



AQUARION
Water Company

Stewards of the Environment

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Aquarion Water Company opens its doors to JA

BRIDGEPORT — Aquarion Water Company, one of the oldest companies in the Greater Bridgeport area, has helped young people in area communities by opening its doors to Junior Achievement of Western Connecticut (JA) so the agency can continue its educational programs for youth.

To mark the relationship, Aquarion President and CEO Charles V. Firlotte will host a reception Tuesday and welcome JA officially to the company's Main Street headquarters.

Early last year, the JA staff and board of directors learned a new owner had acquired the building in which their offices were housed, and that their rent would increase beyond which JA could afford. The only way to meet the increase would be to take funding away from programs for students, which was not acceptable, so they immediately started looking for new accommodations.

Firlotte learned of JA's situation and realized he could help. By rearranging office space in Aquarion's headquarters on Main Street, just around the corner from JA's offices, he was able to create enough space to answer JA's needs. Firlotte began discussions with JA board member George Dunbar of Monroe and they reached an agreement on rental arrangements. Before long, JA was in its new home.

Bernadine Venditto, JA's Executive Director, said she and her staff were grateful for Firlotte's willingness and ability to provide an alternative that enabled them to continue offering the programs that teach local students real-life skills to succeed in the business world. They also enjoy their new surroundings in the Art Deco-style building, with its grand marble staircase and large, leaded window showcasing the goddess Aquarius.



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“We thank Aquarion and Chuck Firlotte for our new home in this beautiful, historic building in the heart of Bridgeport,” Venditto said. “Chuck and the Aquarion family have gone above and beyond to accommodate us and make us feel welcome every day.

“Aquarion and JA have had a longstanding partnership for more than 20 years,” she said. “We appreciate that Chuck, an outstanding member in the Bridgeport community, believes in the value of JA’s mission, preparing our youth to be financially literate, entrepreneurial thinkers and prepared for the workforce.”

Firlotte said he was honored to assist JA. “I have long admired and supported JA’s work with young people,” he said. “We’ve participated in and sponsored many JA activities over the years; this arrangement is simply an extension of that support. And I’m especially gratified to know JA is able to continue its excellent work, which benefits not only the students, but the business world, by preparing our next generation for the future.”

Junior Achievement is the world’s largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy through hands-on, classroom activities. Locally, JA of Western Connecticut reaches more than 19,000 students in 20 communities.

Aquarion Water Company serves nearly 600,000 people in 39 communities throughout Connecticut, in addition to six communities in Massachusetts and three in New Hampshire. It is among the seven largest investor-owned water utility companies in the U.S., and the largest in New England.

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