



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gettysburg Adams Chamber Recognizes Outstanding Community Leaders**

**Gettysburg, Pa.** – The Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce, Adams County's oldest and largest business organization, today recognized outstanding community leaders during its annual Awards Breakfast at Cross Keys Village – The Brethren Home Community. The awards program is part of a month-long celebration of Chamber Member Appreciation Month in May.

Business Excellence Award winners are: Small Business Person of the Year, Timbrel Wallace, Why Not Retail dba Lark and Nerd Herd; Educator of the Year, Jamie Cope, Upper Adams School District director of bands; and Nonprofit of the Year, Adams County SPCA.

"Adams County is home to exceptional leaders who contribute to the local economy and serve the community," said Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce President Carrie Stuart. "The chamber thanks these outstanding award winners, and the entire local business community, for their many contributions to keeping Adams County strong, viable and growing."

Small Business Person of the Year **Timbrel Wallace** has grown her retail business from a 1,000-square-foot store front with a single employee to a 5,000-square-foot marketplace with 17 team members in just seven years. She has continued with her original concept: to offer a carefully selected collection of gift merchandise with each item possessing a sense of excitement, experienced through unique color, design, craftsmanship and creative visual merchandising. At the heart of Lark is the desire to make connections with people through retailing, linking customers with artists, students and neighbors. That desire prompted the opening of Nerd Herd Gifts and Games, which is inspired by Wallace's son and his group of friends and their weekend-long board game marathons in her basement. What began as a Lark-funded, student run business has proven to be a learning experience for all involved. Wallace is dedicated to the Adams County community, donating time and financial assistance to more than 40 local nonprofit organizations.

"Timbrel is an outstanding business leader who has created a retail experience unlike any other in Gettysburg," said Isaac Bucher, nominator and owner of Mister Ed's Elephant Museum & Candy Emporium. "To her, owning a store is more than just selling things; it's about creating personal relationships and offering great customer service."

Educator of the Year **Jamie Cope** has taught high school and middle school band in the Upper Adams School District for 34 years. Known for having high expectations for her students, she has inspired them to excel as musicians – encouraging them as they perform at the state and national level, complete collegiate study in music and pursue careers in the music industry – and at life, instilling good work ethic, time management and teamwork skills. Cope not only directs the middle and high school concert bands, but also oversees the marching and jazz bands and indoor drumline. Under her leadership, the Biglerville High School Marching Band has become synonymous with excellence, taking first place at the Atlantic Coast Championships in

2010, then again every year since 2013. The indoor drumline participates in the Keystone Indoor Drill Association and has taken first through sixth place within the last 10 years. Despite a grueling schedule, Cope is a lifelong learner, completing a master's degree and 30 additional credits beyond that. She has earned numerous teaching accolades over the years, including from local and state Jaycees organizations, Shippensburg University and Walmart.

"Mrs. Cope has been a music educator for 34 years, teaching students how to play instruments and read music, all while giving them the confidence in their ability to perform and become leaders themselves," said Nicole Kelley, nominator, former student and now vocal music teacher in the Upper Adams School District. "She is a dedicated teacher who is well deserving of this honor."

The **Adams County SPCA** is Nonprofit of the Year, recognized for its significant impact on the quality of life in Adams County. Under the supervision of Abigail Avery, shelter manager, the SPCA takes in approximately 1,800 stray, neglected, abused and abandoned animals each year. The staff spends endless hours working with each animal to give them the best chance at finding a forever home. The shelter also provides low cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics, with more than 2,000 spay/neuter surgeries performed last year. The shelter's Kibble Cart program provides free dog and cat food to anyone who needs it, and the Trap, Neuter, Release program has helped reduce the incidence of unwanted litters and rabies in feral cat colonies. The organization's board of directors is committed to fundraising, making up 99% of the \$550,000 annual budget with events, donations, bequests, memorials and grants; less than 1% of the shelter's budget comes from government funding. With an eye toward the future, leadership is working to expand fundraising efforts, maintain vested supporters and continue to meet the community's needs.

"The excellence in service that the Adams County SPCA delivers to the community has undoubtedly enhanced the quality of life for those who live and work in Adams County," said Avery. "We have overcome many obstacles over the past 40 plus years, and we appreciate this recognition of our exceptional service to Adams County."

**About the Chamber:** Chartered in 1919, the Gettysburg Adams Chamber of Commerce is Adams County's oldest and largest business organization. The chamber supports and strengthens its members and the Adams County area by promoting diverse economic opportunities through advocacy, building relationships, providing timely information and developing leaders for the future. Nearly 520 local businesses and organizations have made an investment in Adams County through membership. For more information or to join the chamber, visit [www.gettysburg-chamber.org](http://www.gettysburg-chamber.org).

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