



April 17, 2019

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## **Rosauers' Jeff Philipps Honored with WFIA 2018-19 Community Service Award**

*Spokane supermarket leader honored for exemplary leadership, service to others*

**SPOKANE** — Rosauers President and CEO Jeff Philipps has experience in every aspect of the grocery business, but community service is the one he seems to enjoy most.

It is this passion for helping others that has earned Philipps the 2018-19 Community Service Award from the Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA). Philipps was presented with the award April 17 at a surprise ceremony at the corporate office in Spokane.

“Jeff's passion for community service is second to none — a commitment that is reflected in everything he does as both an industry leader and as a member of the Spokane community,” said Jan Gee, WFIA president and CEO.

“Although a very busy CEO, he always makes MUCH time to participate in events that help those less fortunate in his community, whether it's a food drive, charity walk or holiday event. Jeff has a heart of gold and truly cares about everyone,” she said. “He is also a great leader, giving 100% to any task at hand, which is why we are so happy to present him with this award.”

The Washington Food Industry Association's Community Service Award honors individuals in the grocery industry who exemplify the highest standards of service in both business and community to positively influence and enhance the lives of others.

Under Philipp's leadership, Rosauers sponsors many events and Philipps is "hands-on" in all of them. He doesn't just sign the check, he participates! He hands out food to needy families during Tom's Turkey Drive; he participates in the Walks we help sponsor for American Diabetes and the American Heart Association; he sings at the Christmas Bureau luncheon for those in need. The list goes on and on. He has a heart of gold and truly cares about everyone. He is also a great leader, giving 100% to any task at hand.

Philipps began his career in the food industry 46 years ago, starting out as a box boy for Buttrey Foods in Great Falls, Montana. His 22 years at Buttrey provided experience in every aspect of the grocery business including store and district management, merchandising, operations, advertising and accounting. He relocated and held several other positions in the industry and then was named President and CEO of Rosauers Supermarkets in July 2000, and is responsible for the company's 21 stores, three banner operations and 2,100 employees.

Gee said Philipps' concern for his employees is legendary. When a snow storm caused a roof collapse, closing one of his Spokane stores, he made sure all 120 employees collected 90% of their wages — and 100% of their benefits — until the store was operational.

"It's this dedication to both his employees and the community that make Jeff Philipps an easy choice for this award," added Gee. "His compassion is what sets him apart, as a citizen and as business leader."

Because of Philipp's incredible leadership, Rosauers was named Philanthropic Large Corporation of the year in 2016, and is a recipient of a coveted AGORA Award for our active participation in the communities we serve. Personal accomplishments include serving as Chairman of the Board for the Washington Food Industry Association in 2012, Chair of the 2012 United Way of Spokane County campaign, Board Chair for Greater Spokane Incorporated for 2012-13, and Council President for the Inland NW Council for the Boy Scouts of America from 2015-2017.

Philipps is involved with a number of local community and non-profit organizations including the Providence Community Ministry Board, the Inland NW Boy Scouts of America, Washington Food Industry Association, and Greater Spokane Incorporated where he chairs Life Sciences Spokane -VISION 2030, an initiative to build a life sciences economy in Spokane. In addition, Philipps serves on community advisory boards for the UW-GU Regional Health Partnership, Eastern Washington University College of Health Sciences and the Dean's Advisory Council for the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. He is also an active member of his church community.

**About the Washington Food Industry Association**

*The Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA) is dedicated to promoting and protecting the independent, community-focused grocery and convenience store industry and its suppliers. Founded in 1899, the WFIA represents the state's independent grocers and convenience stores. Membership includes all levels of the food and beverage distribution industry who collaborate to promote the principles of free enterprise to ensure a vigorous, competitive, economically healthy food industry. The grocery and convenience store industry provides about 50,000 Washington jobs. For more information, visit [www.wa-food-ind.org](http://www.wa-food-ind.org).*