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## **WINNERS ANNOUNCED OF 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

**Region-Wide Search Spearheaded by  
Wawa, 6abc and Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP**

Philadelphia, PA (April 29, 2015) – The two winning schools of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Environmental Community Service Award are the **George W. Nebinger School in Philadelphia and The Douglass School in Wilmington**. Spearheaded by Wawa, 6abc, and the environmental law firm Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP (MGKF), the award celebrates a decade of supporting environmental programs that improve the local community. The goal of the Environmental Community Service Award is to recognize schools (6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher) for their outstanding programs that enhance and improve the quality of life in their communities as well as raise awareness of environmental concerns.

Each school won a \$5,000 honorarium to further their environmental programs. Since the program's inception, 20 schools in the tri-state area have been recognized for their outstanding programs winning a total of \$100,000 to enhance environmental education.

**The George W. Nebinger School**, located at 601 Carpenter Street in South Philadelphia, was recognized for their entire campaign -- "Go Green – One Team One Planet". The school supports physical health, social health, the environment and an outdoor learning laboratory that is a great benefit to students, families and the community. They are focused on establishing awareness of the Delaware Estuary with various programs. They implemented stormwater infrastructure to reduce runoff and installed a rain garden. Students are responsible for monitoring soil and watering needs and keeping debris out of the rain garden, which is part of a curriculum developed by the Phila. Water Dept. The students are also involved in experiential learning at Phila. Water Works Interpretive Center. Even though they are based in an urban setting, the school has beautiful vegetable gardens and murals, including a mosaic, created by students with a teaching artist from Partner Philly Magic Gardens that depicts the Delaware Estuary. Nebinger focuses on up-cycling projects and recycling of materials as well as the culinary and nutrition curriculum that adds to the value of their food garden.



**George W. Nebinger School, Principal Anh Brown, Wally, the Wawa Goose, 6abc's David Murphy, Wawa's Thayer Schroeder and Manko Gold's Jonathan Spergel**

**The Douglass School in Wilmington**, classified as at-risk for completing high school, provides educational studies that include therapeutic programs. Students learn transferrable soft skills to build potential for employment through a program called S.a.L.T. – Students-serving- society and Learning Too. It is a multi-level program that includes planting and harvesting vegetables through a partnership with Healthy Foods for Healthy Kids. In addition to working in the garden, the students are involved in cooking by making healthy salads for the school community. They also prepare baked goods for sports program. S.a.L.T. focuses on developing Social Interactive Skills, Community Engagement, Health Awareness, Energy Conservation and Efficiencies, Mentoring and Educational Encouragement.



**The Douglass School Group photo around potting activity**

Jonathan Spergel, the managing partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, was very impressed by the programs he saw during the April 20<sup>th</sup> presentation to both schools. He said, "Being at the schools and observing their gardens and the students' enthusiasm was very rewarding for me. I applaud both schools for building environmental awareness and education through meaningful programs that impact not only the students but the community today and in the future."

Thayer Schroeder, a representative of Wawa's public relations department, shared his enthusiasm. He said, "We are honored to have participated in a program that has reached and inspired so many schools to make a connection to their communities and to improve their environment. Not only will the students of the George W. Nebinger School and the Douglass School have a peaceful garden in their school yards for years to come, but they will also help to sustain the streams and rivers that make Philadelphia the beautiful city we all enjoy."

Bernie Prazenica, 6abc President and General Manager, is proud to once again partner with the Environmental Community Service Award. "At 6abc, we take pride in the many ways we work to protect the environment and promote sustainability. The Action News team looks forward to showcasing the work of these bright, innovative students, while bringing focus to environmental concerns right here in our neighborhoods."

In prior years, the winner schools have been the Pathway School in Norristown; South Philadelphia High School in Philadelphia; Central Bucks High School West in Doylestown, PA; Abington High School in Abington, PA; Williamstown Middle School in Williamstown, NJ, Hatboro-Horsham High School in Horsham, PA, Charles F. Patton Middle School in Kennett Square, PA; Father Judge and Lincoln High Schools in Philadelphia; Epiphany of Our Lord School in Plymouth Meeting, PA; Interboro High School in Prospect Park, PA; St. Francis Xavier School in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia; Cedarbrook Middle School in Wyncoate; Gateway Regional High School in Woodbury Heights, NJ; W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences, Philadelphia.; Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School in West Phila; Friends Central Middle School in Merion, PA; and Camden High School in Camden, N.J.

The individuals who judge the programs are all experts in the field of the environment and science. They are representatives from The Franklin Institute, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, the Seaport Museum, Pennsylvania and New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, and Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control along with someone representing each sponsor -- Wawa, 6abc, and MGKF.

#### **About Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP:**

Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP concentrates its practice in environmental, energy, and land use law and litigation. It represents clients ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to small, privately held enterprises, both in the Mid-Atlantic Region and on a national basis. Their commitment to education is manifested in the lawyers' participation in environmental programs outside the office. *MGKF is honored to be the top-rated law firm, since 2011, in the Top Workplaces surveys by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Daily News and Philly.com.*

#### **About Wawa, Inc.:**

Wawa, Inc., a privately held company, traces its roots back to 1803 as an iron foundry in New Jersey. Owner George Wood started a dairy processing plant in Wawa, PA, in 1902. The milk business was a success, due to its quality, cleanliness and "certified" process. In 1964, George's grandson Grahame Wood opened the first Wawa Food Market in Folsom, PA. Today the company operates more than 600 stores in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. Wawa is known for its branded products including award-winning coffee and freshly prepared hoagies. Wawa consistently

ranks among Forbes' top 100 privately held companies. "Wawa" is the Lenni-Lenape Indian word for flying goose.

**About 6abc:**

6abc Action News is the #1 local news brand in the tri-state, and the undisputed news leader for the past 35 years. 6abc.com, the official website of Action News, is also the #1 local TV news website in the market. WPVI-TV is the ABC-owned station serving the Delaware and Lehigh Valleys.

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