

Chamber set to hand out awards

By GRETCHEN METZ, Staff Writer

A banker, a health care professional, a construction company and a community foundation will be honored Tuesday at the 20th Annual Great Valley Chamber of Commerce Profile Awards Dinner.

The event honors area business professionals and companies for their performance and outstanding contributions to the Great Valley community, "each recognized because of their unique accomplishments," said Mary Ann Severance, chamber president.



Ron Anderson, president and chief executive at Malvern Federal Savings Bank, was named Businessman of the Year. "This certainly is an honor," Anderson said, noting the award came as a complete surprise.

Anderson praised the bank's 100 employees in its Tredyffrin headquarters and six branches, giving them credit for the bank's success. "They each have a job to do and if they didn't do the job, we wouldn't be getting the award," Anderson said.

The Businesswoman of the Year Award goes to Donna Phillips, president of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. "Being named Businesswoman of the Year by the Great Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is a great honor, and one which I accept on behalf of Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital," Phillips said. The rehabilitation facility in Willistown has been providing care for more than four decades.



"As president of the only acute care rehabilitation hospital in Chester County, I am proud to continue that tradition with more than 700 employees who dedicate themselves each day to enhancing the lives of individuals who are recovering from life changing injuries and illnesses, such as brain injury, stroke and orthopedic injury," she said.

Phillips said she is humbled as she watches the journeys of the hospital's patients. "Each accomplishment achieved by our patients, whether small or large, reminds me of the importance of the work we do," she said.

Key components of the Businessman and Businesswoman of the Year awards are superior company growth and community involvement in Chester County.



Forcine Concrete and Construction Co. of Malvern was named Small Business of the Year, an award given to a company comprised of 150 employees or fewer that demonstrates dynamic growth and community service.

Richard Futterer, an owner and a vice president of the Tredyffrin-based construction company founded in 1973, said Forcine was appreciative of the award and gave credit to employees for the company's success.

"We recognize our tremendous staff, a lot of hard workers without whose skills, know-how and dedication, we would not be where we are today," Futterer said. "They are our number one resource."



Chester County Community Foundation was named the chamber's Non-Profit Business of the Year.

The award is presented to a nonprofit organization that works directly with the Great Valley and surrounding communities through programs, information resources, employment or other partnerships.

Karen A. Simmons, president and chief executive of the Chester County Community Foundation, was blown away when she was notified of the honor. "I don't know who nominated the foundation," Simmons said. "It totally came out of the blue."

The foundation, established in 1994, was developed to encourage philanthropic legacies. The foundation holds 300 funds in trust whose value exceeds \$25 million. Over the past year, it distributed \$1.6 million in grants to nonprofits.

"The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with the causes that matter so their legacies can make a difference forever," Simmons said. "It is our hope at the foundation that others will feel inspired by this award and, in kind, will create their own charitable legacy in Chester County."

Some of the local nonprofits to benefit from the foundation's family of funds are Camp Dream Catcher for children with AIDS or HIV; The Garage in Kennett Square, which holds after-school activities for teen-agers; the historic Mill at Anselma; and the Wharton Esherick Museum in Tredyffrin. "Wharton Esherick was an incredible craftsman and artist," Simmons said. "Hardly anyone knows where this is unless they know arts and crafts. It's Dr. Seuss meets Pee-wee's Playhouse."

The event is slated to take place at The Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in the Great Valley Corporate Center in East Whiteland. Mary Ellen Burris, senior vice president of consumer affairs at Wegmans Food Markets Inc. in Rochester, N.Y., is scheduled to be the keynote speaker.

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