Webster Private Banker Honored for Providing More than Shelter to Homeless

WETHERSFIELD/HARTFORD, Conn., June 14, 2016 – John M. Jezowski, a resident of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and senior vice president, private banking at Webster Bank, is an honoree of the bank’s “80 Days of Giving” employee volunteer campaign. The volunteer effort is part of Webster’s 80th Anniversary celebration. An awards ceremony was held recently at the Radisson Cromwell Hotel in Cromwell. Jezowski’s volunteer effort earned $1,000 for the nonprofit of his choice – the Open Hearth Association Inc.

Jezowski culminated his year of volunteering for the homeless shelter for men in Hartford, by sharing his financial insights and expertise in nonprofit corporate governance at the Dec. 17 annual meeting of the shelter’s board of trustees, of which he is a member.

Jezowski has been a volunteer with Open Hearth for more than 10 years. Open Hearth first opened its doors to homeless men in 1884 and operates one of the oldest homeless shelters in the nation. Hartford’s own Mark Twain was an early advocate and supporter of the Open Hearth.

The shelter has about 100 beds for overnight use by men in need, as well as a transitional living program to help them establish themselves and their independence, and recover from various challenges. Open Hearth serves about 1,000 men annually. Beyond shelter, the organization provides the men with the tools, knowledge, and motivation to reenter society with independence and dignity. To this end, the charity provides food, recovery services, job training, health, and education.

“There is a saying that in order to truly make an impact and help someone who is hungry, it is better to give him a fishing pole and teach him how to fish, as opposed to simply giving him a fish dinner,” Jezowski said. “There is perhaps no better saying that encapsulates the service of the Open Hearth to the community. The mission of Open Hearth is to ‘Help Men Help Themselves.'”

The banker volunteer initiative, “80 Days of Giving,” was launched October 11, 2015. In all, 103 bankers nominated volunteer activities to receive one of the 80 grants. The breadth and impact of participation stimulated even greater community involvement by Webster bankers who now contribute more than 125,000 volunteer hours annually. Webster Bank is a leading regional bank serving businesses and consumers in the northeast.

In the photo from left, are: Board Chair Tom Veilleux; Executive Director Marilyn Rossetti; and John Jezowski.

About Webster
Webster Financial Corporation is the holding company for Webster Bank, National Association. With $24.9 billion in assets, Webster provides business and consumer banking, mortgage, financial planning, trust, and investment services through 176 banking centers and 351 ATMs. Webster also provides telephone banking, mobile banking, and Internet banking. Webster Bank owns the asset-based lending firm Webster Business Credit Corporation; the equipment finance firm Webster Capital Finance Corporation; and HSA Bank, a division of Webster Bank, which provides health savings account trustee and administrative services. Webster Bank is a member of the FDIC and an equal housing lender. For more information about Webster, including past press releases and the latest annual report, visit the Webster website at www.websterbank.com.