



NEWS RELEASE

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Provident Announces Grand Prize Winners in “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” Sweepstakes

On Saturday, November 19, The Provident Bank announced the three top prize winners and charities in its “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” sweepstakes.

The sweepstakes was hosted by Provident to give a financial boost to consumers and charities alike, and awarded more than \$28,000, including a \$5,000 grand prize with a \$5,000 matching donation from Provident to a charity. In addition to the top prizes, one winner was selected each day over eight weeks to receive a \$100 Provident Bank Visa® Gift Card and a \$100 donation to a charity.

The three top winners were:

- Grand Prize of \$5,000: Richard Ryan of Bridgewater, matching donation to the Martinsville Rescue Squad;
- First Place Prize of \$2,500: Joseph Murphy of South Orange, matching donation to the Jersey Animal Coalition; and
- Second Place Prize \$1,250: Beatrice Vogel of Monroe Township, matching donation to the Monroe Township Food Pantry.

The winners were notified a week earlier by Provident that they were the three sweepstakes finalists. On Saturday morning, they attended the ceremony at Provident’s administrative offices in Iselin, where Provident Bank President and CEO Chris Martin announced the winners.

After receiving the grand prize, Richard Ryan gave a few remarks to the crowd about his great appreciation for all first responders. Mr. Ryan understood the Martinsville Rescue Squad was having difficulties with old ambulances, which is the main reason he selected the organization to receive the matching \$5,000 from Provident.

“Members of my family have been involved in first responder work, and I truly appreciate the services they provide. The Martinsville Rescue Squad does a lot in the

community beyond responding to emergencies and helping people. They are involved in many community events and initiatives that we don't often hear about," said Ryan.

Howard Bixler was one of the first responders in attendance to accept the donation on behalf of the Martinsville Rescue Squad. He was joined by his wife, Joanne, also a first responder.

"This is wonderful and we are just thrilled," said Bixler. "Our operating costs are increasing every year. It's a constant battle to fundraise and be able to maintain our service in the community, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

John Cowley, also a member of the Martinsville Rescue Squad, added, "We're volunteers, so when local residents support us, it's greatly appreciated."

Joseph Murphy, the first place prize winner of \$2,500, filled out a sweepstakes entry form almost every day. He plans to use his winnings for home repairs. "This was such a pleasant occasion, and I feel fortunate to even be a finalist," said Murphy.

Murphy selected the Jersey Animal Coalition because he loves all animals. In fact, the charity brought along a few furry friends to celebrate, including dogs Cinnamon Bun and Apple Pie, and a cat named Nightingale. At the ceremony, Nightingale was offered to Murphy for adoption. Though Murphy said he needs to think about adopting Nightingale, he plans to visit her at the shelter.

Doria Melendez of the Jersey Animal Coalition attended on behalf of the organization. She was excited to be a finalist and even more appreciative of the generous amount donated by the bank.

"It's truly an honor for us to be here to receive this donation. Everything we offer at the Jersey Animal Coalition is donated, so today is a big deal for us," said Melendez. "Mr. Murphy's selection of us to receive Provident's donation shows that people care as much as we do for animals that need homes."

Beatrice Vogel, the \$1,250 second place prize winner, attended the announcement ceremony with her husband, Jack. She was overwhelmed to learn she was a grand prize winner, and said she entered the sweepstakes because there was an opportunity to support a charity.

"I never win anything, so I am very shocked," Vogel said. "My husband volunteers and brings food to the Monroe Township Food Pantry, where we understand there is a tremendous need."

The Vogels plan to share their winnings this holiday season with their seven grandchildren, who range in age from 23 to 43.

Bonnie Leibowitz, director of the Monroe Township Food Pantry, was thrilled to be selected as the charity to receive a matching donation.

“We are so excited and grateful to the Vogels, who are already involved in our organization and bring collected food to us each week,” said Leibowitz. “This donation will help us provide paper goods to our neighbors, something we often cannot do since they are not covered by food stamps.”

“As a community bank, Provident believes in giving back to the communities it serves. That’s why given the current economic climate, we were especially thrilled to host this sweepstakes and provide a financial boost to consumers and their favorite charities,” said Chris Martin, Provident’s president and CEO.

The “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” sweepstakes began September 9 and ended November 4. All winners were selected through random drawings.

For more information about Provident, visit www.ProvidentNJ.com or call 800-448-PROV (7768).



The three top-prize winners and charities of The Provident Bank’s “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” sweepstakes were announced on Saturday, November 19 in Iselin. The grand prize winner of \$5,000 was Richard Ryan of Bridgewater, who selected the Martinsville Rescue Squad to receive a matching donation from Provident. Pictured at the announcement ceremony **(front row, from left)** are Provident’s President and CEO Chris Martin; Martinsville Rescue Squad volunteers Debbie Manna, and Howard and JoAnne Bixler; **(back row, from left)** Richard Ryan; and John Cowley, Martinsville Rescue Squad volunteer.



The first place \$2,500 winner was Joseph Murphy of South Orange, who selected the Jersey Animal Coalition to receive a matching donation. Pictured at the in “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” announcement ceremony (**front row, from left**) are Jersey Animal Coalition volunteers Virginia Canino, Doria Melendez and Doreen Grasso; (**back row, from left**) Provident’s President and CEO Chris Martin; and Joseph Murphy of South Orange.



Beatrice Vogel (right) of Monroe Township was the second place winner in Provident’s “Give Thanks & Share the Wealth” sweepstakes. She won \$1,250 and selected the Monroe Township Food Pantry to receive a matching donation from the bank. Vogel and Bonnie Leibowitz (center) from the Monroe Township Food Pantry happily accepted their winnings from Provident’s President and CEO Chris Martin.

About The Provident Bank

With \$5 billion in deposits, The Provident Bank (www.ProvidentNJ.com) serves its customers via a network of more than 80 branches throughout northern and central New Jersey. The Provident Bank is the wholly owned subsidiary of Provident Financial Services, Inc. (NYSE:PFS), which reported assets of \$7 billion as of September 30, 2011.

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