

Chamber announces annual business awards

By **DAN HEATH**
Staff Writer

PLATTSBURGH — Four award winners basked in the glow of a tropical paradise Friday evening, despite not leaving Plattsburgh.

The Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce honored the recipients of four awards at its 97th-annual dinner and dance at the Angell College Center ballroom at Plattsburgh State.

BUSINESSPERSON OF YEAR

CVPH Medical Center President Stephens Mundy was named the Joe Bornstein Businessperson of the Year.

"I was speechless, honored and humbled," he said of receiving the news.

Mundy sees the award as recognition for the hospital. It shows the trust patients put in the hospital staff each and every day, he said.

"That is kind of the ultimate honor."

The award reflects on the efforts of the hospital's 2,200 employees and 180 physicians to work together to make CVPH a quality workplace, offering the finest in health-care services, he said.

One example is moving cardiac surgery from a dream to a nationally recognized reality.

CVPH was in the top 10 percent of New York hospitals in the Healthcare Association of New York State's 2008 Pinnacle Awards, announced last summer.

Another big moment came when the hospital opened its new surgical wing in October.

"A lot of the efforts we have put on as an organization were around building our infrastructure so physicians have a wonderful place to practice medicine," Mundy said.

The hospital has received a \$1.8 million grant for an electronic health-records system, with an expected rollout in the third and fourth quarter of this year.

CVPH is included in the Adirondack Region Medical Home Pilot, slated to start in July. The program will provide patients with a coordinated level of primary care centered on the family doctor but is also expected to improve reimbursement rates.

BUSINESS OF YEAR

Graymont Materials was named the chamber's Business of the Year.

Sales Manager Scott Bombard said the employees were thrilled with the honor.

"Our people are pretty ecstatic," he said.

To even be considered for the award is a big honor for the company, Bombard said.

"This award is a recognition of Graymont's long-standing commitment to the community."

Graymont and its employees support a number of causes, both financially and with employee resources, including the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, Cystic Fibrosis, Hospice of the North Country, American Heart Association, Make A Wish and United Way.

Two of its major community initiatives are Plattsburgh Quarry's Kids Days and acting as a presenting sponsor of Dozer Day.

This was the fifth year Graymont hosted Kids Days, two days at the end of March when fifth- and ninth-grade students can tour the Plattsburgh quarry to learn about the construction-materials business.

"We had more than 700 school kids here last year," Bombard said.

Graymont has been involved in a number of notable projects through the years, including work at CVPH Medical Center, Plattsburgh State, Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton Correctional Facility, the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, the Olympic Regional Development Authority's bobsled and luge run at Mt. Van Hoevenberg and the Port of Excellence border crossing at Champlain.

SMALL BUSINESS OF YEAR

ETS was honored as Small Business of the Year.

ETS President Hope Coryer said she's proudest that her family is involved in the recognition.

"Two of my children have come here after having successful careers elsewhere."

Director of Sales and Recruiting David Coryer has been with the company since 2004, after working in the staffing industry in Denver and Chicago.

Director of Operations Deborah Cleary returned to Plattsburgh from Seattle and joined the company in 2001.

The eight full-time employees at ETS have almost 100 years of experience in the staffing and recruitment industry.

"I have to mention my entire staff. They are just fabulous," Hope said.

Cleary said that about 200 full-time-equivalent positions were filled by ETS last year.

"I think most people have a positive experience when they think of us," she said.

David said clients —whether businesses looking for workers or people looking for work — are often referred to ETS.

"There is hardly an employer in the area that isn't a client of ours," he said.

ETS supports a number of local organizations, such as the Adirondack Humane Society and the Christmas Bureau, in a quiet manner. Hope said ETS is also one of the sponsors of the Plattsburgh Heart Walk.

In addition to being part of the annual United Way campaign, ETS has established endowments at both Clinton Community College and Plattsburgh State.

Hope is on the Board of Directors of the North Country Workforce Investment Board and its Clinton County Council. She is a member of the Development Corp. Executive Committee and the Board of Directors of the City of Plattsburgh Community Development Office.

David is on the Adirondack Young Professionals Board of Directors.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Vicki Marking, community-relations coordinator at Meadowbrook Healthcare, was named Volunteer of the Year.

"OK, I'm a little shaken. That was unexpected," she said in accepting the award. "I don't think it's fair people don't get to know (about the award)."

Marking said she doesn't consider volunteering for the chamber work because she enjoys it so much.

Chamber Executive Vice President Jody Parks said Marking is an invaluable volunteer for the chamber and is involved with many other organizations.

"Vicki has the energy of 10 people. She is always willing to help and has a way of making everyone around her smile," Parks said.

Marking does a great job at Meadowbrook Healthcare, Parks said, but it doesn't stop there.

Marking has been a chamber ambassador for four years. She is president of the Champlain Valley Business and Professional Women's Club, on the Board of Directors of the Plattsburgh Noon Rotary Club and the Senior Citizens Council of Clinton County, is a Girl Scouts leader of Junior Troop 4133 in Beekmantown/West Chazy and is coordinator for the West Chazy Town Hall groups and activities.

"Vicki has a positive outlook on life and passes that around to everyone she meets," Parks said.

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