

Press Release

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Contact Person: Joy Gaasch, President
Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg
Telephone: 616-402-1772
Email: jgaasch@grandhavenchamber.org

Chris Streng honored as the 2017 Recipient of the Dr. Elizabeth Curtis Young Professional Award

Spring Lake, Michigan – Brook Bisonet, recipient of the first Dr. Elizabeth Curtis Young Professional Award presented Chris with the 2017 Award at The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg Annual Dinner at Spring Lake Country Club. The award recognizes a young professional between the ages of 21 and 40 who embodies the business, community and volunteer philosophy of the late Dr. Curtis, one who had an unwavering responsibility to community through the philosophy of always “paying it forward” though involvement with local organizations that elevate the overall quality of life in Northwest Ottawa County.

Giving back to his community and a strong sense of servant leadership is in our recipient’s DNA and has been since childhood. Examples set at home laid the groundwork and direction of not only his career in the Navy, but the importance on always being focused on giving back. Chris recognizes the need to be ever mindful of the challenges families face recognizing that early intervention is imperative in addressing the health and wellbeing of families and individuals in crisis and understands that there is a shared benefit to assisting when a need arises as well as a personal responsibility.

Chris is a graduate of Grand Haven High School, who entered the US Naval Academy graduating in 2000 and served our nation for 11 years. He served onboard the USS Reuben James as the Legal Officer, Combat Information Officer and Ordnance Officer. He was deployed to Northern Arabian Gulf in support of operation Iraqi Freedom and served onboard Training Support Center, Great Lakes as the Student Management Officer. Chris returned to Grand Haven and began a new career with JSJ, and currently serves as Production Control Manager at izzy+. He continues to serve his country as a member of Congressman Bill Huizenga’s United States Service Academy Selection Board. He is a Board Member and Treasurer of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2326, Board Member and Treasurer of Folds of Honor-Michigan Chapter, a member of the Grand Haven Memorial Day Association and serves as the Adjutant for the Grand Haven Memorial Day Parade.

As a United Way volunteer since 2014, Chris has been a panel leader working to insure agencies receiving funding are accurately providing the services needed by community members, he is a Cabinet Member of the Grand Haven Salvation Army Capital Campaign, a member of Grand Haven Rotary and has been a youth soccer coach.

In Chris’s own words “On a local level, I find it easy to serve. While I can never be sure of the impact I have had on others through serving, it has given me joy beyond measure. Coaching youth soccer, participating on non-profit boards, volunteering to work in schools, to place flags out on Beacon Boulevard, to raise awareness of social needs in our communities, to strengthen leaders through Leadership Connect, to just give blood (the gift of life), are ways that I am enriched. My hope is that my enrichment and example will kindle an act of service in someone else through their service and our community will be enriched”.

Chris and his wife Kristi have seven children Madelynn, Lauren, Ashley, Delaney, Julia, Ellianna and Michael and reside in Grand Haven.

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