Vote to select **SEVEN BEST OF THE BEST** nominated in the categories of: Most Entrepreneurial, Most Family-friendly, Greenest, Most Pet-friendly, Most Promising for upcoming generations, Most Socially Conscious and Most Visionary. All will be awarded at the **April 28 event**.

To vote go to: [westfaironline.com/events](http://westfaironline.com/events)
In August the Fairfield County Business Journal invited readers to nominate companies to be considered for the “Best Companies in Fairfield County” in seven categories.

- Most Entrepreneurial
- Most Family-Friendly
- Greenest
- Most Pet-Friendly
- Most Promising for Upcoming Generations
- Most Socially Conscious
- Most Visionary

The response was beyond our expectations and the judges had difficulty choosing 30 companies, which are titled the “Thriving Thirty.” We’re proud to present them and their responses in this supplement.

Be our guest, read through this supplement and decide which companies you would choose as the seven “Best of the Best.” Then go to westfaironline.com and cast your votes.

We look forward to seeing you at the Best Business in Fairfield County event on April 28 at the Crowne Plaza in Stamford where we will celebrate both the Thriving Thirty and the Best of the Best.

A special thank you to the nine business organizations that have partnered with us on the program. Please see their messages in this supplement.

Thank you,
Barbara Hanlon
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

ACCURATE LOCK AND HARDWARE
Most Visionary

Accurate Lock & Hardware fuses old world craftsmanship with modern technology to create American-made, architectural hardware solutions of uncompromising quality for the entire door. If you can dream it, we can make it.

AT-HOME CARE OF CONNECTICUT LLC
Most Family-Friendly

Because we are a family-owned and operated company for 20 years, we believe that family comes first by offering flexible working schedules, while also providing an in-house personal care aide certification training program.

AUTISM ON THE SEAS
Most Family-Friendly

We make vacation dreams a reality for families with special needs. Through the support of our professional volunteer staff, we ensure every family member has a special vacation.

Most Promising for the Upcoming Generations

Because health care is growing at a breathtaking pace with an expected 84 million seniors by 2050 contributing to the need for more health care workers.

Most Socially Conscious

Autism on the Seas’ unique all-inclusive experience for families with special needs fosters acceptance and celebrates everyone’s cherished right to enjoy a vacation.

Most Visionary

Autism on the Seas is the first travel service specializing in options for families with special needs, utilizing professional volunteer staff and partnered with major cruise lines.
Your Home, Our Priority.
Our family-run company has been the energy partner of choice for homeowners throughout Fairfield County for more than 150 years!

GaultEnergy.com | 203.227.5181

UNION SAVINGS BANK IS PROUD TO GIVE BACK

With community donations exceeding $600,000 and employee volunteerism nearing 10,000 hours this year alone, Union Savings Bank is passionate about giving back.
We’re truly invested in helping our community grow and thrive together!
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

AVANTI SYSTEMS USA
Most Entrepreneurial
President and CEO Matthew Gordon, grew Avanti Systems into a leading manufacturer of interior glass partitions, making the Inc. 5000 list for three consecutive years.

Greennest
Avanti products have attained 10 LEED credits in the areas of design, flexibility, regional material, recycled materials, acoustic performance, material reuse, certified wood and more.

Most Visionary
Avanti offers advanced technologies, including customized door systems with switchable LCD privacy glass, elegant invisible-frame single-sheet glass walls and studio-quality acoustical glass solutions.

BARNUM FINANCIAL GROUP
Most Promising for the Upcoming Generations
Barnum company leadership is innovative, growth oriented and offers in-depth, ongoing training and support to young financial services professionals it recruits. We offer an opportunity for financial assistance to help them repay their student loans, while also providing free financial education to young people via our recently opened Establishment in Shelton, with a range of classes in a friendly, congenial environment that millennials enjoy. And our Barnum Foundation for Life gives employees young and older an opportunity to directly help the communities we serve.

COBBLECORD
Most Visionary
CobbleCord is a free website and app that helps people cobble together personalized streaming bundles to get the most out of streaming and get rid of cable. Using a patented recommendation process, CobbleCord uncovers which free and paid streaming services are best for each user based on their content, device and price preferences. It also provides access to tons of information on hundreds of streaming services in one convenient location. Its ultimate vision is to transform how people manage their entertainment mix on an ongoing basis.
CONGRATULATIONS

to the Thriving Thirty Winners of

Best Companies of Fairfield County!

BMW of Darien

Family Owned. Customer Driven.
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

COCO AND LALA

Most Entrepreneurial
Coco and Lala is a shopping experience and destination with Instagramable walls, rotating brands and our own line of custom clothing. We have beautiful buildouts and in-store events that make our stores unique.

Most Family-Friendly
Coco and Lala has clothing and merchandise for the entire family. Created with children in mind, we have sequin Instagram walls for children and we host events in-store styled for all ages with a welcoming fun environment.

DANIKA COMMUNICATIONS LLC

Most Visionary
Starting back in 2001, Danika Communications has ascended to a level where it specializes not in a category, but in creativity and relationships. With a passion for thinking completely out of the box and finding the interesting differentiators and story angles that will pop with the media, Danika offers clients “the key mindset of being integrated.” Storytelling is not only brought to life through words, but also through images, infographics and videos and are all tied together with powerful strategy, laser-focused messaging and the hawk-eyed, relentlessly creative leadership of founder Anne Ryan.

EARTH ANIMAL

Most Pet-Friendly
Earth Animal is more than a pet store. She’s a healing center for animals and a host for community events. Come explore and get personal care for your best friend.
Best Businesses in Fairfield County

Congratulations to our Fairfield Chamber of Commerce “Thriving Thirty” Winners!

Accepted by: Matthew Gordon

GraduationSource
Memories That Last a Lifetime
Accepted by: Matthew Gordon

PET PANTRY
Warehouse
Accepted by: Adam Jacobson

ShopRite
Accepted by: Tom Tully

Fairfield Chamber of Commerce
1597 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.FairfieldCTChamber.com

PET PANTRY
1945
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
PET PANTRY 2020

Visit Us
Riverside, CT (203) 344-9295
Wilton, CT (203) 761-0444
New Canaan, CT (203) 900-0444
Fairfield, CT (203) 900-1235
Rye, NY (914) 967-0444
Larchmont, NY (914) 833-3444
Scarsdale, NY (914) 425-4355

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Still in the office at 8pm? Take back the night.

Double Revenue, Triple Profits & be home for dinner...
We know the way.

Call (203) 883-9290
First County Bank is a mutual community bank that has been operating in Fairfield County for 168 years. Dedicated to serving individuals, families, businesses and nonprofits, First County Bank thrives in giving back to the local communities they support through year-round philanthropy. In 2001, the First County Bank Foundation was created to distribute funds annually to local nonprofit organizations that focus on community and economic development, affordable housing and programs that support quality of life and educational enrichment for children and families. As a mutual bank with no shareholders, First County Bank considers grants made by the foundation a means of paying dividends back to the local communities it serves. From hosting coat and toy drives, to helping build sustainable housing, to sponsoring charity walks and providing grants to teachers and nonprofits, First County Bank is there, supporting its community, its customers and its employees.

Gault is a leader in the residential energy industry, creating a focus on providing customers greener solutions for their home. From the fuel it delivers such as bioheat and propane to the high efficiency equipment it installs, Gault’s goal is to provide comfort, efficiency and green solutions to their customers. Founded in 1863, Gault Family Companies is always focused on evolving to meet the needs of the communities it serves. This commitment has brought the family-owned company into its sixth generation today and will continue to propel the business into future generations.

GraduationSource knows the hard work that goes into achieving these once-in-a-lifetime events for students, so we provide high-quality products at prices parents can afford.

GraduationSource offers eco-friendly gowns made 100% from recycled plastic bottles. This eco-friendly option sends graduates a strong message about our commitment to their future.

Diversification and innovation is the backbone of Gault Family Companies; it is the two components that make up the company Vision Statement. The company continually diversifies its products and services and focuses on bringing innovative solutions to both its residential energy customers and retail stone customers.

GraduationSource understands what this milestone means to both graduating students and their families. That’s why we offer the personal care and attention they deserve.
The Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce congratulates all the “Thriving Thirty” honorees, applauds them for their success and innovation, and recognizes those in greater Norwalk:

CobbleCord
Coco and Lola
Earth Animal
First County Bank
Gault Family Companies
Greenworks Lending
HAVYN
Izzi B Bakery
Kelly’s Four Plus Granola
ShopRite Grade A Markets
Strategy Leaders
UBREAKIFIX

norwalkchamberofcommerce.com
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

GREENWICH EDUCATION GROUP

Most Visionary

From mitigating anxiety and school avoidance to integrating the latest research in language-based learning differences, Greenwich Education Group adapts to the changing needs of today’s students and families.

Most Entrepreneurial

Greenwich Education Group has evolved by identifying needs and developing schools and services to empower students to reach their full potential for academic growth, enrichment, and life-long learning.

GREENWORKS LENDING

Greenest

Greenworks Lending’s C-PACE financing makes clean energy a smart financial decision for commercial property owners.

Most Entrepreneurial

Greenworks Lending CEO, Jessica Bailey was recently named an EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women™, which identifies ambitious women entrepreneurs who are leading thriving organizations poised for significant growth.

Most Visionary

Greenworks Lending was founded with the humble goal of changing the world building by building and with the firm conviction that C-PACE financing could rapidly scale clean energy in commercial buildings around the country, resulting in benefits for local businesses, communities and the environment.

HAYVN

Most Entrepreneurial

HAYVN started as an idea and came to fruition in under 18 months. As a coworking office and meeting rental space, we support entrepreneurs and allow them to connect, create and get stuff done.

Most Socially Conscious

At HAYVN, we strive to offer a place for people to connect, create and get support on their mission. It is our hope support persons wherever they are on their path by giving them the space and tools they need to succeed.

Most Visionary

As the first women-centered coworking space in Fairfield County, HAYVN leads the pack on creating a space for both women and men to connect, create and get things done.
Congratulations to the Thriving Thirty and to our members:

First County Bank
Pets A Go Go
Sacred Heart University
ShopRite Grade A Markets
UBREAKIFIX

Check Out Upcoming Chamber Events:
http://members.stamfordchamber.com/events/
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

IZZI B BAKERY

Most Family-Friendly

From smash cake to 90th birthday, cookie to cake pop, breadstick to baguette, we’re allergen-free, plant-based, celiac-safe and totally natural. The whole family deserves a treat.

Most Promising for the Upcoming Generations

Lifestyle or necessity, future generations demand transparency when it comes to ingredients. They care about what they put in their body just as much as we care about what we put in our food.

JB MOVING AND STORAGE

Most Entrepreneurial

As a family-owned business, JB Moving continues to expand to offer a diverse range of services. JB recently opened an additional Bridgeport location, which offers wine storage and on-site shredding. We have added new equipment to now offer disposal and container services. Joe Barone continues to expand services to satisfy customer needs.

JONES WINERY

Greenest, Most Family-Friendly and Most Promising for the Upcoming Generations:

We are a family farm, now in its seventh generation of stewardship. Philip James Jones’ motto was “Be Good to the Land and the Land will be Good to You.” He was the first generation of the Jones family. There have been many changes in our society since the farm’s founding in 1850, but our family has been steadfast in caring dearly for our land. We grow berries, pumpkins, wine grapes and Christmas trees and invite guests to share in the bounty of the land. We are grateful for the thousands of families who visit our farm each year to experience the harvest and allow us to continue our tradition of farming.
Congratulations

Barnum Financial Group

JB Moving

Sacred Heart University

for being named among
Fairfield County Business Journal’s
Thriving Thirty
and for being among
600 member companies who are

the Best of the BRBC!

Make a Difference.

 Participate in the region’s strongest peer network of business leaders.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

The Best Businesses of Fairfield County
and wishing good luck at the polls to the Thriving Thirty!

Our region is strengthened by your vision, entrepreneurial spirit and successful growth!
Thank you for making a difference in our community.

The Business Council of Fairfield County

Strengthening Businesses. Strengthening Communities.

One Landmark Square, Suite 300 • Stamford, Connecticut 06901
(203) 359-3220 • www.businessfairfield.com • @BizFairfield

brbc.org

Bridgeport Regional Business Council

10 Middle Street, 14th Floor | Bridgeport, CT | 203.335.3800
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

KELLY’S FOUR PLUS GRANOLA

Most Entrepreneurial

Started by mom and two sons with no food background, but a great granola recipe and dedicated vision to make granola for anybody who wants a healthy snack.

Most Family-Friendly

Started by a mom and her two sons, with dad and uncle joining later on to make granola that is enjoyed by people of all ages and lifestyles.

MILL MANAGEMENT INC.

Most Visionary

For the second time in our company’s ownership over four decades of the iconic Greenwich property known as The Mill, we are re-purposing it for changing times. Forty years ago, Ralph Schacter and Sy Schwartz had the vision to convert an operating felt mill into a highly successful mixed-use property that redefined a neighborhood. Now we are converting two of the original buildings on the property (and a garage) into 67 high-end rental apartments ranging in size from a 500-square-foot 1 bedroom to a 2,200-square-foot 3 bedroom. We have designed a range of homes to meet the varying needs of empty nest baby boomers to the gen x, y and z cohorts that followed them. It’s a long way from an operating felt mill but perfectly consistent with the ability to envision what the next highest and best use might be.

NOTEWORTHY CHOCOLATES

Most Entrepreneurial

Starting with no experience in lasers or chocolate, we built the only company in the world that laser engraves chocolates with personalized messages for any occasion.

Greenest

Noteworthy Chocolates personalized gifts are sustainably harvested, fair trade chocolate presented in 99% compostable, biodegradable or reusable packaging. Eat the chocolate and there’s nothing left but sweet memories.
Extends congratulations to:

Coco + Lala Watch Hill
Most Entrepreneurial
Most Family-Friendly

HAYVN
Most Entrepreneurial
Most Socially Conscious
Most Visionary

UBREAKIFIX
Most Family Friendly
Most Green
Most Promising for Upcoming Generations

And to
All the Thriving Thirty Winners!

The Mission of the Darien Chamber of Commerce is to take a leadership position in promoting the business community and the quality of life in Darien. The DCC is supported by Elite Sponsors Bankwell and DR Bank and Select Sponsor First County Bank throughout the year. Go to DarienCTChamber.com for everything you need to know about Darien including the Calendar of Events.

The Town of Darien will celebrate its 200th Anniversary in 2020!
Founded in 2002, Odyssey Logistics & Technology Corp. has grown from an eight-person company to a multi-division global organization valued at more than $1 billion with a global workforce of over 2,400. Odyssey was at the leading edge of the digital revolution with its proprietary state-of-the-art logistics technology that easily integrates with clients' existing technology to deliver visibility to data and enable supply-chain optimization. Its success can be attributed to a combination of strategic acquisitions and organic growth, as well as attracting and retaining top talent.

Founder, Ramon Peralta, lost his job in 2008 and started Peralta Design in a recession using many of the brand strategies he learned from launching brands at Walker Digital, the startup incubator behind Priceline.com. Over the last 11 years, Peralta Design grew from a home-based business to having Class AA office space, two locations and a team of full-time employees.

Peralta Design has a strong relationship with Junior Achievement of Greater Fairfield County selecting students from Bridgeport High School to participate in an internship program at Peralta each summer. And it has conducted PD Code Camps where young future programmers ages 9 - 13 learn the fundamentals of coding - all part of giving back and inspire young people to seek jobs and careers in the arts and sciences.

Each year the Peralta Design team takes a day to go off site for “PD Hackathon” when a vision for the future is drafted and executed the following year. In 2020, the PD PodCast “Mission Control” will officially launch as the vision continues to expand.

The communities we operate in are our extended family; We want all of our customers (whether furry or not) to enjoy when they shop.

In-store events for kids, parents and pets include face painting, balloon art, ice cream socials, educational lectures, contests, portrait sessions, bone bars and more.

Odyssey is consistently recognized as a leader in the global logistics industry and has 15 consecutive years of continued growth. Odyssey supports gender diversity, women in senior leadership and professional development, along with encouraging its employees to give back to their local communities. Most recently, Odyssey was named “Top Company for Women to Work for In Transportation” by Women in Trucking and named to the “2019 Inc. 5000” list, the most prestigious ranking of the nation's fastest-growing private companies.
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

**PETS A GO GO**

**Most Entrepreneurial**

Nicole Goudie-Rigger has been the owner of Pets a Go Go LLC since October 2009. She grew the company from one employee and one client to thousands of clients and many employees - all before opening her first facility in 2012. Recently, she opened the second location in Stamford and is already working toward a third location for Pets a Go Go.

**Most Pet-Friendly**

Pets a Go Go® is the service provider of choice for more than 3,500+* pet parents (and their furbabies) in Westchester and Fairfield counties. We offer customized pet care in all-green, 24-hour staffed, 100 percent cage-free facilities for doggie daycare, overnight services, expert training, and grooming.

**Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY**

**Most Entrepreneurial**

Sacred Heart is thriving. It has found creative ways to invest in its campus and provide innovative programs to prepare students for the real world.

**Most Promising for the Upcoming Generations**

Combining social justice with education, Sacred Heart offers programs, clubs and hands-on experience that prepare students to make a positive impact on the world.

**Most Visionary**

Whether offering exciting new programs, state-of-the-art innovative facilities or academic lectures to spark dynamic thoughts and ideas, Sacred Heart never stops pioneering.

**ShopRite Grade A MARKETS**

**Most Entrepreneurial**

Founded in 1943, Grade A Markets is now run by the fourth generation of Cingaris, who each have their unique expertise in the business. Steeped in a long tradition of providing high-quality products and delivering excellent customer service our management team shares a sense of ownership of the business, making decisions impacting their businesses as if they were their own.

**Most Socially Conscious**

We have been heavily involved with the Foodbank of Fairfield County for decades and are involved in some way with virtually every food bank in Fairfield and New Haven counties. Our company has raised more than $3 Million for the Yale Eye Center, and has a long history of charitable giving to a variety of organizations throughout the communities in which we do business.

**Greenest**

We have been heavily involved in composting since 2012. Unsaleable but wholesome food goes to support the food banks and all other foods are either composted or go into animal feed.
WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Strategy Leaders is continually identifying growing needs of our customer avatar, implementing and growing new services and identifying up-and-coming industries to expand into.

Memories of family and friends -- pictures, videos, contacts -- are so important. We at UBREAFIX love helping people preserve and recover their data.

Transition ownership to the leadership team within five years through an ESOP. Presently, the leadership team operates the company as their own because someday it will be.

Not only are we extending the life of your devices through repair, we also offer recycling services and dispose of the different materials properly to help preserve the environment.

With the rising cost of electronics we are helping save our customers' money allowing them to spend that money on more important things.

Union Savings Bank is a community bank that is driven by an unwavering passion to give back - this year's community donations exceeded $600,000 and employee volunteerism totaled nearly 10,000 hours. Over the last four years, the bank's "USB Gives Back" initiative impacted 130 community partners, while donating nearly $50,000 to support their causes. Additionally, the bank continues to expand the "USB Teachers' Closet," which has already distributed over 12,000 school supplies to teachers in three local elementary schools.
As the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England and one of the fastest-growing in the U.S., Sacred Heart University (SHU) is a national leader in shaping higher education for the 21st century. SHU offers more than 80 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs on its Fairfield, Connecticut campus. Sacred Heart also has satellites in Connecticut, Luxembourg and Ireland and offers online programs. More than 9,000 students attend the University’s eight colleges and schools: Arts & Sciences; Communication, Media & the Arts; Computer Science & Engineering; Health Professions; the Isabelle Farrington College of Education; the Jack Welch College of Business & Technology; Nursing; and St. Vincent’s College. Sacred Heart stands out from other Catholic institutions as it was established and led by laity. The contemporary Catholic university is rooted in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition and the liberal arts and at the same time cultivates students to be forward thinkers who enact change—in their own lives, professions and in their communities. The Princeton Review includes SHU in its Best 385 Colleges-2020 Edition, “Best in the Northeast” and Best 252 Business Schools-2019 Edition. Sacred Heart is home to the award-winning, NPR-affiliated radio station, WSHU, a Division I athletics program and an impressive performing arts program that includes choir, band, dance and theater. www.sacredheart.edu
VAL’S PUTNAM WINES & LIQUORS specializes in international and domestic wines, liquors and craft beers. Family owned for more than 60 years, Val's has been an integral part of the Greenwich community since 1957 serving local residents as well as supporting and partnering with local charity organizations, caterers, event planners and various businesses. Its primary goal for two generations has been to be the source for all beverage needs for any occasion in town. Striving to cater to each and every customer's demands by listening intently and forming longstanding relationships, Val's feels it is important that its customers have an opportunity to experience the multitude of products available today and to learn about them in the process. As a commitment to its clientele, Val's has an on-going educational platform that is central to its goals. According to the company, “we at Val's feel very privileged to be part of various special occasions in different people's lives by providing our extensive product line and by dedicating our time and knowledge to enhance all those very special moments in our customers' lives.” The many services Val's provides include wine cellar collection consultation, event planning, corporate gifting, free weekly wine tastings and full delivery service throughout the country. For more, visit us at our two locations: Greenwich, CT: 125 W. Putnam Ave. (in Stop & Shop Plaza) 203-869-2299 Glenville, CT: 21 Glenville St. (next to Shop & Stop) 203-813-3477 Or visit us at our website www.valsputnumnwines.com.

The Crowne Plaza Stamford is the premier hotel in the Stamford area. Our renovated guestrooms are among the largest and feature all of the amenities a traveler would want. We are conveniently located just 5 minutes from downtown Stamford and 2 miles from the Stamford train station, featuring both commuter and Amtrak service. We are perfectly suited for both leisure and business travel as we offer 355 guest rooms including 23 spacious suites. Our well-appointed guestrooms have new furnishings, comfortable beds, flat panel TV's, complimentary Wi-Fi access and downtown shuttle service within five miles. With capacity for over 1600 guests, Crowne Plaza Stamford is ideal for hosting all types of special events, ranging from day meetings to conventions to galas and social celebrations. Guests can enjoy our Sleep Advantage Program - a holistic approach to better night's sleep that includes relaxing new beds, Quiet Zones, sleep amenities and a guaranteed wake up call. On-site we offer nearly 40,000 SQ of flexible function space, and outstanding F&B options as Restaurant 2701 features classic American fare in an intimate environment. Our proximity is ideal as we are located near several major corporate headquarters, area highways, and airports. We are situated near many leisure destinations including Chelsea Piers, Sterling Farms Golf Course, and Pinot's Palette. Downtown Stamford features world class entertainment at the Palace Theatre, exciting racing action at RPM Raceway, and unlimited fine dining options, all within a short drive or shuttle from the hotel.
The newly renovated Crowne Plaza Stamford is the premier meeting and events hotel in Fairfield County. With 355 guest rooms and 26 individual meeting spaces, let our expert sales and catering staff provide a phenomenal meeting experience!

2701 Summer Street, Stamford
For more info call 203.359.1300 and ask for a Sales Manager
WHAT DO WE EXPECT OF STUDENTS AT SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY?

Nothing less than what we expect of ourselves: Courageous leadership. Passionate service to others. Creative, innovative thinking. A willingness to take risks, to transform themselves and the world around them.

Learn more at: www.sacredheart.edu