

State bankers association to be honored at April 21 event

NJBA chosen to receive
Golden Hammer Award
by Coastal Habitat
for Humanity

BY BRIAN HARRIS
THE COAST STAR

SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS — On Thursday, April 21, Coastal Habitat for Humanity will be hosting their second-annual Hearts and Hammers event at the Manasquan Golf Club.

The event is a way for the organization to honor people and organizations that have supported Coastal Habitat for Humanity over the years as well as to raise funds for its programs.

The 2016 honorees are: Neptune Township Committeeman Randy Bishop, who is receiving the Golden Heart Founders Award for outstanding individual leadership; Star News Group, which will be receiving the Golden Hardhat Award for supporting major Coastal Habitat for Humanity initiatives over the years; and the New Jersey Bankers Association [NJBA], which will receive the Golden Hammer Award for outstanding corporate citizenship and partnership, according to Maureen Mulligan, executive director of Coastal Habitat for Humanity.

The driving force behind the NJBA's continued support for Coastal Habitat For Humanity is Michael Affuso, who is the organization's ex-



RYAN WELSH THE COAST STAR

Two of the honorees at the 2016 Coastal Habitat for Humanity Hearts and Hammers event are Michael Affuso [left], executive vice president and director of government relations, New Jersey Bankers' Association, and John McWeeney, president and chief executive officer, New Jersey Bankers' Association.

ecutive vice president and director of government relations.

In the years since Superstorm Sandy, Mr. Affuso, a resident of Bradley Beach, has been the spearhead in getting NJBA members to participate in different Coastal Habitat For Humani-

ty events and donate not only funds, but their time as well.

"Soon after Superstorm Sandy, [Mr. Affuso] came to talk to us about how the NJBA could help and when we had a plan, he reached out to banks and got them to come out based on his recommendation and also do-

nate based on his recommendation," Ms. Mulligan said, adding that Mr. Affuso is "one of the most dynamic people that we've met at Coastal Habitat for Humanity."

Through his hard work and determination, around \$80,000 will be raised by Mr.

Affuso and the NJBA by the end of this year for Coastal Habitat For Humanity.

When asked about his organization being honored, Mr. Affuso said that it would not be possible without the support of the bankers and the state's banking industry.

"We wouldn't be able to get this [award] without the industry backing us up," Mr. Affuso said.

"It's nice to be able to receive recognition for our efforts but it's really the banks that deserve it," he added.

The Hearts and Hammers event will begin at 6:30 p.m at the Manasquan River Golf Club, located at 843 Riverview Drive, Brielle. Tickets for the event are \$150 and there are sponsorship opportunities available.

For additional information about the Hearts and Hammers event as well as Coastal Habitat for Humanity, please contact Stacy Vasta, resource development manager, at 732-974-2422 ext. 3, svasta@coastalhabitat.org or go to www.coastalhabitat.org.

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