

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharla Feldscher Public Relations  
Sharla Feldscher, 215-627-0801 x 101  
sharla@sf-pr.com, cell 215-258-4868  
Ellen Weisberg, 215-627-0801 x 103  
ellen@sf-pr.com, cell 215-285-4866

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

### **\$10,000 in Honorariums to be Awarded in 2015**

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

Philadelphia, PA (January 26, 2015) – The Environmental Community Service Award, presented by Wawa, 6abc, and the environmental law firm Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP (MGKF), 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. Understanding the importance of encouraging schools to institute environmental programs, media partner 6abc will help increase awareness of the award with their audiences throughout the Delaware Valley.

Each year two schools receive a \$5,000 honorarium to further their environmental programs. The application for this year's Environmental Community Service Award is available online at [www.wawa.com/WawaWeb/PressReleases.aspx](http://www.wawa.com/WawaWeb/PressReleases.aspx), [6abc.com/1cCyWK6](http://6abc.com/1cCyWK6), and [www.mankogold.com/about-community.html](http://www.mankogold.com/about-community.html). All applications must be signed by a school official and submitted by Monday, March 9, 2015. Surprise presentations will be made at the winning schools prior to Earth Day, April 22, 2015.

Since the program's inception, 18 schools in the tri-state area have been recognized for their outstanding programs. Last year, The Pathway School in Norristown, PA won for its horticultural program to teach employability skills to students who have complex learning, emotional and behavior needs. The program has grown from a beautiful garden to a vegetable garden and greenhouse used for cooking, science classes and more.

South Philadelphia High School working with Lower Moyamensing Civic Association (LMCA) was also recognized for its garden which involves the work of over 200 students in biology, math, culinary arts, engineering, English, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and special education as well. The gardens involve all aspects of the curriculum and have expanded to support many neighborhood programs to address the lack of green space and fresh food options in South Philadelphia.

Jonathan Spergel, the managing partner of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, is proud to be involved in the award this year. "2015 marks a decade of our support of environmental community service. I look forward to learning more about the impressive work being done by this year's applicants and their positive impact on the community."

Richard Wood, Sustainability Manager for Wawa, said “We have always felt that this award program is a unique way to recognize students for their efforts to make our planet more sustainable and share their ideas and achievements with the community.”

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 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 Wyncote; 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, 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.

The Environmental Community Service Award application is available to download at these links.

- Wawa – [www.wawa.com/WawaWeb/PressReleases.aspx](http://www.wawa.com/WawaWeb/PressReleases.aspx)
- 6abc – [6abc.cm/1E6FlzK](http://6abc.cm/1E6FlzK)
- Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP – [www.mankogold.com/about-community.html](http://www.mankogold.com/about-community.html)

It can be sent electronically but it must be signed by a school official and sent from an official school e-mail address. Electronic applications are accepted at [environmentalaward@mankogold.com](mailto:environmentalaward@mankogold.com) or a hardcopy can be sent by mail to MGKF, Attn: Environmental Award, 401 City Avenue, Ste. 901, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004. For general information, contact Sharla Feldscher Public Relations, 215-627-0801, #101.

**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.

**###**