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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEST COAST CHAMBER ANNOUNCES THREE AWARD RECIPIENTS AT 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Holland, Michigan (September 27, 2019) – Hudsonville Ice Cream and K&R Trucking were honored with the West Coast Chamber’s prestigious Business Leadership Award. The Children’s Advocacy Center was the first recipient of the newly created Community Impact Award. Accepting the awards were Kevin Phillips, CFO of Hudsonville Ice Cream, Ed Rietmen, Founder and President of K&R Trucking, and Darcy Fluharty, Executive Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center.

The award presentations were made at the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce 2019 Annual Meeting on September 27, before a crowd of 550 attendees gathered at the Holland Civic Center Place in downtown Holland. In addition to recognizing the businesses and the non-profit organization, the meeting included remarks from Chamber outgoing Board Chair, Mike Dykstra of Zeeland Lumber and from Incoming Board Chair, Jennifer Remondino of Warner Norcross + Judd. The event featured keynote speaker, Patrick “Blake” Leeper, a U.S. Paralympic Track and Field Gold Medalist and World Record-holder. Born without legs below the knee, Leeper began competitive running in 2010 and shared his story of determination and perseverance against all odds with the Chamber audience.

About Hudsonville Ice Cream:

Hudsonville Creamery was a co-operative created in 1895 by local farmers who were looking for a better way of selling their dairy products. Their first location was on Chicago Drive in Hudsonville, MI. The creamery started producing ice cream in 1926 and was making six flavors by 1940. Dick Hoezee bought a controlling interest in the creamery and moved it to Burnips, MI to make room for the widening of Chicago road. He sold the business to his four sons in 1972. Denny Ellens bought Hudsonville from The Hoezee family in 2003 and moved it to its current location in Holland, MI. Today, Hudsonville Ice Cream produces over 50 flavors and is sold across Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. The company donates thousands of gallons of ice cream to organizations throughout the community to aid in philanthropy.

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Said Kevin Phillips, CFO at Hudsonville Ice Cream, "This award means a lot to the team at Hudsonville. While we try to go about our business without drawing a lot of attention to ourselves, it's nice to be recognized as an organization that strives to serve its customers, team members and community. That balance is important to us. It's in our DNA."

About K&R Trucking:

K&R Truck Sales Owner, Ed Rietman was born and raised in West Michigan, and co-founded K&R in 1989, buying, rebuilding and then reselling wrecked vehicles, one at a time. In 1994, Ed took over the business on his own and expanded K&R including the purchase of a local wrecker service, a fully automated truck wash and detail shop, construction of a brand-new facility 65,000 square foot facility in Holland. In May of 2012 he acquired West Michigan International Truck dealerships and continued expanding into the Kalamazoo and Lansing markets. Today the team of K&R Truck Sales numbers more than 275 employees.

K&R prioritizes giving back to their community, and actively participates in campaigns to support local charities. Their donations for 2019 will include support for Be Nice, Gilda's Club and the Outdoor Discovery Center.

About the Children's Advocacy Center

Founded in 1998, the mission of the Children's Advocacy Center is to provide child centered prevention, advocacy, and team intervention in investigation, assessment, and treatment of child sexual abuse inclusive of all children and families. The CAC model is a unique, non-duplicative program that utilizes the expertise of multidisciplinary team working together to decrease trauma for child victims by streamlining the investigative process all under one roof. Staff members are specially trained to meet the special needs of the child victim including Forensic Interviewing, Specialized Forensic Medical Examinations, Trauma Informed Treatment and Court Preparation and Advocacy. They also teach prevention training programs to youth serving organizations, community members, and anyone interested in keeping children safe. Trainings are offered in both Spanish and English and are free of charge.

The Children's Advocacy Center is a private, 501c3 nonprofit agency funded through a variety of public and private support. This includes funding from United Way, private donations, contracts and grants. All services at the Children's Advocacy Center are provided at no cost to the victim or their supportive family members.

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About the Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce:

The Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce serves over 1,200 member businesses and their 65,000 employees the Holland and Zeeland areas. As a Catalyst, Convener and Champion, the Chamber connects people and businesses to the resources they need to grow and succeed and uses their platform as the voice of the business community to help members advocate about issues that impact their growth and sustainability. One of only one percent of Chambers nationally with a Five-Star Accreditation, the West Coast Chamber was named the Michigan Outstanding Chamber of the Year by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals, receiving the highest score ever awarded. Learn more by visiting www.westcoastchamber.org.

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Photo caption:

(L-R) Ed Rietman, K&R Trucking, Darcy Fluharty, Children's Advocacy Center, Kevin Phillips, Hudsonville Ice Cream

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