

PRESS RELEASE

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2015 ANNUAL MEMBER CELEBRATION “ENERGIZES” MEMBERSHIP

The 2015 [Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce](#) Annual Member Celebration was a festive evening defined by its theme, “Energize.” Looking toward the vitality and enthusiasm of future growth and development in the Rochester area, the Chamber honored individuals and businesses that exemplify the importance of building relationships, valuing community and envisioning a positive future. Whether their focus was on education, interacting with members, giving back to their community, promoting Rochester, or supporting the Chamber itself, each of the members honored this year stood apart because of their ability to energize our community.

These Chamber members are great representatives of the community spirit and entrepreneurial attitudes that exist throughout the Chamber’s membership. The energy of these award winners and their entire membership assures success in the coming year.

Winners of the chamber's annual awards were:

- Volunteer of the Year: **Alaine Westra**, Development Administrator for [Mayo Clinic](#)
- Ambassador of the Year: **Nick Lauer**, Molecular Hydration Specialist for [Enagic-Kangen Water](#)
- Lamp of Knowledge: **Gail Sauter**, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Finance & Operations at the [University of Minnesota—Rochester](#)
- Non-Profit of the Year Award: [The Boys & Girls Club of Rochester](#)
- Small Business of the Year (under 10 employees): [Strut Branding](#)
- Large Business of the Year (over 10 employees): [Hy-Vee](#)

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The Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization representing more than 1,400 businesses throughout SE Minnesota. The Chamber provides networking, marketing, public advocacy and educational opportunities to its membership, and works to represent the business community on economic and governmental issues. The Chamber’s mission is “to lead, inform, advocate and advance business interests for members, and to promote a healthy community and a growing economy.” More information can be found at www.rochestermnchamber.com