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Chamber Issues Awards at Annual Membership Luncheon

SCRANTON, PA, November 7, 2007—The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce hosted more than 350 business leaders at its Annual Membership Luncheon at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center. The Annual Membership Luncheon was sponsored by Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank.

At the event, MetroAction, Inc. presented “Micro-Grants” to area childcare providers. Recipients included The Ann Street School in Milford, Little People Daycare Center West in Scranton, Stepping Stones Play and Learning Center in Gouldsboro, The Sutton Playhouse in Scranton, and United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA-Bellevue Center in Scranton. MetroAction’s Micro-Grant program, funded by Opportunity Finance Network, Philadelphia, aims to increase the supply of quality, affordable childcare available to northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Chamber issued 18 Pride & Progress Awards at the Annual Membership Luncheon. The Pride & Progress Awards were sponsored by Pennoni Associates Inc. Since 1975, the Chamber has recognized Lackawanna County’s public and private sector operations for upgrading their establishments, improving the appearance of their respective neighborhoods, and beautifying the region. Presentations are made in the categories of interior renovations, new building construction, landscape and site design, and community pride.

"New Building Construction" award recipients include Burkavage Design Associates, Medallion Parking Facility; Dx Dempsey architecture/design, Dempsey Uniform & Linen Supply; Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank, Green Ridge Branch; Johnny's Car Wash, Johnny's Car Wash; Lackawanna County, Lackawanna Coal Mine Interactive Center; Lackawanna County, Lackawanna County Center for Public Safety; The Quandel Group, Casey Parking Garage; Sandone Tire Car Care Center, Sandone Tire building; and Scranton Prep, St. Francis Xavier Student Center.

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The "*Community Pride*" award recipients are City of Scranton, Nay Aug Park Treehouse; Lackawanna County, Lackawanna County Mural Arts Program; and United Neighborhood Centers, UNC Community Services Center.

"*Interior Renovations*" award recipients are Alexander's Salon and Spa; Burkavage Design Associates, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center; Hemmler & Camayd Architects, Marywood University Chapel Renovations; Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, Guest Room Renovations; and Stazione Salon and Spa.

The "Landscape and Site Design" award recipient is Pennstar Bank, Dickson City Branch.

"Every year, we recognize outstanding community betterment work," stated Julie Ropoch, community relations director, the Chamber. "This year was no exception. Tremendous financial commitments are represented by this year's award recipients." To be eligible for a Pride & Progress Award, the facility must be located within the Chamber's service area. The structure must be a commercial or public building, and must have been renovated, constructed, or landscaped within the last two years. Construction or renovation of private residences is ineligible.

The event also featured the 2007 Hometown Star Award winner, which was the Saint Ubaldo Society. The Hometown Star Award, sponsored by Pennstar Bank, recognizes an individual or organization for an event that has made a significant economic impact on the greater Scranton area. To be eligible for the Hometown Star Award, the organization must be located within Lackawanna County. The event must have taken place most recently within the previous year, and should have had a significant economic impact on Lackawanna County. The Nutcracker Ballet was presented with the fourth annual Hometown Star Award in 2006.

The Chamber also announced that Advanced Imaging Specialists, Community Medical Center, and The Times-Tribune were the recipients of the Healthy Workplace Awards Program. The program recognizes companies that have adopted wellness practices in the workplace and is a collaboration of the Chamber, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Chamber*Choice*.

Joanne Arduino, Artistic Director of the Ballet Theater of Scranton was the recipient of the ATHENA Award. The ATHENA Award honors individuals who strive toward the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, who excel in their chosen field, devote time and energy to their community in a meaningful way, and forge paths of leadership for other women to follow. Local sponsorship is provided by Sun Buick Pontiac GMC in Moosic.

For more information log on to www.scrantonchamber.com or contact Mari Potis at 570.342.7711 or at mpotis@scrantonchamber.com.

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