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**SPOTLIGHTING THE REGION'S BRIGHT STARS: ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS TO BE HONORED AT JEVS HUMAN SERVICES' 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *STRICTLY BUSINESS AWARDS***

**Philadelphia, PA (September 23, 2015)** – JEVS Human Services, one of the largest social service agencies in the region offering skills training and career enhancement opportunities, has announced honorees for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual *Strictly Business Awards*. Developed to recognize the contributions of some of Greater Philadelphia's best people and companies working toward an enhanced regional workforce, the awards will be given on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downton Hotel.

**The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual *Strictly Business Award* winners are:**

**Business Leadership Award:** **Xerox** is a leader in document technology and services, dedicated to customer service. With more than 140,000 employees worldwide, conducting business in more than 180 countries, including their local office in Cherry Hill, NJ, Xerox promotes and honors inclusion while making accommodations that encourage growth and success for all employees, including those with disabilities. Xerox has forged a strong partnership with **JEVS hireAbility** program, hiring more than two dozen job seekers with disabilities in the past two years. Xerox hosts hiring fairs where hireAbility job seekers have priority in interviewing and company representatives speak often at job club events, giving candidates tips to ace the interview and application processes.

**Wells Fargo** is a nationwide financial services company with \$1.7 trillion in assets. With almost 8,000 team members in the Greater Philadelphia Region and Delaware, Wells Fargo values diversity and inclusion in every aspect of their business and at every level of their organization. Wells Fargo shares these values with JEVS, partnering with several programs including **Career Solutions** for 55+, **Northeast EARN Center** and our disability employment programs to open its doors to our job seekers. Wells Fargo continues to be impressed by the quality of applicants from JEVS programs and has made nearly a dozen hires since the relationship began. Wells Fargo is also an

active participant in JEVS Corporate Partners and generously supports JEVS' mission with philanthropic investments.

**Inspiration Awards:**

**Kareem Chappelle** is a graduate of **The Choice is Yours (TCY)**, an innovative diversion program for first-time, nonviolent felony drug offenders. From the moment he enrolled in TCY, Kareem was determined to move beyond his own troubled childhood and past mistakes to provide a better life for his family. He is currently employed at PATCO in a customer service position and has big plans to continue his education and work in the human services field. With support and encouragement from TCY, Kareem now has the tools he needs to care for himself, his partner Brittany and their three sons. His confidence and self-esteem have improved by leaps and bounds. (Note: The TCY program is operated in partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Defender Association of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Municipal Court. The program is generously funded by the Philadelphia Prison System, The Lenfest Foundation and the JEVS Foundation.)

**Anthony Steckley** is a two-time graduate of JEVS' programs, completing both **Project WOW** and the Plumbing and Heating program at JEVS' **Orleans Technical College**. Project WOW offers both GED preparation and property maintenance training to out-of-school youth ages 18 to 24. Anthony was raised by his Great Aunt Floss, who cared for him when his biological mother abandoned him at birth. Anthony dropped out of school in the 8th grade and found himself working odd jobs without a clear direction—and without a degree. When his friends began to graduate from high school, he knew it was time for a change and enrolled in Project WOW. In just four months, he completed his GED, graduated at the top of his class and found he had a new zest for learning, enrolling in the six-month adult program at Orleans Tech. Now employed at Lofts 640, Anthony is excited for his future, armed with the credentials he needs to succeed. (Note: Project WOW is funded by the Philadelphia Youth Network, the JEVS Foundation and generous individual donors.)

"Xerox and Wells Fargo are committed to providing quality work opportunities and career development for our clients. Our individual winners have overcome adversity – both internal and external challenges – to take strong steps in their own lives, while bettering the lives of their families and the community around them," said Jay Spector, President and CEO of JEVS Human Services.

"NBC10 News Today" anchor Chris Cato will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Proceeds from *Strictly Business* will fund scholarships to JEVS' vocational assessment, job readiness, skills training and career management services for individuals in need.

**About JEVS Human Services**

JEVS Human Services enhances the employability, independence, and quality of life of individuals through a broad range of programs. Consistent with our core principles and entrepreneurial spirit, JEVS

Human Services creates innovative and sustainable solutions to address current and future community needs.

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