, St. Rep. Eric Johnson, FRI  
2018 Special Recognition, City of Dallas, Mayor Mike Rawlings, FRI

FRI is one of the reasons for the current renaissance happening in Far East Dallas. By addressing and reducing crime they were able to attract business in the community. By identifying the needs and gaps in service, they provide services that significantly impact the quality of life for the children and families in our community who live in poverty.

The longest serving program to date is Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). This program has returned over \$21MM to 12,266 FRI families over 14 years. In 2019, 357 hours of Financial Education Training, with a total of \$2,728,375 in money returned to working poor, and 68% of Hispanic families being served in this tax season.

FRI cultivates the practice of persistence and resilience. When it was learned in 2017 that a 20 year dream of building a much needed Community/Recreation CENTER would NOT be included in the city bond program, attention was turned to helping White Rock United Methodist Church create a service provider center at their second campus, Owenwood Farm & Neighbor Space (1451 John West Road). FRI serves Owenwood by being a resource for identifying and connecting them to nonprofits interested in housing programs in their facility. Currently an Urban Farm is growing and plans are in the works to create a Community Garden this fall.

At present, FRI is engaged in a partnership with the City of Dallas, Urban Land Institute, Land for Public Trust, and National Recreation and Parks Association to study how the Ash Creek Greenbelt (which runs through the FRI community) can be a catalyst for quality economic development. Simultaneously, they are working with the 10 Minute Walk to a Park initiative.

The Ferguson Road Initiative is in its 21st year of service to the Far East Dallas community. Their office is in the heart of the area (Ferguson/I-30). Executive Director Vikki Martin has lived in the community since 1987 and 90% of the FRI Board of Directors either live or own a business in the Far East Dallas community.

**City Council Member Paula Blackmon** says this about Vikki: "Vikki and her work with the Ferguson Road Initiative are catalysts for community engagement and empowerment in Far East Dallas. She is an inclusive and supportive leader in the community who seeks to bolster all in the Ferguson Road area. Vikki is an integral player in keeping East Dallas strong and vibrant."

## **ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR: Element Dallas Downtown East**

Atlantic Hotels Group was formed in 1999 by two brothers, Salim and Perry Molubhoy. The brothers share a unique entrepreneurial style of hospitality and service that has enabled them to be one of the most successful creators of an original hotel model. Their portfolio is now considered the pinnacle of the hospitality industry. Atlantic is in the business of creating, posturing, and developing the most original posh hotels, at an affordable price. Building on reputation and word of mouth is what drives Atlantic to success. It is through the integration of disciplined planning, methodical thinking, and the experience and expertise of the brothers and their team, that will result in extensive and innovative services.

The hotel was repurposed from the former Dallas Health Rehabilitation Building next to Schlotzky's and across from Baylor Scott & White hospital. They took a crumbling building on Gaston Avenue in East Dallas and turned it into a showcase hotel. It has helped beautify the area and bring in change. It was an arduous task, several years in the making. They are helping the economy of the East Dallas area by having out of town guests stay and encouraging them to spend money on local business.

The eco-friendly hotel has practices that lower plastic consumption, produce less waste, and promote guests to live healthy, active lifestyles. They have electric car charging stations and provide guests with the option to "Make a Green Choice" which allows them to receive additional Marriott points by declining housekeeping service which reduces water usage.

The hotel has recognized as Developer of the Year 2019 Presented by Marriott and has a Green Global Certification.

They are proud to be a part of the revitalization of the East Dallas neighborhood. The Element has been welcomed with open arms by all.

#### **Live Local Award**

##### **Good Local Markets – Casey Cutler**

Good Local Markets is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit that proudly organizes producer-only farmers markets such as White Rock Farmers Market and Lakewood Village Farmers Market in East Dallas. Good Local Markets supports local farms and ranches, incubates small businesses, increases food access, strengthens the local economy and cultivates healthy communities.

Casey has done a tremendous job bringing the much-needed all-local White Rock Farmers Market and the new Lakewood Village Farmers Market to our community. There's nothing like looking at your plate of food and knowing the people who grew or raised each item on it. Or being able to tell the story about the person who crafted the gift you have given someone.

Good Local Markets has brought the community to gather both on the north and south side of white rock lake on the weekends. Once more, with their nap program, they are bridging the cost gap between natural, organic, and local farmers with moderate to low income families. The market brings together the community and as a nonprofit, works for a good cause to help decrease Dallas food deserts.

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#### **Karen Moore**

"Who else would spend the month before her wedding planning the wedding, writing multiple grant proposals and opening a new farmers market?"

#### **Live Local Award**

##### **20 Feet Seafood Joint – Marc and Sue Cassel**

Go in and try their food and you will see why 20 Feet is a hands down winner. The food is consistently good and you feel like they know you there. They focus on quality- not fancy, very casual and one of the best things about it is that it is BYOB. It is a neighborhood destination and you'll probably see someone you know.

Residents of Highland Park have been known to cross the freeway for a seafood sandwich - Stephen Jones of the Dallas Cowboys family has been spotted having a meeting there. 20 Feet partners with non-profit Promise of Peace Garden selling brownies that help support the group. How did the name come about, you might ask! The name is derived from the fact that owners Marc and his wife Sue have four dogs so that is 4 times 4 little feet, then add Marc and Sue who each have 2 feet and that adds up to 20 feet – hence the name 20 Feet Seafood Joint.

#### **Live Local Award**

##### **Greenville Avenue Pizza Company – Sammy Mandell**



Greenville Avenue Pizza Company (GAPCo) is a from scratch pizza restaurant that started on Lowest Greenville Avenue. They serve thin crust pizzas (whole pies and by the slice), great wings, pasta, salads & appetizers. Everything is made fresh, and is never frozen. They pride themselves on letting people customize their pizza however they want. They often change the menu due to customer response and requests. GAPCo opened in 2007, which wasn't the greatest timing due to the recession, lots of competition opening up and construction on the block because of the city's redevelopment plan. In 2013, they rebranded and redesigned the restaurant to keep up with the times and make it more of a restaurant than a pizza place or "dive". At that time, the logo was changed to a Phoenix to represent the rebranding and rebirth after the struggle to stay open during the recession. In 2017, they opened a 2nd location at Peavy and Garland Road.

There are many things that make GAPCo unique, but the main thing that sets them apart besides amazing food is that the pizza makers are actually Pizza Slayers. When team members reach the highest level of pizza training, they become Slayers. Not only do they receive a chef coat at that time, but they also get a leather holster that holds their dough knife and slicer. They are constantly working toward improving systems, coming out with new seasonal items and opening more locations to make our food available to every neighborhood in Dallas.

Consistency is very important in any restaurant but especially at GAPCo. For our pizza training we have a specific and pretty complex topping count depending on the size of the pie or if it is a slice. This not only keeps product consistent for customer satisfaction, but also controls food cost. Through this specific training, he created levels of pizza makers which ultimately leads to being a Pizza Slayer. Pizza Slayers have a specific skill set that sets them apart from any other pizza maker. They also wear chef coats (color depending on their rank in the company) and the holsters that are being patented that hold their tools. GAPCo is also unique in that they have a Creative Director with whom Sammy I make videos with on a regular basis that can be seen on their YouTube channel. They brainstorm and bring the videos to life.

For 5 years in a row, they have hosted an event called Slices for Supplies. They give away free slices of pizza in exchange for school supplies for Ignacio Zaragoza Elementary. They also collect monetary donations and match dollar for dollar to donate to the school. Since the second location opened, they also host the same event at GAPCo Peavy for Truett Elementary (where he went to elementary school). In October of 2017 they started a campaign called "Slay Cancer" selling pink Slay Cancer tee shirts and all proceeds go to someone battling breast cancer. As the President of his business association, The Lowest Greenville Collective, Sammy helped start an event called "Lowest G Cools down the Big D". They collect fans, window units and money for senior citizens in Dallas that don't have air conditioning. This event benefits Adult Protective Services.

## RECOGNITION

- GAPCo is a 4 time winner for ICIC-Inner City 100 (Fastest growing companies in the US Inner Cities).
- 2018 Inner City 100 Alumni Leader: Quality Jobs Champion
- 3 time winner of INC 5000 (Fastest growing companies).
- 2018 Young Entrepreneur of the Year from Pizza Today Magazine.
- #63 on Pizza Today's Hot 100 highest grossing independent pizzerias in the country.

He is very close to completing and receiving the utility patent for their "Pizza Holster". It is the first of its kind and is food safe. The also hold a trademark for a homemade pizza seasoning called "Pizza Crack".

Sammy has created all of the training materials and systems for employees. He is particularly proud of his Pizza Slayer training materials.

He has lived in East Dallas his entire life. He went to Truett Elementary, Saint Bernard for middle school, and graduated from Bryan Adams High School (where he met his wife). He has owned a home in Little Forest Hills since 2006. He was very intentional in opening GAPCo Peavy because it is in the neighborhood

### **R.S. Munger Business Pioneer Award - Promise of Peace Gardens – Elizabeth Dry**

It is not about one garden - Elizabeth has started gardens through schools and now the community surrounding the schools are being feed - healthy and fresh food that they have grown. Saving the world one mouth at a time - great going, Elizabeth!

Promise of Peace Gardens is a 501(3)c whose mission is to create food security through establishing and sustain food gardens within food deserts. We have built 11 food gardens in our 10 years of operations. We have served thousands in east Dallas with horticultural experiences and seed to table education. Our new innovation Soup It Forward is distributing soup kits with chemical free and nutrition dense ingredients to families across Dallas.

We have worked tirelessly for ten years giving to the communities that surround out gardens with farm to table experiences, random acts of flowers, kids camps in garden, and volunteer opportunities where people walk away with a new perspectives of the earth, their community and the world. POP's Soup IT Forward program gives families in our communities a soup kit filled with delicious clean ingredients, a recipe , a family cooking guide and a jar to Soup It Forward! It has made a huge impact in just 7 months.

### **Nancy Black – White Rock Lake Weekly**

“Elizabeth Dry started the Promise of Peace Garden the same time we started White Rock Lake Weekly. I have watched her gardens grow and her influence on the greater good of the community blossom in the process. POP works tirelessly to provide healthy food for everyone in our community! The gardens, and Elizabeth Dry, deserve the praise and recognition of the GEDCC.”

# 2018 Business of the Year Winners

**Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year Award**  
La Popular Tamale House

**Chairman's Award**  
Youth Believing in Change

**Entrepreneur of the Year**  
White Rock Alehouse & Brewery

**Live Local Award**  
John Botefuhr - Adjust Chiropractic  
Nancy Wilson - Coldwell Banker Real Estate  
Ben Lauer - Lauer Real Estate Group

**R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award**  
Kathy Fielder Design | Life | Style



Photo by Deborah Brown

Front Row – Congressman Jeb Hensarling, Dave Kirk, Greg Nixon, Kathy Fielder, John Botefuhr. Back Row: Vince Gaddis, Ben Lauer, Jesse Moreno, Nancy Wilson, Chamber Chairman Darlene Ellison.

## **JEB HENSARLING AWARD FOR BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:**

### **La Popular Tamale House**

Located in Old East Dallas, La Popular Tamale House has been serving the best tamales in Dallas since 1984. It is a family owned restaurant founded by Jesse Moreno, Sr. which offers full service authentic, unpretentious contemporary Mexican food filled with the history and soul of the neighborhood. Jesse Moreno, Jr. continues the legacy of the restaurant and people come in from all over to enjoy the food and the company.

Many years ago they were nicknamed, "The Doctors of Tamalogy", for their five stars tamales. They have been recognized with Best Tamales Awards from D Magazine, Dallas Observer, and the Dallas Morning News. They have even been featured in the national paper USA.

Mr. and Mrs. Moreno are lifelong residents of Old East Dallas and La Popular has been giving back to the East Dallas community since its establishment with an annual lunch on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day for those in need or for anyone who might not have family in Dallas. The Moreno's are products of DISD and they continue to give back to all East Dallas DISD schools in form of food donation, monetary scholarships, countless hours of volunteer service. Working with the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, and the community to redevelop local East Dallas Parks, Jesse Moreno has helped to create and restore local parks to give children a safe place to play before and after school.

The Moreno's have been extensively involved with the Dallas Independent School District and have worked to rezone schools, to make much needed improvements, repairs and ensured that children have the supplies they need to succeed in school.

The **Amelia and Jesse Moreno Scholarship Award** benefiting Woodrow Wilson High School Seniors was established by Jesse Moreno Jr. (WWHS '04) in honor of his parents. This award is given to graduating high school seniors from Woodrow Wilson High School who have shown exceptional commitment to the East Dallas community through their regular volunteerism in community organizations.

### **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: Youth Believing in Change**

The Chairman's Award is for Youth Believing in Change as it approaches 24 years of impacting the community. Founded in 1995, Youth Believing in Change (YBC) is one of the longest-running after school programs in Dallas. Led by Dallas Theological Seminary graduate, Vince Gaddis and his wife Angela, YBC began with an open Bible and a few Dr. Suess books meeting in pizza parlors, parks, vacant apartments and churches until 2006 when philanthropist Trevor Rees-Jones provided them a challenge-match grant, which YBC tripled in 90 days in order to purchase their 2 acre facility debt free.

Based on report cards and STAAR test results, 92% of YBC children improve 10-15% in reading, writing and math on STAAR tests. 90% maintain a GPA of 80 or better. 100% of students who remain in YBC until age 18 graduate from high school. 85% enroll in and graduate from colleges, while others enlist in a branch of the U. S. Armed Forces.

Serving a diverse ethnic population of American born children as well as a largely refugee and immigrant

population, YBC has college graduates from Baylor, NYU, SMU, UTArlington, the University of Houston and local community colleges.

YBC students have earned graduate degrees from the School of Social Work at UTArlington, Perkins School of Theology and Dallas Theological Seminary.

### **ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR: White Rock Alehouse & Brewery**

Greg Nixon and Dave Kirk were two East Dallas locals with a mutual love of craft beer. White Rock Alehouse & Brewery was created to provide a community based establishment in a fun and relaxing environment. It offers quality food and a wide selection of craft beers, brewed in-house as well as from reputable breweries across the country. While the locally brewed craft beer is the foundation, they take great pride in their food and the local dishes selected to complement the tailored beer menu.

Incorporating elements of White Rock Lake and the surrounding area into the design of the Alehouse, it is an inviting and casual destination for neighborhood residents and lake visitors that still feels like home.

Whether you're on your way to or from the lake, or you're just in the neighborhood and craving a pint of craft beer, you've got a seat at White Rock Alehouse & Brewery. Fall in love with one of their beers? Be sure to purchase a signature White Rock Alehouse growler to last until you visit again.

As part of the East Dallas community, the team at White Rock Alehouse & Brewery knows the importance of community. They support local groups and families with a comfortable space for gatherings and the chance to unwind. This month, they were a sponsor for

Pulling Together, an epic tug of war event between Dallas and Fort Worth to fight children's cancer and donated **\$1.00** from every WRAB House Beer Sold.

They are a member of the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce and were part of the panel of five breweries at the Chamber's June Luncheon.

#### **LIVE LOCAL AWARD: John Botefuhr – Adjust Chiropractic**

Adjust Chiropractic is the conservative management of health through chiropractic care. The business was established in 2009 on Greenville Avenue in the back of a building that did not have any street presence. When that building sold, it moved to Garland Road near the Arboretum in 2011. Patients include weekend warriors with minor aches and pains, to people who have been in car accidents the same day.

John is on the Chamber's Economic Growth and Development Committee and now chairs the Garland Road Vision subcommittee. He has worked and advocated for the Gaston/Garland/Grand project. He has networked with other business neighbors on Garland Road to organize a crime watch/prevention association for the businesses that have been affected recently.

#### **Nancy Wilson – Coldwell Banker Residential**

Nancy Wilson has been a part of the Coldwell Banker family for over 20 years. She has given back to the community in numerous ways including Lakewood Early Childhood PTA from 1995-2006, positions with LECPTA including Home Tour Coordinator, Silent Auction, membership and others; St. Thomas PTA; Lakewood Elementary PTA positions; W. B. Travis PTA President and other positions for 11 years; Woodrow Wilson High School Cheer parent; SBDM in charge of safety/security, PTA; Founder and Chair of Lakewood Crime Watch for 12 years which has 6 officers employed with a \$125,000 budget; Founder of the Woodrow Wilson High School Peace Pantry serving all students at Woodrow healthy snacks during the day, provide meals on weekends and holidays as well as provide gently used uniforms for those in need (a model implemented in other DISD schools); an original member of the White Rock Lake Conservancy lake Safety chair; City of Dallas Police Review Board; Safer Dallas; Volunteer of the year for City Council District 9.

#### **Ben Lauer – Lauer Real Estate Group**

Ben has been a realtor since 2006 and began his independent brokerage in 2012. Average sales volume has put him in the top 5% of Realtors nationwide and since joining Keller Williams in March of 2017, he has become a member of the Associate Leadership Council and his group was honored as the #5 team in the office in 2017. The office has over 230 agents and this year, he is on track to be the #3 team in the office. His business has been built primarily on word of mouth in the East Dallas/Lake Highlands area and work to enrich the community I live and work in.

He is a founding member of 100 Men of East Dallas which has donated over \$8,000 to charities local to our area. That amount will grow as the organization grows. The group is made up of 100 like-minded gentlemen who want to make Dallas a better place. It meets once a quarter for 1 hour to hear presentations from three local charities. One of the three charities will be voted to receive \$100 from each member. The winning charity will be directly given the total collected donations. Their next fundraiser is Sept 12th.

He serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors and is a member of the Legislative Affairs committee. He was a founding member of the East Dallas Young Professionals which was re-named and is now Business Networking.

### **R.S. Munger Business Pioneer Award - Kathy Fielder Design | Life | Style**

Kathy Fielder wears many hats ~ Lifestyle & Design Expert, Blogger, TV Host, Entrepreneur, Manufacturer, Philanthropist, Equestrian, Wife, Mother and proud Texan. At the age of 22, Kathy started her first design firm, Studio Interiors, which was the launch pad for her successful career. Kathy's vision, innovation, creative ideas, persistence, and meticulous work ethic helped propel her as a leader in the competitive design field, earning her numerous and multi-faceted awards. Fashion Group International nominated Kathy as a Rising Star in 2017 in the category of Interior Design, a prestigious award determined by a body of Fashion Group International members, community leaders, and fashion enthusiasts throughout the Dallas community. Kathy will also be receiving the award for Entrepreneur of the Year by the nationally recognized Women That Soar organization. Kathy now serves at the 2018 Public Relations Chair on the prestigious Fashion Group International board.

The always stylish and on-trend Kathy is also well respected and followed in the Dallas fashion and charity scene. She has further expanded her already established presence in the fashion and design markets by launching KF Design | Life | Style by Kathy Fielder boutique, which encompasses a wide variety of home, fashion, and lifestyle products, many of which are manufactured in her studio and warehouse based out of Dallas, TX, USA. Isabella Collection by Kathy Fielder and IC Linen Co by Kathy Fielder are sold globally in prestigious retailers. In particular, Isabella Collection by Kathy Fielder linen collections have remained top-sellers at The Horchow Collection and Neiman Marcus for over a decade.

Kathy recently launched two new licensed lines under her Kathy Fielder namesake. Kathy Fielder for Atlantic Furniture is an elevated line of furniture designed to be beautiful and functional. Kathy also premiered a line Fielder Home on-air at the esteemed QVC studios in March 2018, and regularly flies back and forth to promote



Fielder Home on-air at the QVC studios. Fielder Home is now expanding online in many categories on QVC. To cater to client demand, Kathy launched her retail boutique under her own KF namesake in Dallas. Her weekly blog, Design + Style by KF, shares her latest beauty, fashion, design, entertaining, and lifestyle tips and inspirations to her large following, as well as to her fan base on Instagram.

Kathy also has a multi-media segment, The Fielder Report. The Fielder Report features relevant and timely stories that enhance and inspire. Kathy also writes The Fielder Report as a correspondent for Estate Life Magazine, a monthly column focused on different galas and charity events around Dallas.

Kathy supports charities and non-profits, including St. Jude, SPCA, Art for the Heart, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas, Orphan Outreach, Equest, The Women's Garden of the Dallas Arboretum, The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and The Ahadi Collective, which provides manufacturing work in her shop for refugee women.



# 2017 Winners

**Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year**  
Lucky Dog Books

**Chairman's Award**  
Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden

**Entrepreneur of the Year**  
Momo Italian Kitchen

**Live Local Award**  
The Store in Lake Highlands  
Vickery Trading Company

**R. S. Munger Business Pioneer**  
Preservation Dallas



Photo by Carol Hensley

Stephanie Giddens, Vickery Trading Company, Cheryl Calvin, The Store in Lake Highlands; David Preziosi, Preservation Dallas; Congressman Jeb Hensarling; Wende Stevenson, Momo Italian Kitchen; Alan Walne, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden; and Andrea Sanders, Chairman of GEDCC. Not pictured: John and Marquetta Tilton, Lucky Dog Books.

## eb Hensarling Business of the Year

### Lucky Dog Books – Marquetta and John Tilton

For over 40 years, Lucky Dog Books has served the East Dallas area. Established by Marquetta and John Tilton, they have worked together to further the love of reading. It started as Paperback Plus in 1976 and the name was changed to Lucky Dog Books to reflect that they carry more than just paperbacks. They just relocated to Casa Linda Plaza. They continue to get amazing collections of books, music and video DVDs and CDs, Blu-ray and vinyl. It is a neighbor gathering place where untold number of events have taken place including Writer's Garrett, neighborhood associations, yoga, readings, book signings, card groups, music, poetry readings, book clubs and other events - too numerous to list. Lucky Dog Books has garnered numerous accolades and awards through the years from D Magazine, Word Space and others.

### Chairman's Award

### Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden – Mary Brinegar

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is one of the top 10 display gardens in North America and considered the crown jewel of Dallas. The economic impact of the Dallas Arboretum exceeded \$170 million in each of 2012 and 2013, according to a study. More than one million visitors from all 50 states, as well as 90 countries, came through the gates in 2016 and it has over 38,000 members. The Dallas Arboretum offers the public an array of popular annual events and outdoor concerts along with its many permanent gardens including A Woman's Garden which turns 20 this year, the Children's Garden and the newly opened A Tasting Place. The Women's Council of the Dallas Arboretum celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and through the years, members have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through fundraising efforts. The Arboretum has been listed among the top arboretums in the world and the number of honors is so extensive it is listed on their website. Here are just a few of recent accolades: *Southern Living Magazine* called it "One of the South's Best Botanical Gardens"; *Architectural Digest* named it "One of the 15 Breathtaking Botanical Gardens in the World"; and *USA Today's 10 Best* named it "Top Botanical Garden".

## Entrepreneur of the Year

### Momo Italian Kitchen – Wende Stevenson and Aaron Gross

Momo Italian Kitchen is a family business that celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year. The restaurant has a loyal following because of the excellent authentic Italian cuisine. Food never varies in taste or quality! The chef has been there nearly 30 years several of the staff have been there over 17 years. The food, service and ambiance keeps this restaurant popular. Momo's is a BYOB restaurant - Bring Your Own Bottle. Once you get the bill, you will not believe your eyes when you see how low the total amount is! The neighborhood restaurant has a very loyal following and there are customers that have come **every week** for 25+ years! Mention the name Momos, and everyone all over the city knows it. The restaurant requires reservations because of its popularity and there is a waiting crowd on the weekends. It has received numerous awards through the years including D Magazine's Top 25 Restaurants and Dallas Observer's 100 best restaurants.

## **Live Local Award**

### **The Store in Lake Highlands – Cheryl Calvin**

The Store in Lake Highlands recently celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and **ranked #8** for **Best Women's Boutique** on the Dallas A List. Boutique shopping in East Dallas has never been like this. The Store in Lake Highlands has clothing, fashion accessories and gifts. Personal shopping assistants provide service you can appreciate. It is the go-to place for gift giving needs: Birthdays, Anniversary, Wedding, Baby showers, and just because you care gifts for friends and loved ones. It carries unique items of local flavor by local designers. The Store's stock of trendy and classic casual/chic clothes and accessories rotate quickly – there's always something new. And there is a customer reward program. Events are held regularly from Trunk Shows to Ice Cream Socials...and all holidays are celebrated. The staff are always helpful and friendly. And they gift wrap!!

## **Live Local Award**

### **Vickery Trading Company – Stephanie Giddens**

Vickery Trading Company manufactures and sells children's clothing that helps local refugee women with the challenges they face after relocating to the US. It began in 2008 when Stephanie Giddens visited Uganda in East Africa and bought a handmade paper necklace from a local artisan. There was extreme poverty all around, but by purchasing the woman's handiwork, it allowed dignity in a way that charity never could. In 2011, she helped to develop a project that partnered businesswomen in Dallas with like-minded women in Rwanda. They raised money for leadership training and microfinance lending to launch Rwandan businesses and many thrived. Later in 2011, she was confronted and horrified by the proliferation of human exploitation. She recognized again what she'd seen in Uganda – the unbelievable redemption and freedom that dignified work affords the human soul. Her church in Dallas began to engage refugees that lived in Vickery Meadows and in 2015 Vickery Trading Company was born. These refugee women earn fair wages while learning to adjust into American culture. They are provided training, care and income. The refugee women are given dignity as they learn the skills and earn fair wages by making children's clothes. She is helping to empower vulnerable women.

## **R. S. Munger Business Pioneer Award**

### **Preservation Dallas – David Preziosi**

For 45 years Preservation Dallas has used innovative programs and advocacy tools in the fight to preserve the historic resources of Dallas. Many successes have helped to advance preservation in Dallas. Preservation Dallas was founded in 1972 as the Historic Preservation League (HPL) by concerned citizens to advocate for historic places in a city with a preference for "new" and "modern." HPL led the city to pass its first preservation ordinance in 1973 and designate its first historic district,

Swiss Avenue. HPL changed its name to Preservation Dallas (PD) in 1994. Preservation Dallas has kept preservation in the forefront through highly publicized tours and awards. In 45 years Preservation Dallas has done an extraordinary amount of work to preserve the city's historic resources despite terrible odds, reluctant city leadership, and developers with the money, power and will to demolish historic buildings. A small staff, dedicated volunteer board and members have fought tirelessly for historic structures that have no voice and have worked to protect the city's neighborhoods and historic buildings by designating them historic districts and landmarks. Preservation Dallas continues that fight and builds upon its successes to save the historic places that define Dallas.

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# 2016 Winners

**Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year Award**  
East Lake Veterinary Hospital / Karen Fling, DVM

**Chairman's Award**  
Ross Williams / Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP

**Entrepreneur of the Year Award**  
Echo Boutique / Jane De Nike & Todd DePue  
Urban Spools / Michelle Kitto

**Live Local Award**  
Comedy House  
Friends of the Bath House Cultural Center  
White Rock Life Magazine

**R. S. Munger Business Pioneer**  
Rick Wamre / Advocate Media

**Lake & Garden District People's Choice Business of the Year 2016**  
Republic Title - Lakewood  
**Finalists**

My Lawn Mower & Me, Dallas Tree Surgeons, Echo Boutique, White Rock Life Magazine



Photo by Carol Hensley

Front row: Hon. Kenneth Sheets, Jane DeNike, Echo Boutique; Michelle Kitto, Urban Spools; Ross Williams, Bell Nunnally & Martin LLP, Teresa Bond, Friends of the Bath House Cultural Center. Back Row: Karen Fling, East Lake Veterinary Hospital; Todd DePue, Echo Boutique; Amanda Austin, Comedy House; Camille Liebke, White Rock Life Magazine; Jeri Letteer, Republic Title-Lakewood; Rick Wamre, Advocate Media.



# 2015 Winners

## **Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year Award**

Juliette Fowler Communities  
White Rock YMCA

## **Chairman's Award**

Marci Novak

## **Entrepreneur of the Year**

T Shop – Lori Trent  
Talulah Belle/HESS – Elizabeth Mast

## **Live Local Award**

Gecko Hardware  
Creative Arts Center of Dallas

## **R. S. Munger Business Pioneer**

Gary Buckner – Stash Design

## **Lake & Garden District People's Choice Business of the Year 2015**

My Lawn Mower & Me



Front- Diana Pollak, Creative Arts Center of Dallas, Marci Novak; Eric Schenkelberg, White Rock YMCA; back row: Andrea Sanders, Chamber Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Mast, Talulah Belle/HESS; Lori Trent, The T Shop; Matthew Newman, My Lawn Mower & Me; Congressman Jeb Hensarling; Gary Buckner, Stash Design; Sabrina Porter, Juliette Fowler Communities, Andrea Rideout, Gecko Hardware; Darlene Ellison, Chamber Chairman.



# 2014 Winners

**Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year Award**  
Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake

**Chairman's Award**  
Ebby Halliday, REALTORS - Sherryl Wesson  
Republic Title of Texas, Inc. – Lakewood Office - MaryBeth Shapiro

**Entrepreneur of the Year Award**  
Liberty Burger Lakewood - Mariel Street

**Live Local Award**  
Nothing Bundt Cakes - Sherry Campbell  
Whole Foods Market Lakewood - Carmen Fort  
Lakehill Preparatory School - Roger Perry



Darlene Ellison, Chamber Chairman; MaryBeth Shapiro, Republic Title of Texas, Inc. – Lakewood Office; Roger Perry, Lakehill Preparatory School; Mariel Street, Liberty Burger Lakewood; Sherry Campbell, Nothing Bundt Cakes White Rock; Congressman Jeb Hensarling; Carmen Fort, Whole Foods Market Lakewood; Jay Krishnaswamy, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake. Not Pictured: Sherryl Wesson, Ebby Halliday, REALTORS.

# 2013 Winners

**Jeb Hensarling Business of the Year Award**  
Times Ten Cellars

**Chairman's Award**  
Jesse Simmons/Jesse's AC and Appliance  
John Cobb/Minuteman Press-East Dallas

**Entrepreneur of the Year Award**  
The Lot

**Live Local Award**  
White Rock Lake Weekly  
White Rock Local Market



All the winners: Chairman's Award: John Cobb, Minuteman Press-East Dallas; Business of the Year: Kert Platner, Times Ten Cellars; Live Local Award: Nancy Black, White Rock Lake Weekly; Congressman Jeb Hensarling; Live Local Award: Sarah Perry, White Rock Lake Market; Entrepreneur of the Year: John McBride, The Lot; Chairman's Award: Jesse Simmons, Jesse's AC & Appliance, Chamber Chairman Roger Perry.



## 2012 Winners

### JEB HENSARLING BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chamberlain Studios of Self Defense - Dr. Nick Chamberlain

### CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Dr. Chuck Kobdish - BackMenders Chiropractic With Care

### ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Shea Boothe - Wood/True Beauty Rx and 2Shea



## Business Awards for August 11, 2011

### Business of the Year/Hensarling Award

The Point at C.C. Young

### Entrepreneur of the Year

Rick Wamre, The Advocate

### Chairman's Award

Dick Clements, Ebby Halliday Realtors

### Additional Recognition:

**Rep. Kenneth Sheets** - Taxpayer Champion Award from Texans for Fiscal Responsibility

**Reena Morris and Darren Boruff** - Chaired the recently concluded **White Rock Centennial** celebration

# Business Awards for August 11, 2009

Entrepreneur of the Year:

**High Touch Alliances, Darlene Doxey Ellison**

Times Ten Cellars

Hall's Landscape

Chairman's Award:

Sedona Oil and Gas    Not sure who the winner was – Michael Miles??

DART, Michael Miles

Chief Jan Easterling

Business of the Year/Hensarling Award: Not sure who the winner was

CC Young/The Point, Senior Center

AmReit

Doctor's Hospital

McShan's Florist

TopGolf Dallas

Black White Read

Dallas Children's Theatre

Herb's Paint and Body Shops

Highlands Café

Eastfield College

Prescott Realty Group

Shakespeare Dallas

For the Love of the Lake

The White Rock Lake Foundation