

## ROBERT V. SANTARE

You won't find a lot of flashy newspaper headlines about Bob Santare. But his name is well-known within Burlington County's business community, the county's major educational institutions, as well as civic and charitable organizations.

For that matter, the Bob Santare community service story goes well beyond Burlington County's boundaries.

Case in point: As the victims of Hurricane Katrina continue to bail out and rebuild their lives, Bob, who is President of Champion Fasteners in Lumberton, his business partners, Aldo Magazzeni, CEO, and Stan Lippincott, Vice President, are playing no small role in the rehabilitation process.

They have worked as a team. Aldo traveled to the devastated region, worked at different shelters over three weeks, and made a list of the items and services that displaced families needed most. Santare remained at home, taking Aldo's lists, gathering the items and shipping them south.

Teamwork is foremost in Bob's approach to serving the community. And for his efforts, the Volunteer Center of Burlington County is proud to present him with its prestigious Lloyd Ritter Community Service Award.

Bob's list of community service credentials seems endless. For starters, he is a member of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce, the Lenape School District's School to Careers program, the United Way of Burlington County, the Family YMCA of Burlington County, and the Committee to Reinvest in NJ Community Colleges.

Since 1997 he has chaired the Burlington County Workforce Investment Board. He is the current chairman of the Burlington County College Foundation and previously served as co-chair, 1996-1999. He is also president of Burlington County Institute of Technology's Foundation.

He is a donor to the Children's Home of Mount Holly, the Girl Scouts of America, the Lumberton Township Athletic Association, and the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

He has been a regular supporter of the Mount Holly-Smithville Grand Prix, sponsored by the H.B. Smith Industrial Village Conservancy. He is currently a member of the board of trustees of this non-profit organization, which raises funds to improve the county's historic Smithville Park.

He has gained the respect, admiration and trust of Burlington County College, Burlington County Special Services School, and Burlington County Institute of Technology (BCIT) because of the job training partnerships he has initiated between his company and the schools. For example, in his operational partnership with Special Services he has provided paid work opportunities for handicapped students.

Still and all, Bob speaks with pride of his working relationship with his business partners. Aldo, who resides in Perkiomenville, Pennsylvania, also came into the spotlight on October 18, 2005 when he received the Alumni Award from Bishop St. John Neumann High School in Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1968.

"Life is bigger than just running a business. Aldo, Stan and I try to get involved in the human side of things," said Bob who, with Aldo and Stan, opened Champion Fasteners in 1990, and have since seen their business receive numerous industry and government leadership awards.

For Bob and his partners, education and training are priorities. Among the Katrina-impacted communities, they have focused on the Harrison County School District, whose facilities were heavily damaged in the storm. Hundreds of special needs students were left without not only a working school, but much, much more. The district needs everything from wheelchairs to computers, not to mention technical assistance.

Santare met with the BCIT Foundation, which he chairs, and they officially "adopted" the Harrison County Vocational Technical School, pledging to do whatever possible to provide equipment and technical support that will help the school get back and operating.

This is not the first time that Aldo took to the road to address a serious human need, while Bob watched home base and prepared to supply and ship

what his partner asked for. Both point to Aldo's trip to Afghanistan last year and again this year, where they wound up creating the first modern water system in an impoverished region of that country.

Other similar service work has also been done in Haiti, Mexico, Jamaica, South America and the Far East.

But home is where the heart is, and Bob and his wife, Gloria, live in Southampton. They are the parents of three grown sons, Robert III, Supervisor for a publishing company in Cherry Hill; Leo, a machine operator who works at Champion; and Sean, who is attending aviation school in Deland, Florida.

In accepting the Volunteer Center's honor, Santare joined a distinguished list of past honorees, including Dr. Robert Messina, President of Burlington County College; Mary Wells, Director of Family Services of Burlington County; Millie Gama, Executive Director of the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce; Burlington County Freeholder Vincent R. Farias; Dick and Doris Alaimo of Mount Holly, and former Burlington County Clerk Edward A. Kelly, Jr.

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