

NOVATO'S SMALL & LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

NOVATO CHAMBER PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

please contact Theodore Madias for questions

TREK WINERY

Novato's 2017 Small Business of the Year

Some businesses make a conscientious effort to give back to the community through committed programs of charity; others go beyond that and have come to play a vital niche in our town's development. For those in the heart of Novato's downtown, few businesses have done more for the local economy and culture than Trek Winery.

Besides the obvious economic contributions that the local winery has made in our community, Trek has gone beyond the profit lines and has attempted to breathe new life into the cultural fabric of Downtown Novato. Their late hours and cozy atmosphere welcomes customers from Novato and beyond; making Trek and Novato a destination for residents of the entire Bay Area.

The very exposure that Trek gives our downtown neighborhoods is priceless to say the least. Trek attracts a wide array of personalities through their entertainment bookings of local garage bands to headlining comedians. In the past year, Trek even worked to attract the attention of up and coming names in the wine industry. Their barrel room has wines from various up and coming vintners acting as a business-nursery fostering the potential growth of Novato's wine tasting room industry.

Trek's dedication to the community is evident through their business and philanthropic work. They support organizations like the Novato Theater, School Fuel, Marin School of the Arts, Leadership Novato, and for several years has served in a leadership role for the Downtown Novato Business Association. They work with kid's groups, mother's clubs and far too many community organizations to mention, offering discounted rates for the venue space as well comped wine for local nonprofits to use in their fundraisers. Trek supports our schools, our city, our public service officers and their fellow businesses through charity of their treasured wines, their time, and their talents. Yet within all of this busy philanthropic work, the folks of Trek are still working hard to grow their business. Over the past several years, Trek has grown, evolved and become sophisticated and complex—much like their wines.

The winery has ventured into olive oil, merchandise sales, and recently has become involved with the multimillion dollar wine-tour industry that so often passes over Marin County. Recently, they received permission to begin producing beer out of the same venue. Trek also plans some renovations that will allow them to begin serving food out of a small bistro kitchen.

On top of their economic contributions to the community, the organization's desire to constantly improve is a clear demonstration of a long-lost 'can-do' attitude that is simply positive and refreshing. Trek stands as a rock of stability in an era where the fate of the brick and mortar shops is uncertain. Their leaders are supportive of the local community and have gone to great

lengths to help Novato develop its unique and vibrant culture—there is no doubt that Trek plays a vital role in Novato’s future and potential.

As we look forward to what more the local winery aims to do, one cannot help but root for the ‘hometown heroes’ at Trek Winery. Their community dedication and service is second to none and they have become a critical piece to Novato’s growing economic strength, presence and vitality. Those who have ventured into the winery are immediately met by the staff and owners Andy and Liz Podshadley a local Novato couple whose dream started in the family’s garage. Soon, the spirit of innovation and positivity would led them to the winery as we know it today. Yet no matter how much it may change, evolve or grow we know that for them, the sky is the limit. The Novato Chamber is pleased and proud to award 2017’s Small Business of the Year to Trek Winery.

BANK OF MARIN

Novato’s 2017 Large Business of the Year

With more than 1% of its pre-tax profit supporting charities and over 8,500 hours of reported community service tracked by employees over the course of t year, this alone is good reason to award Bank of Marin the 2017 Large Business of the Year. Their dedication is shown simply by the number of times we see their logo on sponsorship advertisements. However, this award is about more than dollars, it is about something that businesses cannot put into a check book or through an ATM.

The Novato Chamber’s Business of the Year Awards are not necessarily about dollars but importantly they are about recognizing businesses with the unique flare and drive for our community. Sometimes large businesses lose sight of their roots. Yet, Bank of Marin has demonstrated time and time again that it chooses to redefine the standards set forth by ‘corporate America’ and it chooses to dedicate itself to our communities.

Since relocating their corporate offices to Novato in 2006, Bank of Marin has done an unprecedented amount of good in the community. In 12 years, the bank has become one of the largest employers in Novato, offering high skilled, well-paying jobs that directly contribute to the economic feedback loop that helps build our economy. Their growth was made possible through their dedication to investors and account holders.

They have continued to create programs to assist local business owners, young professionals and retirees. Their growth is also not limited to Novato; over the course of their existence, they have acquired several financial institutions with the latest being the Bank of Napa; these acquisitions are testaments to their successful business model and their dedication to the Bay Area’s communities. Today, the assets of Bank of Marin total nearing \$2.4 billion, yet it is the assets they hold in our community that speak to priceless dividends.

It has long been a corporate policy of one of the founders, Bill Murray that “if we do good, then everybody does better!” Bank of Marin embodies that very principle by sending its bankers into

the community to do the work necessary to build success. The staff of Bank of Marin serve on too many boards and in too many volunteering roles to name.

They service every sector of need from homelessness, to domestic violence shelters, to children's advocacy groups, they serve a diverse community in multiple languages and they serve every day of the week. You may not notice the employees of Bank of Marin at first glance because that is not their goal; through the power, time and freedom invested in them by their employer, these people work to better our communities like you and me.

It is unique to corporate America that so much investment be made in communities in any form other than capital. Most businesses would rather just write a check, and while Bank of Marin is very generous, a check cannot come close to the impact that two hands and a smile can make. Bank of Marin has created, not only financial impact, but they have worked to help create our community. Through their policies of generosity and employee volunteerism, Bank of Marin has built countless bonds and fostered untold numbers of new friendships. This embodies the very unique spirit that has moved the Novato Chamber to name Bank of Marin as 2017's large business of the year. Congratulations.

Shaping Tomorrow.