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Wakefern at 80: The Cooperative That Redefined Independent Grocery Retail

The story of Wakefern Food Corp. is fundamentally one of adaptation, first for survival, and ultimately for leadership. What began in the uncertain aftermath of World War II as a defensive alliance among independent grocers has evolved into the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the United States, reshaping how small operators compete in a scale-driven industry.

The concept was both simple and revolutionary. By pooling their purchasing power, these grocers could negotiate more favorable pricing, improve margins, and compete more effectively against emerging chains. Just as important, Wakefern's retailer-owned governance model ensured that decision-making remained grounded in the realities of store operations, creating a structure that balanced scale with independence from the outset.

The Postwar Crisis That Sparked A Cooperative

In 1945, as World War II came to a close, the grocery industry entered a period of structural upheaval. Independent neighborhood grocers, long the backbone of American food retail, suddenly faced intensifying pressure from larger, self-service supermarkets that offered broader assortments, lower prices, and operational efficiencies that small businesses could not easily replicate.

It was within this environment that a pivotal introduction took place. In 1946, a Del Monte Foods sales representative brought together eight independent grocers in Newark, New Jersey, and introduced them to the concept of cooperative buying. Each contributed \$1,000, and on December 5 of that year, Wakefern Food Corp. was formally established.



Building A Unified Identity: The Birth Of ShopRite

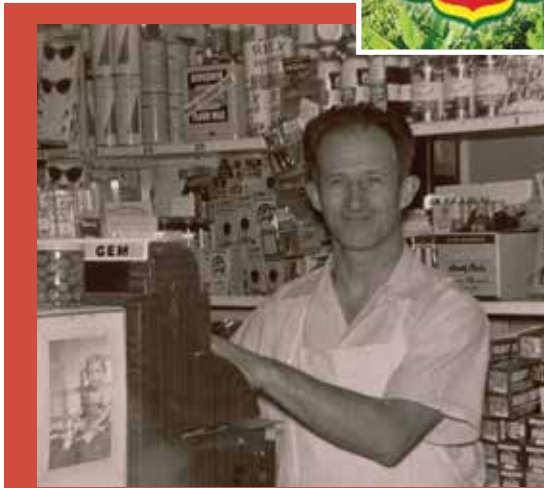
As the cooperative gained traction, its leaders recognized that purchasing efficiency alone would not be enough to compete with growing chains. Branding would be equally critical.

In 1951, Wakefern members began operating under a unified banner, ShopRite, a move that proved transformative. What had been a loose network of independent stores began to present itself to consumers as a cohesive retail identity. This shift allowed Wakefern to build brand equi-

ty across markets, streamline advertising efforts, and foster greater consumer trust.

The result was, in effect, a decentralized chain—one that delivered the advantages of scale while preserving independent ownership. It was a structural innovation that would define Wakefern's competitive position for decades.

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For Over
135
Years

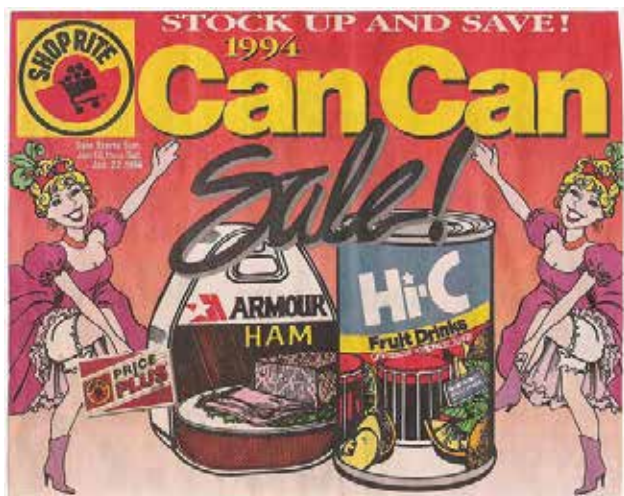
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Promotional Innovation & Customer Loyalty

By the 1970s, Wakefern had matured into a sophisticated retail organization with growing influence. In 1971, it introduced what would become one of the most recognizable promotions in supermarket history: the ShopRite Can Can Sale.

The event, centered on aggressive discounts for canned and pantry goods, quickly became a cultural touchstone in the Northeast. Its memorable advertising and consistent execution drove significant store traffic and reinforced ShopRite's value-oriented positioning. More broadly, it demonstrated the power of coordinated marketing within a cooperative structure, where independently owned stores could act in unison to create regional impact.



Expansion & Format Diversification

As the grocery industry consolidated through the latter part of the 20th century, Wakefern responded not by retreating from its independent model, but by expanding its strategic reach. The cooperative recognized that evolving consumer preferences and competitive pressures required

greater format flexibility.

This thinking materialized in 1995 with the launch of PriceRite (now Price Rite Marketplace) in Springfield, MA. The concept targeted value-driven shoppers with a limited-assortment model, allowing Wakefern and its members to compete more directly with emerging discount formats.

The move signaled a broader shift. Wakefern was no longer solely a traditional supermarket operator; it had become a multi-format organization capable of addressing diverse customer segments while maintaining the cooperative structure at its core.

Commitment To Community-Based Hunger Relief Efforts

Today, ShopRite's Partners In Caring initiative is a cornerstone of the cooperative's community outreach, reflecting its longstanding commitment to addressing food insecurity across the Northeast. Established in 1999, the program is a year-round, community-based hunger relief effort that supports thousands of local charities, including food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and senior centers. Through partnerships with food manufacturers, in-store promotions, and customer engagement, the initiative generates millions of dollars annually - contributing more than \$60 million overall - to help fund organizations on the front lines of hunger relief.



By leveraging the collective scale of its member-owned ShopRite stores, Wakefern has built Partners In Caring into one of the supermarket industry's most impactful charitable programs, directly connecting everyday shopping to meaningful community support.

Early Digital Adoption

Wakefern again demonstrated its forward-looking approach in 2002 with the launch of "ShopRite From Home," one of the earliest online grocery services in the United States. At a time when e-commerce was still in its infancy, this initiative positioned the cooperative at the forefront of digital retail innovation.

The program laid the groundwork for capabilities that would become essential years later, including order fulfillment systems, customer-facing digital interfaces, and last-mile delivery logistics. While many competitors hesitated to invest, Wakefern's early commitment allowed it to build institutional knowledge and infrastructure well ahead of broader industry adoption.

Brand Expansion & Private Label Growth

The 2010s marked a period of deliberate expansion, both in terms of retail banners and product development. Wakefern extended its reach into new markets and cus

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tomers segments through the addition of banners such as The Fresh Grocer in 2013, followed by Dearborn Market in 2015 and Gourmet Garage in 2019. Each brought distinct positioning, from urban convenience to premium specialty offerings, enabling the cooperative to diversify its portfolio while preserving local brand identities.

At the same time, Wakefern made significant investments in private label development. The introduction of Wholesome Pantry in 2016 responded to growing consumer demand for organic and clean-label products. This was followed by the launch of Bowl & Basket and Paperbird, which elevated quality and perception across core grocery categories.

Together, these initiatives reflected a broader industry shift toward premiumization, health and wellness, and brand differentiation, areas in which Wakefern demonstrated both agility and scale.

Strategic Acquisitions & Market Density

In the current decade, Wakefern and its members have continued to expand through targeted acquisitions, par-

ticularly in high-density urban markets. In 2020, Village Supermarket acquired several Fairway Market locations in Manhattan, integrating them into Wakefern's network while preserving their local identity.

Subsequent additions, including Di Bruno Bros. in 2024 and the 2025 acquisition of Morton Williams, further strengthened the cooperative's presence in key metropolitan markets. These moves illustrate a disciplined growth strategy focused on leveraging scale while maintaining the unique characteristics that define each banner.

Omnichannel Evolution

Wakefern's digital capabilities have continued to evolve alongside changing consumer expectations. In 2022, the cooperative relaunched its e-commerce platform under the banner "Order. Pickup. Deliver." This transformation reflected a broader commitment to integrating online and in-store experiences, expanding fulfillment options, and enhancing the overall customer journey.

What is particularly notable is that Wakefern has achieved this level of digital sophistication without abandoning its decentralized ownership model. Instead, it has leveraged that structure to drive innovation across diverse

markets, allowing individual members to adapt quickly while benefiting from shared infrastructure.



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A Cooperative Model That Endures

Wakefern celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2021 and now marks 80 years in 2026. Over that span, the cooperative has remained true to its founding mission: enabling independent grocers to compete successfully in an increasingly consolidated industry.

Its longevity is rooted in a balance that few organizations have achieved. The cooperative delivers the advantages of scale through centralized procurement and shared services, while preserving the entrepreneurial spirit and local responsiveness of its member-owners. This duality has allowed Wakefern not only to endure, but to lead.



Wakefern At 80 Looks Forward To Continued Growth

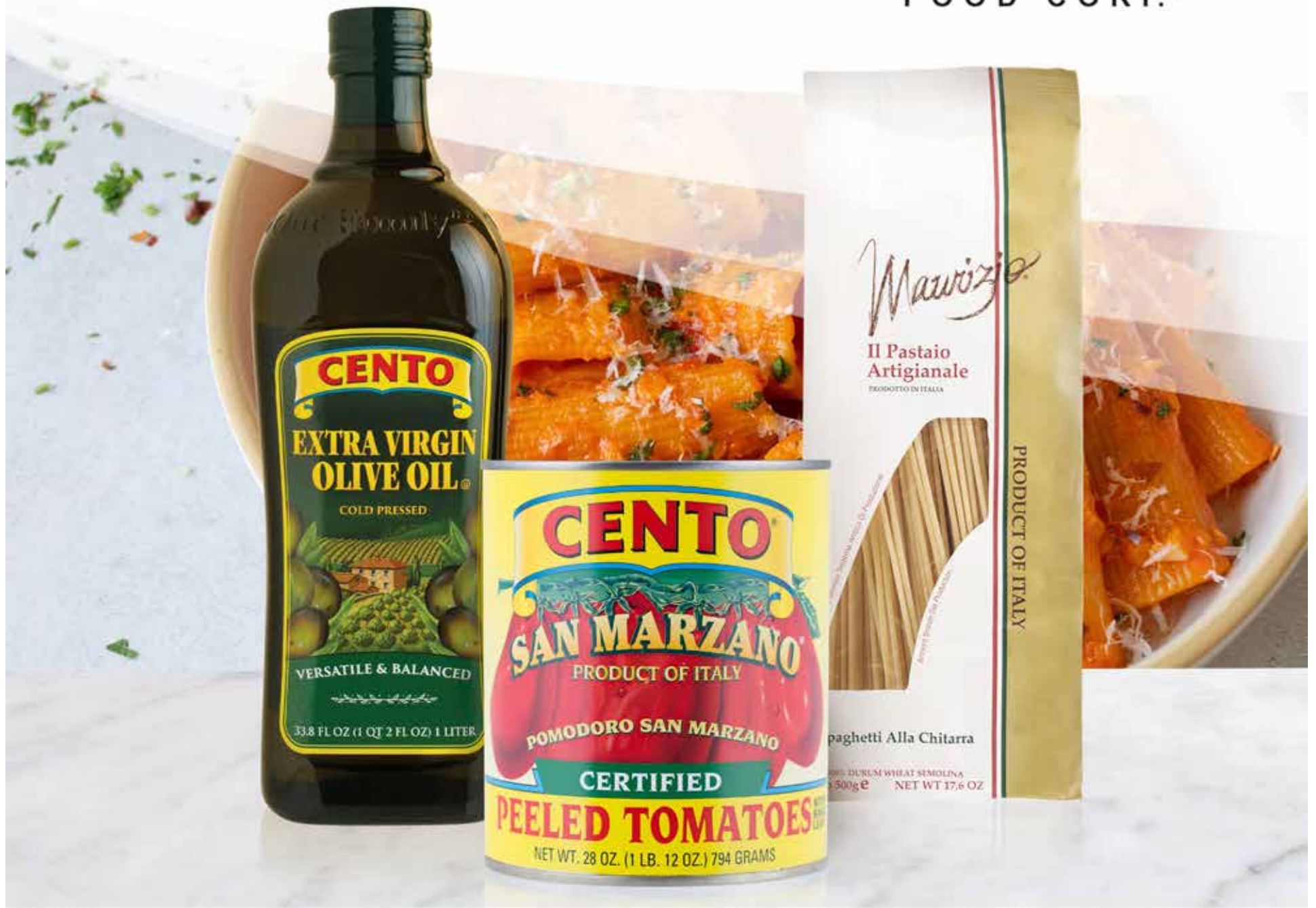
From eight Newark grocers pooling their resources in 1946 to a multi-banner, multi-billion-dollar enterprise, Wakefern's first 80 years trace the evolution of modern grocery retail. It has navigated industry consolidation, format diversification, digital disruption, and shifting consumer expectations without losing sight of its core identity.

In doing so, Wakefern has demonstrated that independence and scale are not mutually exclusive. When structured effectively, they can reinforce one another, creating a model that remains as relevant today as it was at its founding.



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Inside Today's Wakefern: A People-First Culture Built On Collaboration, Inclusion And Growth

At Wakefern Food Corp., culture is not a corporate talking point, it is a defining operational advantage. As the nation's largest retailer-owned cooperative, Wakefern has built a workplace environment that reflects its unique structure: independently owned member companies working together toward shared success. The result is a culture rooted in collaboration, centered on people and designed to foster long-term growth.

A People-First Philosophy

Wakefern explicitly defines itself as a "people first" organization, emphasizing that its success is driven by the individuals behind the business.

Rather than a top-down corporate structure, Wakefern fosters a culture where voices are heard across all levels, reflecting the cooperative model's emphasis on shared ownership and mutual support.

Collaboration At The Core

A defining feature of Wakefern's culture is its deeply em-

bedded collaborative mindset. With nearly 80,000 associates across retail banners, warehouses and corporate teams, the organization depends on cross-functional cooperation to operate effectively.

Teamwork is not just encouraged, it is essential. Associates routinely work across departments and banners, sharing insights and expertise to drive innovation and operational excellence. Leaders are expected to maintain transparency and accessibility, ensuring that collaboration flows in all directions, not just from the top down.

This interconnected structure creates a workplace where problem-solving is collective and success is shared.

A Unique Cooperative Culture

Wakefern's culture is distinct within the grocery industry because of its cooperative ownership model. Unlike traditional chains, the company is owned by its member-operators, independent retailers who collaborate under a unified system.

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TODAY'S WAKEFERN

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This structure shapes a culture that blends entrepreneurial independence with collective strength. Member-owners are empowered to tailor their businesses to local communities while benefiting from shared resources, expertise and scale.

Internally, this translates into a workplace that feels both large and personal, often described by associates as “family-oriented,” where relationships and mentorship play a central role in day-to-day operations.

Investment In Learning And Development

Wakefern’s commitment to its people extends directly into education and professional development. The company offers structured pathways for growth, including internships, leadership training and ongoing learning opportunities.

Programs are designed to cultivate future leaders, while internship experiences provide hands-on exposure across disciplines, from logistics to marketing and digital commerce.

In addition, Wakefern supports continuous learning through workshops, networking opportunities and partnerships with educational institutions, giving associates access to degree programs and skill-building resources that advance their careers.

The emphasis is clear: developing talent is not optional, it is integral to sustaining the cooperative’s long-term success.

A Culture That Drives Performance

Wakefern’s culture ultimately aligns with its business model. By prioritizing people, encouraging collaboration and investing in development, the cooperative creates an environment where innovation and operational excellence can thrive.

It is this combination - human-centered values, shared ownership and continuous learning - that distinguishes Wakefern from traditional grocery operators. The culture is not only a reflection of the company’s identity; it is a strategic asset that enables its member-owners and associates to grow together in an increasingly competitive retail landscape.





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Chairman Sean McMenamín: Guiding Wakefern With Grocer's Perspective, Cooperative Vision

Sean McMenamín was named Chairman of Wakefern Food Corp. in October 2023, replacing outgoing Chairman Joe Colalillo. McMenamín's appointment coincided with the addition of Mike Stigers as the co-op's new President, who replaced the retiring long-time leader Joe Sheridan. McMenamín is also president of McMenamín Family ShopRite, a second-generation family-owned business

that operates two stores in the Philadelphia community. Like many Wakefern owner-members, McMenamín started in his family's stores while in high school before earning his law degree and working outside the family business for a number of years. In 2008, he rejoined the family business as VP and General Counsel before succeeding his father Rich McMenamín as President in 2014.



Food World/Food Trade News: What is it like to be the chairman of a cooperative?

Sean McMenamín: Wakefern is a family of family-run businesses. It's very rewarding to be part of a company that is supporting entrepreneurs and helping ensure that the next generation is positioned for growth. Every member, whether they operate one store or dozens, is an equal part of our Cooperative. Our structure reflects that commitment: one member, one vote, with representation that ensures all voices are heard and con-

“ There's a deep culture of knowledge-sharing & mentorship across generations, where experienced operators and next-generation owners learn from one another. That sense of fellowship and shared problem-solving is what truly sets Wakefern apart and creates an environment where independent retailers can succeed — not just today, but well into the future.”

sidered. That inclusivity is essential to our strength and long-term success.

In a Cooperative, whether you are participating in a committee or a member of our Board of Directors, you are making decisions that are in the best interests of all members. Our committee structure plays a critical role in that process, bringing members and our corporate teams together to collaborate, exchange ideas, and solve problems. Those discussions keep our strategy grounded in real-world experience and reinforce Wakefern's mission — to serve independent, family-owned grocers who are deeply invested in their businesses and communities — to help small business succeed in a big business world.

To that end, Wakefern's long-term vision for success includes a focus on the future generation of owners. Supporting succession planning and helping prepare the next generation of leadership ensures that our members' family businesses — and the Cooperative itself — remain strong for decades to come. As we mark Wakefern's 80th anniversary this year, that mindset is key to making sure we're here and thriving for the next 80 years.

Food World/Food Trade News: What has been the impact of growing up in the family business and now being a second-generation owner?

Sean McMenamín: Watching my parents build the

business and working in our stores during high school instilled a deep appreciation for hard work and perseverance.

I eventually got my law degree and worked in that field until coming back into the business in 2008. I credit early exposure to my family's stores and to the larger Wakefern family for bringing me back to the business.

Being a second-generation owner also gives me a strong appreciation for succession planning and the importance of preparing the next generation. I've seen how thoughtful transitions, including in our own family, from our parents to my sister and myself, help preserve family legacies while positioning businesses for future growth. That perspective carries into my role as chairman, where supporting next-generation owners is an important priority for the Cooperative.

It also reinforces something bigger — that independent grocers represent a very real version of the American Dream. Many of our members started with a single store and built multi-generational businesses rooted in their communities. Wakefern's Cooperative model helps ensure that legacy can continue, providing opportunity and a pathway forward for future generations. That's really important in this super competitive climate where big retailers dominate.

Food World/Food Trade News: What is Wake-

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MCMENAMIN

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fern doing to build the best environment for independent retailers?

Sean McMnamin: Wakefern is designed to give independent retailers the best of both worlds: the ability to leverage the strength and resources of a large, sophisticated organization while maintaining that entrepreneurial spirit that drives innovation. Through cen-

tralized Cooperative services — from technology and advertising to logistics, engineering, and marketing—we allow members of every size to compete effectively while also preserving their independence and local identity. They live and work in the communities where their stores operate and they know their shoppers well.

We are also looking at new and innovative ways to grow and sustain the Cooperative for the next generation with an added focus on growing our brands and wholesale business and implementing innovative tech-

nology such as AI to enhance the shopping experience.

The Cooperative's collaborative and supportive environment also means that no member faces challenges alone. There's a deep culture of knowledge-sharing and mentorship across generations, where experienced operators and next-generation owners learn from one another. That sense of fellowship and shared problem-solving is what truly sets Wakefern apart and creates an environment where independent retailers can succeed — not just today, but well into the future.

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Q&A With Wakefern Food Corp. President Mike Stigers

As Wakefern Food Corp. marks its 80th anniversary, the cooperative enters a new chapter focused on growth, innovation, and long-term success for its members. Leading Wakefern into this milestone era is President Mike Stigers, whose deep industry experience and proven leadership position the organization well for the future. Stigers brings decades of retail and wholesale expertise, having begun his career at Safeway in 1974 and

gone on to hold senior leadership roles at companies including PW Supermarkets, Sterilox Fresh, and Supervalu, where he served as president of Shaw's and Star Market. Most recently, he was CEO of Cub Foods, owned by UNFI. *Food World* and *Food Trade News* recently sat down with Stigers to discuss his role as Wakefern's day-to-day leader and his vision for the cooperative's next chapter.



Food World/Food Trade News: When you accepted the Wakefern offer to become president, what were your incoming expectations about what the job would entail?

Mike Stigers: When the opportunity to join Wakefern presented itself, I saw it as a chance to lead one of the most respected cooperatives in the industry and to work within a wholesale model I strongly believe in. When a wholesaler does its job well, it creates a level playing field that enables its Members to compete effectively in a very large and competitive marketplace. That philosophy is foundational to Wakefern, and it aligned closely with how I've

approached leadership throughout my career.

I was also drawn to the people and the strong entrepreneurial spirit that defines the grocery business, and especially Wakefern's Member families. Since joining, there has been no shortage of opportunities to explore the many ways we can continue to grow, innovate, and support our Members.

Food World/Food Trade News: Nearly three years into the role, what are some things you've learned, or perspectives you've gained, that you didn't expect going in?

Mike Stigers: One of the biggest learnings for me, and something you really have to experience firsthand to fully appreciate, is the depth and effectiveness of Wakefern's committee structure and the level of Member involvement. I grew up in a cooperative environment at Certified Grocers in California, which also had a co-op board, but many Members largely operated independently within that model.

At Wakefern, the way the Cooperative was founded, how it evolved, and ultimately how it has succeeded is truly unique. Working so closely and consistently with the Members through committees, programs, and day-to-day collaboration is not only productive, it's energizing. The level of integration between the Member families, their companies, and the Wakefern team is something special and not easily replicated.

That close partnership is a real differentiator.

Food World/Food Trade News: Wakefern has a long history of disciplined growth and strong retail execution. How are you bringing clarity and focus to the strategic priorities that guide the organization today, and how do those focus areas support Wakefern's growth plans going forward?

Mike Stigers: We're building on what has always made Wakefern successful, while ensuring we have a steady, sustainable growth platform identifying those meaningful opportunities that are ahead.

At the same time, we're laser focused on strengthening

our retail brands - ShopRite, Price Rite Marketplace, The Fresh Grocer, Dearborn Market, Fairway, Di Bruno Bros., Morton Williams, and Gourmet Garage. Retail performance is the engine of the Cooperative, and our priority is to continue to support and grow these banners in ways that create long term value for our Members and our customers.

Another important area is growing the Cooperative thoughtfully through strategic business units and complementary opportunities. Di Bruno Bros. is a great example of that approach. While Wakefern owns the CPG side of the Di Bruno Bros. business, the Brown family operates two retail stores under the same name.

We also remain focused on expanding in markets where we can build scale and operational strength. The acquisition of Morton Williams last October was a strong example of that strategy and a natural fit for the Cooperative.

Taken together, these focus areas are about reinforcing Wakefern's core competencies, retail excellence and wholesale strength, while positioning the cooperative for steady, long term growth that benefits Member families for generations to come.

Food World/Food Trade News: What are your goals for independent wholesaling?

Mike Stigers: Our goal in independent wholesaling is to continue growing the distribution opportunities where

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we can add real value. We are fortunate to have very strong Cooperative members who perform extremely well, and at the same time, we see opportunities to provide select wholesale services to non member retailers.

We've been very pleased with the consistent growth we've seen on the wholesale side, which reinforces the strength of our capabilities, our scale, and our service model. Ultimately, our focus is on expanding responsibly and in ways that complement the Cooperative, strengthen our distribution network, and support long term, sustainable growth.

Food World/Food Trade News: You've led privately held organizations for much of your career, and during the past three years there's been a clear emphasis on accessibility and communication. How have you and the leadership team approached building a sense of openness?

Mike Stigers: At the core of our approach is a strong belief in servant leadership. We try to practice what I often describe as using two ears and one mouth, listening more than we speak. When we take the time to truly listen, we create better dialogue, stronger understanding, and ultimately better outcomes. Our role as leaders is to provide opportunities, offer thoughtful options, and share guidance that helps our Members and customers succeed.

Communication is central to that philosophy. We work hard to maintain an open, consistent dialogue across the organization. Internally, we've put a strong emphasis on

reaching teammates where they are. Chief Communications Officer Karen Meleta and I host a podcast every other week to share updates, priorities, and perspectives directly with the Wakefern team. We also bring in guest speakers, including members of our executive leadership team and, at times, our Member-owners themselves. It's an important way to keep everyone connected and informed.

Beyond structured communications, we place a lot of value on being present. I spend time visiting different facilities, offices, and distribution centers, and simply talking with people. Those informal conversations often provide the most honest insights and are incredibly valuable.

With our members, Chairman Sean McMenamain and I make it a priority to spend time with the Member families whenever possible. Those visits are not only essential to strong governance and partnership, they are also one of the most enjoyable and meaningful aspects of the role.

And when it comes to the broader food community, particularly our supplier and service partners, transparency and mutual respect are equally important. We cannot be successful without strong, collaborative relationships with our suppliers, and we work hard to ensure they feel respected, valued, and very much part of the Wakefern team.

Ultimately, I think of my responsibilities in terms of three constituencies. First are our Member families and owners. Right alongside them are our teammates. And the third group I feel deeply accountable to is our supplier partners. Serving all three with openness, respect, and clear communication is essential to how we operate every day.

Food World/Food Trade News: One of the cornerstones

of Wakefern's success is the ability of the families that own stores to perpetuate their businesses to ensuing generations. How do you see Wakefern's role in that succession planning?

Mike Stigers: Multi generational ownership is one of the most exciting and enduring strengths of Wakefern and the cooperative model. Today, we have Member families operating businesses in their fourth, fifth, and even sixth generations, which speaks volumes about the foundation that has been built over the past 80 years.

Each family approaches succession a little differently, but there's a common theme we hear time and again: younger generations are encouraged to pursue their education, gain experience outside the business, and then return only if it's truly what they want to do. When they do come back, they're committed, engaged, and passionate—and that makes a meaningful difference.

Wakefern plays an important role in supporting that transition through structured education and development programs. One of the most notable is our Next Gen program, which is a disciplined, 18 month curriculum designed to immerse future leaders in how the cooperative operates. Participants engage in meetings, introductions, and learning sessions that help them understand both Wakefern and their role within their family businesses.

More broadly, we've doubled down on education across the organization by partnering with a number of outstanding universities, including Rutgers, Kean, Cornell, Saint

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Q&A WITH MIKE STIGERS

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Joseph's, Western Michigan, and more recently, the University of Southern California. These partnerships allow us to support learning and development at every stage and ensure our Members have access to best in class resources.

Succession planning is not just about continuity, it's about preparing the next generation to lead with confidence, perspective, and a deep understanding of the cooperative values that have made Wakefern successful for decades.

Food World/Food Trade News: USC is a school that you've been involved with for a long time.

Mike Stigers: Yes, USC is a program I've been connected to for quite some time. My involvement began through the Western Association of Food Chains and its

“Having a diverse portfolio of retail brands is one of Wakefern's greatest strengths. Over time, we've become very intentional about how each brand is differentiated, and we've established brand standards for each one. At the end of the day, our priority is to create maximum value for the Member owner by ensuring the right brand is matched to the right market.”

Food Industry Management (FIM) program, which has played an important role in developing leaders across the industry. Wakefern is now in our third year of sending teammates through the FIM program, and this year we have two high potential leaders beginning their coursework. Looking ahead, we're also planning to have Member family participants attend the program next year.

What's important to emphasize is that we're very intentional about how we approach education across all our university partnerships. Each institution offers something distinct, with learning outcomes that are unique and highly complementary. These programs don't com-

pete with one another—they strengthen one another. We take the time to understand what each school does best and align those offerings with the specific needs of our Members and our leadership teams.

We truly believe in lifelong learning, and continued education is one of the key ingredients in how the next generation views both the grocery industry and the leadership opportunities within it.

Programs like FIM are especially valuable because they help students understand that they're part of something much larger than a single company or family business. They gain perspective on the size, scope, and importance of the food industry as a whole—and the critical role it plays in communities across the country. Being a successful Wakefern Member means contributing to an industry that does extraordinary things every day, and that perspective matters.

Food World/Food Trade News: Wakefern's portfolio includes a diverse mix of retail brands that serve different communities and customer needs, with ShopRite serving as the flagship. How do The Fresh Grocer and Price Rite fit into Wakefern's broader retail strategy today, and how do newer additions such as Di Bruno Bros. and Morton Williams factor into the cooperative's growth approach?

Mike Stigers: Having a diverse portfolio of retail brands is one of Wakefern's greatest strengths. Over time, we've become very intentional about how each brand is differentiated, and we've established brand standards for each one. At the end of the day, our priority is to create maximum value for the Member owner by ensuring the right brand is matched to the right market.

ShopRite is, of course, our flagship brand and the cornerstone of the Cooperative. At the same time, there are markets where, based on demographics, location, and the competitive landscape, another banner may be better suited to meet the needs of the community. In some cases, that might be a Fresh Grocer. In others, a Price Rite or Fairway format, for example.

As we look ahead, that same disciplined approach applies to some of our newer brands. In the right neighborhood or urban setting, a Di Bruno Bros. may be the best fit. The goal is not to force a one size fits all solution, but rather to thoughtfully deploy the brand that gives our members the highest likelihood of operating a successful business while serving the community well.

As we continue to curate and further define brand standards – it expands our ability to evaluate new growth opportunities with greater precision. It allows us to say, with confidence, “Yes, we have a retail brand that fits this neighborhood and this community,” and to support our Members in building strong, sustainable operations across a wide range of markets.

Food World/Food Trade News: Let's talk a little more about one of the newer brands, Di Bruno's. What was

your thinking with those types of acquisitions, and can we expect continued aggressive activity in terms of M&A?

Mike Stigers: We will always continue to look at opportunities to grow and expand in ways that make sense for the Cooperative and our members. That includes evaluating acquisitions where Wakefern can either support our Members as they pursue opportunities or, when appropriate, make strategic investments directly as an organization for the benefit of the cooperative Members as a whole.

Di Bruno Bros. was an opportunity that originated with one of our Member families. The Brown family was interested in acquiring the retail side of the business, while Wakefern had the ability to take on and expand the CPG side of the brand. That combination created a natural, complementary fit.

What's been especially exciting is how quickly that brand has grown. In less than two full years, Di Bruno Bros. products are now being sold across the country, which speaks to both the strength of the brand and the scalability of the model.

Overall, we view M&A as a strategic tool, not an end in itself. We'll continue to evaluate opportunities thoughtfully, with a focus on how they strengthen the Cooperative, complement our core competencies, and ultimately create additional value for our Members.

Food World/Food Trade News: Mergers and acquisitions-wise, is there anything on the horizon?

Mike Stigers: We've been very busy over the past few years, and a good deal of our focus right now is on fully integrating and building on the investments we've already made. That said, we're always looking ahead. A couple of years ago, we said that Wakefern was “open for business,” and that message has resonated well across the industry, with our members, our supplier partners, and others who recognize the strength and stability of the Cooperative.

We're in a strong position to evaluate opportunities as they arise and, when appropriate, make thoughtful decisions in partnership with our Board. At the same time, our primary focus every single day is executing at a very high level across the brands we operate and support—ShopRite, Price Rite, The Fresh Grocer, Dearborn Market, Morton Williams, Fairway, Gourmet Garage and Di Bruno Bros.

While we remain disciplined in running the best retail brands possible and serving as a strong “backstage” partner for our member families, we also have the experience and capability to look ahead and evaluate what's next. Growth, both organic and strategic, remains important, and we're focused on doing it in a way that strengthens the Cooperative and the brands we're very proud of.

Food World/Food Trade News: Thank you very much.



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Wakefern's Multi-Banner Strategy: How Each Retail Brand Delivers Distinct Value To Shoppers

As the nation's largest retailer-owned supermarket cooperative, Wakefern Food Corp. operates a diverse portfolio of retail banners designed to serve different customer segments, geographies and shopping missions. With more than 380 stores across the Northeast, each banner is "uniquely tailored to the communities they serve," enabling the co-op to compete across value, convenience, specialty and premium tiers.

ShopRite is the cooperative's cornerstone and largest banner, representing the broadest expression of its capabilities. Often described as the "workhorse" of the organization, ShopRite delivers a traditional full-service supermarket experience built on three pillars: value, assortment and community connection.

Customers benefit from extensive product variety, strong fresh departments and a robust private label portfolio, all supported by locally owned operators who tailor merchandising to neighborhood needs. This combination positions ShopRite as a high-volume, high-value destination for weekly grocery shopping.

Price Rite Marketplace serves value-conscious shoppers through a streamlined, limited-assortment format. By carrying fewer SKUs and focusing on high-turn essentials, the banner delivers consistently low prices while maintaining a strong emphasis on fresh foods.

Its operating model - similar to hard discounters - prioritizes efficiency and affordability, making it particularly effective in urban and price-sensitive markets where accessibility to low-cost groceries is critical.

The Fresh Grocer blends full-service supermarket offerings with an elevated emphasis on fresh and prepared foods. Stores are designed to highlight perishables - produce, meat, seafood and ready-to-eat meals - while maintaining a convenient neighborhood footprint.

This banner appeals to urban and suburban shoppers seeking quality fresh options and meal solutions without sacrificing the accessibility of a local grocery store.

Dearborn Market represents Wakefern's entry into the farm market-style, specialty grocery segment. Known for its high-quality produce, gourmet items and prepared foods, the banner emphasizes freshness, local sourcing and an experiential shopping environment.

Its value proposition centers on premium quality and differentiation, appealing to customers willing to trade up for specialty offerings and a curated assortment.

Gourmet Garage is tailored to dense urban environments,

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MULTI-BANNER STRATEGY

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particularly New York City. The banner focuses on convenience, ready-to-eat meals and premium grocery essentials for time-pressed consumers.

With an emphasis on grab-and-go offerings and curated assortments, Gourmet Garage meets the needs of city shoppers who prioritize speed, quality and proximity over large-format selection.

Fairway Market brings a legacy of specialty retailing and destination shopping to Wakefern's portfolio. Known for its expansive assortment of gourmet, international and specialty products, Fairway delivers a highly differentiated, experience-driven environment.

The banner's value lies in discovery and quality, appealing to food enthusiasts and urban shoppers seeking unique items beyond conventional supermarket assortments.

Morton Williams operates as a neighborhood-centric, upscale supermarket with a strong emphasis on fresh prepared foods and customer service. Many locations are designed for convenience, including extended or 24-hour operations in dense urban markets.

Its proposition combines premium perishables, chef-driven offerings and localized service, making it a go-to option for city residents seeking both quality and convenience.

A Portfolio Built For Market Coverage

Wakefern's banner strategy is not redundant, rather it is deliberately segmented. From the high-volume value orientation of ShopRite to the discount efficiency of Price Rite Marketplace, and from the fresh-forward positioning of The Fresh Grocer to the premium specialization of Fairway and Dearborn Market, each banner fills a distinct role.

This diversified approach enables the cooperative to compete across multiple retail formats and customer demographics, while empowering its member-owners to operate stores that reflect the specific needs of their communities.



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Wakefern's Own Brands Keep Growing As Value, Quality, And Fresh Expansion Drive Demand

Wakefern Food Corp. has built one of the most robust private label programs in the supermarket industry, and according to Chief Sales Officer Darren Caudill, the cooperative's own brands are thriving because they deliver two on things shoppers care about most: quality and value.

Wakefern's own brands portfolio is anchored by Bowl & Basket and Paperbird, two lines that, Caudill said, have become highly popular with customers across grocery and household categories—alongside Wholesome Pantry, its better for you brand focused on organic and free from products.

“Our own brands are concentrated primarily in grocery and household categories, including Bowl & Basket and Paperbird,” Caudill said. “In many cases, the quality meets or exceeds the national brands we sell every day. And in every case, they deliver real value for our customers.”

That balance has been critical as shoppers continue to feel pressure from inflation and broader economic uncertainty. Caudill noted that consumers are looking for ways to stretch their budgets without giving up the experiences they want for their families. “They're looking for value, but they still want their families to enjoy great experiences,” he said. “And our own brands products help deliver that.”



While private label growth has become a major trend across retail, Caudill believes Wakefern's success reflects a shift in how customers perceive store brands. “Customers no longer feel they're buying inferior products,” he said. “Delivering high-quality products at



a strong, everyday value is really what's driving that momentum.”

“We're now expanding into new areas of the store, including wellness and baby,” Caudill added, pointing to efforts to rebrand wellness products into categories such as vitamins and baby care.

Fresh is another area where Wakefern's private label program is gaining momentum, particularly in produce and organics.

“Fresh is really where our own brands are taking off,” Caudill said. “Organic has become a selling initiative for us across the board, and the cornerstone of that effort is our own brand.”

That organic growth is being led by Wholesome Pantry, Wakefern's better for you brand. “Wholesome Pantry began as our free from offering,” Caudill said, “and today it also includes a broad assortment of organic products.”

The appeal, he added, is that shoppers can often access organic quality at a more affordable price point. “In many cases, customers can get the higher quality of organic products at the same price as non-organic national brands,” Caudill said. “That delivers incredible value for the consumer.”

Looking ahead, Wakefern is preparing to extend its Price Rite Marketplace private label beyond the discount banner's stores, adding another value tier for budget-conscious shoppers. “As we progress through 2026, you'll see an expansion of our Price Rite brand across all of our stores,” Caudill said, “to serve customers who are looking for extra value.”

For Wakefern, private label is not simply a response to economic cycles, but a long-term strategy shaped by enduring consumer expectations. “As long as I've been selling groceries, customers' expectations of getting the best quality at the best price have never changed,” Caudill said. “Private label is just how that expectation has come to life.”

Shaping the future of in-store experiences with Wakefern

Wakefern and Instacart partner to bring AI-powered smart carts across banners — making in-store shopping personalized, rewarding, and fun for the whole family



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Inside Wakefern's Marketing Engine: A Cooperative Approach Drives Retailer Success



Francisco Alberto
Vice President of Sales & Marketing

At Wakefern Food Corp., marketing functions as a true collaborative engine, one designed to power the success of its independent retailer members. Under the direction of Francisco Alberto, vice president of sales and marketing, that engine has become increasingly disciplined, data-driven and deeply rooted in the real-world experience of the cooperative's member-owners.

Alberto, a New Jersey native who started at Wakefern as a receiving clerk, brings all his past career experience at the cooperative to his latest role as VP of Sales and Marketing. Over more than two decades, he has built expertise across logistics, procurement and merchandising along with a keen understanding of how to execute on strategy. That experience helps shape a marketing organization that balances creativity with practicality, ensuring programs work not just on paper, but in stores.

At the core of Wakefern's marketing approach is rigorous planning supported by constant refinement and review. Alberto and his team manage annual, quarterly

and weekly strategies aligned with shopper preferences, seasonal cycles and sales priorities. Each day begins with performance reviews, daily "report cards" that track results and guide real-time adjustments.

The discipline allows the organization to fine-tune promotions and messaging with speed and precision. Campaigns are designed to reach the right customers at the right moments, including culturally significant marketing initiatives such as this year's World Cup promotions and the nation's 250th anniversary, as well as campaigns that resonate across diverse communities and reflect the priorities of Wakefern's member-owners.

One campaign Alberto is especially proud of is Juntos - meaning "together" - a program presented by ShopRite and Unilever during Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15. Through a series of instore events, Juntos celebrates Hispanic culture, com-

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SALES & MARKETING

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munity, and connection, culminating in a \$30,000 donation to organizations that support families experiencing food insecurity.

The cooperative structure also plays a pivotal role in shaping marketing strategy. Alberto and his team spend significant time working directly with member-owners through committees and planning groups that review and refine marketing plans before they reach the marketplace. Discussions are often detailed and spirited, but the benefits are tangible for retailers and customers. Close alignment across merchandising, marketing and store operations teams ensure every initiative supports shared goals, and because programs are informed by Wakefern members, they are more actionable and better suited to the store floor.

“Striking that balance - making sure we fully leverage member expertise while creating scalable marketing plans - is one of the most complex but rewarding parts of my role,” Alberto said. “It’s also what truly sets us apart. I take great pride in knowing that what we do impacts millions of shoppers on a weekly basis.”

Under the leadership of President Mike Stigers, who joined Wakefern in June 2023, Wakefern has embraced new ways of thinking, increased its use of technology, and reexamined how it supports both members and shoppers to drive a more entrepreneurial and customer-centric mindset for future growth.

That momentum is particularly important as Wakefern expands beyond its



traditional footprint. Growth into new markets and customer segments, including banners such as DiBruno Bros. and Morton Williams, presents new opportunities for member-owners.

“This idea of growing beyond our sandbox and our pond, so to speak, is exciting and energizing,” said Alberto.

Ultimately, though, he points to a more fundamental driver behind Wakefern’s success.

“People really care here,” he said. “They go the extra mile, sometimes many extra miles, to make sure what we deliver is the right product and that it drives results. It’s about understanding that we’re all part of something bigger than ourselves. That mindset has always been a strength of Wakefern.”



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Inside Wakefern's Wholesale Momentum With Michael Day



Michael Day
SVP of Business Development,
Member Services and Wholesale

In his nearly 26 years at Wakefern, Michael Day has held a range of roles, steadily rising through the organization to his current position as Senior Vice President of Business Development, Member Services and Wholesale.

In this broad and interconnected role, Day supports Wakefern's eight-banner retail portfolio of more than 380 stores while partnering closely with Wakefern Member families - independent grocers who collectively own and operate hundreds of these supermarkets across the Mid-Atlantic region. His responsibilities focus on business development across market research, site development, retail operations, engineering, and indirect (not for resale) procurement.

"The team supports not only our Members, but also our wholesale business and independent retailers across our trade area - and around the world," Day said.

Also under Day's purview is Wakefern's Di Bruno Bros. specialty product business, which strengthens the cooperative's value and offering. Wakefern acquired the Di Bruno Bros. brand and product line in 2024, expanding access to premium, differentiated products that enhance assortment and support Member competitiveness across banners. That same year, Brown's Super Stores - a longtime Wakefern member - acquired the Di Bruno Bros. retail locations.

One of Wakefern's most significant growth areas over the past two years has been its wholesale division, which accelerated following the appointment of Mike Stigers as President in June 2023.

"Wakefern has been very focused on growing its business



by welcoming independent grocers with diverse operating models across the Northeast," Day said. "The three most recent new families into the cooperative - Nicholas Markets, Madison Foods, and Gerrity's - each serve distinct markets and customer needs. Their addition reflects the strength and flexibility of our cooperative model and our ability to support independent retailers across multiple banners, including not only ShopRite but also The Fresh Grocer, Price Rite Marketplace, Fairway and Gourmet Garage. That breadth allows grocers to operate in the way that best fits their communities, while benefiting from the scale, support, and shared resources of the cooperative."

"Mike Stigers brings a deep wholesale perspective to Wakefern," Day said. "His extensive industry experience has opened new doors for the cooperative and sharpened how we support independent grocers. Over the past 12 to 18 months, that expertise has driven meaningful wholesale momentum, attracting additional independent groups - including several international retailers - and reinforcing both the strength of our model and our ability to better support our Members."

In 2025, Wakefern acquired Morton Williams, a 17-store independent grocer, including 16 locations in New York City and one in Jersey City, NJ. Wakefern elected to operate the formerly family-owned business as a standalone business unit.

With such a wide ranging role at Wakefern, what does Day see as the most rewarding aspects of his job?

"The most rewarding part of my role is seeing the families operating the stores have success in the communities they serve," Day said. "Building strong, mutually beneficial partnerships—and being able to support them in a variety of ways - is incredibly rewarding."

With the recent Di Bruno Bros. and Morton Williams additions - and the continued acceleration of Wakefern's

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¹Silk Protein Original. 4g sugar/cup; reduced fat milk: 11g sugar/cup. USDA FoodData Central, 2025.

*Not a low calorie food

WHOLESALE
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wholesale business - does Day see the cooperative continuing to pursue new growth opportunities?

"I think we're just at the tip of the iceberg," Day said. And we're continuing to focus on identifying additional growth opportunities where we can leverage our scale and work closely with independent retailers to drive greater volume and shared success."

He pointed to Wakefern's people as a key differentiator. "One of our greatest strengths is the talent and expertise across Wakefern, combined with the entrepreneurial spirit and deep grocery knowledge of our Members," he said. "Our mission is helping small businesses succeed in a big business world, and our teams apply hands on support so independent grocers can do what they do best - serve their customers and build strong businesses rooted in their communities."

"What hasn't changed since the day I joined Wakefern," Day added, "is our focus on taking care of the customer, growing the cooperative, and winning in our markets while helping the communities we serve."



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Wakefern's Digital and eCommerce Growth Accelerates Through Omnichannel Convenience and Social Engagement



Darren Caudill
Chief Sales Officer

Wakefern Food Corp. has emerged as one of the supermarket industry's most forward thinking retailers in digital commerce, leveraging home delivery, pickup, personalization, and social media to meet shoppers where they are. Chief Sales Officer Darren Caudill said Wakefern, through ShopRite, has been an early innovator in eCommerce for decades.

"One of the fun things about coming to a company as successful as Wakefern is seeing how early they were to adopt so many innovations across the industry," Caudill said. "Home delivery is a great example."

Today, Wakefern operates a multi pronged approach to online grocery. At its core is the pickup and delivery program, fulfilled directly by member stores and offering shoppers a key advantage: consistent pricing.

"The magic of that program is that pricing online is identical to pricing in-store," Caudill said. "Customers can use their loyalty cards and digital coupons, and there's no variation between store, delivery, or pickup."

That approach has resonated strongly with shoppers, while the cooperative's eCommerce channel continues to scale through major third party marketplaces such as Instacart and DoorDash. "We're active in that space as well," Caudill said. "Both of those models are growing very quickly, just like our store fulfilled pickup and delivery program."

Caudill emphasized that shoppers choose different platforms based on their lifestyle needs, whether that's subscriptions, convenience, or delivery preferences. "It doesn't matter which model a customer chooses," he said. "They pick the one that best fits their lifestyle."

That investment in eCommerce is paying off in a significant way. According to Caudill, digital shopping is now the cooperative's single largest driver of growth. "By far, the biggest piece of our current growth is coming from our eCommerce efforts," he said.

Particularly impactful are omnichannel shoppers, who tend to spend more both online and in-store. "If you're an eCommerce customer and you come into the store, you typically spend more than our non eCommerce customers," Caudill said. "They're a much more valuable customer for us."

Wakefern is also refining how it delivers digital value through a more focused coupon strategy.

"We've always been committed to finding the best way to deliver the lowest prices and the greatest value to consumers," Caudill said. "Digital coupons are simply another tool in the toolbox."

Rather than overwhelming shoppers with offers, Wakefern is partnering closely with manufacturers to deliver more meaningful, targeted savings.

"We're much more intentional in our approach," he said. "We



work closely with our manufacturers to ask, 'How can we unlock additional cost relief so we can pass those savings directly to the customer at the shelf?'"

The retailer is also leveraging customer intelligence and AI through its partnership with Birdzi, which powers personalized rewards and promotions.

"This isn't about offering a discount and hoping it's something you want," Caudill said. "It's about understanding what you actually like to buy, and saying thank you with discounts on the things that matter most to you."

Beyond commerce and personalization, Wakefern is expanding its social media presence through influencers and emerging social selling platforms. "We currently work with traditional social media influencers," Caudill said, noting that the creators are selected based on the audience and message.

In food retail, he sees influencers as less about price-driven promotion and more about inspiration. "It's not about selling a product at a certain price," Caudill said. "It's about helping with meal solutions and making them easy to execute."

Wakefern is also beginning to explore direct commerce through platforms such as TikTok Shop and Facebook Shop. "We're really just at the beginning of using social selling," Caudill said. "We're starting to experiment with it." Ultimately, he believes the approach resonates because food is deeply emotional and personal for consumers.

"Food is about passion," he said. "Whether it's a birthday, a holiday, or another special occasion, so many of our most meaningful moments are built around food and the experiences we share."

With eCommerce growth accelerating, AI driven personalization expanding, and social commerce emerging, Wakefern is positioning itself at the center of the modern, omnichannel grocery experience.

"People are pressed for time," Caudill said. "When groceries can come to the customer instead of the customer having to go find them, there's real value in that, especially for time constrained shoppers."

It is by far the largest piece of our current growth is coming out of eCommerce play. If you're an eCommerce customer and you come in the store, you tend to spend more money when you're in the store than our non-eCommerce customers. They're a much more valuable customer to us."



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Wakefern Expands ShopRite Pharmacy's Role In Wellness With GLP-1 Support, Central Fill Plans And A Long-Term Growth Vision

Wakefern Food Corp. is evolving ShopRite Pharmacy beyond the traditional role of dispensing prescriptions, with a growing emphasis on wellness, patient outcomes and deeper integration into the grocery store experience.

As Wakefern's VP of Pharmacy and Wellness, Aaron Sapp oversees day-to-day pharmacy operations across the cooperative and is helping shape a strategy that connects ShopRite Pharmacy care directly to how customers live, shop and manage their health.

"From a wellness perspective, ShopRite Pharmacy plays a key role within the four walls of our grocery stores. Our super-market pharmacies sit at a unique intersection of medicine and food -- two important drivers of everyday health," said Sapp.

That setting, he noted, gives Wakefern an advantage compared with stand-alone pharmacies.

"We believe there's a real opportunity to help our customers and provide products both in the pharmacy and in our super-market aisles that can complement people's wellness goals."

Because of that, ShopRite pharmacies are increasingly working across store departments to help customers navigate what Sapp calls their "health journey."



Aaron Sapp
VP of Pharmacy and Wellness

Wellness Your Way & GLP-1 Support Programs

One recent example of the integration between ShopRite Pharmacy and grocery is the launch of a starter kit to help people who are starting GLP-1 weight loss medications. GLP-1 medications are on the rise and transforming both healthcare and consumer shopping habits.

As a result, Wakefern recently launched a new initiative under its Wellness Your Way platform aimed at supporting ShopRite Pharmacy customers starting GLP-1 therapy. ShopRite Pharmacies provide what Sapp describes as a "welcome package" or starter kit. The Wellness Your Way Starter Kit is a free, limited-time offering for customers filling their first GLP-1 prescription.

"When you start a GLP-1 there are or can be side effects that you experience, because you're changing the way you're consuming food," he said. "We want to help customers adjust and make sure they feel supported from the moment they fill that first prescription."

The kit includes complimentary product samples such as an Oikos Protein Shake, Liquid I.V. Hydration Multiplier, and Vital Proteins Collagen Powder, along with coupons for grocery items like Pre Brands premium lean beef, Healthy Choice frozen meals, and The Fruitist Co. fresh blueberries. The Wellness Your Way starter kit also includes a comprehensive wellness guide featuring recommendations from ShopRite's registered



dietitian, including advice on protein intake, hydration, and simple lifestyle changes. The guide also offers tips for navigating the store and making nutritious recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The impact of GLP-1s extends beyond pharmacy counters and into grocery purchasing behavior.

"From a pharmacy perspective, certainly, there has been a dramatic increase in prescriptions for GLP-1s," Sapp noted. "But if you look at the total store, shoppers' buying patterns are also changing."

Customers are rethinking their approach to wellness and adjusting their lifestyles to focus on their health, and Wakefern is working to meet those needs in Pharmacy and across store aisles.

Pharmacy Footprint Across Member Stores

Wakefern Members currently operate an in-store network of 151 ShopRite pharmacies.

But even in locations without a pharmacy, Wakefern and ShopRite aim to maintain consistent wellness messaging and merchandising in marketing and promotions

"We want people to have wellness and health their way, and it's important to give people options and even guidance as they make those lifestyle changes," Sapp explained. "That same core message carries over into stores that don't have pharmacies."

It can also be found online at shoprite.com, where customers

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straight from the fields

SIMPLY BETTER



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PHARMACY

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can find dietitian approved tips and recipes and can sign up for the Wellness Your Way newsletter.

Category managers are also sourcing more products to complement wellness goals, including key items in protein and hydration that can be found on store shelves.

Boosting Efficiency with Central Fill Investment

Like many retailers, Wakefern has faced margin pressures in pharmacy, especially due to reimbursement challenges tied to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

Sapp noted that GLP-1 medications, while high in sales volume, are not always profitable and from a reimbursement perspective, ShopRite Pharmacies can lose on those dispenses.

To address these pressures, Wakefern is implementing operational changes designed to improve pharmacy profitability, including the development of a central fill facility to reduce costs across the cooperative's pharmacy network.

Central fill will allow many routine prescriptions to be handled off-site and reduce



costs to dispense, freeing pharmacists to focus more directly on patient care.

"This will allow pharmacists to spend more time with customers. It will free them up to walk out into the aisle and help a customer find what they need," he explained.

Wakefern expects the central fill operation to be part of its roadmap this year. "Hopefully, by end of Q4, we'll have that done," Sapp added.

Advocacy For PBM Reform

Wakefern is also active in pushing to relieve the pressure on community pharmacists, including by seeking federal PBM reform, which Sapp sees as essential for the future health of retail pharmacy.

PBMs act as middlemen and sit between drug manufacturers and pharmacies, negotiating prices, rebates, and fees. These layers can create complexity, reduce transparency, and drive-up costs while driving down reimbursements – all significant challenges that impact community pharmacies like ShopRite.

"We held a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill for PBM reform," he said, adding that Wakefern helped secure additional legislative support.

"In order to make change, federal reform is truly needed," Sapp added.

The Future: AI, Personalized Health And Pharmacy In Every Store

Looking ahead, Sapp believes artificial intelligence will play a major role in preventive health and personalized wellness support.

"While AI may seem intimidating, it is a powerful tool that can deliver personalized, patient-specific information," he said.

He envisions AI-powered tools that could help customers plan meals tailored to their health journey and budgets, directly connected to ShopRite's offerings.

"AI will allow patients to utilize highly specific information to select foods or recipes to build meal plans around their health journey while staying within a budget," Sapp said. "AI powered agents can then generate a shopping list tailored to those requirements. That's where we need to be headed."

His ambition is to expand pharmacy access across Wakefern's entire store base.

"My long-term goal would be to have a pharmacy presence in every single one of our grocery stores," Sapp said.

However, that growth, he emphasized, must be sustainable and profitable for Wakefern's members.

"We can't just add expense to the business, we have to be profitable to make it work and serve customers," Sapp said. "That's my responsibility."

With GLP-1 programs, central fill investment, AI-driven wellness ambitions and continued advocacy for fair reimbursement, Wakefern's pharmacy business is positioning itself as a key pillar of the cooperative's future, one that connects healthcare, food and community-based retail in a powerful way.



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Wakefern Food Corp.: Advancing Health & Wellness From The Aisles To The Community

Wakefern Food Corp. has made health and wellness a central pillar of its business, integrating nutrition, education, and access into the everyday supermarket experience. Across its family of banners the cooperative has built a multi-layered approach that goes beyond selling food, positioning its stores as accessible hubs for healthier living.

At the heart of Wakefern's strategy is a long-standing commitment to nutrition education. The company's in-store registered dietitian program, launched in 2006, remains one of the most visible expressions of that commitment. Today, hundreds of dietitians serve customers across the cooperative's footprint, offering free one-on-one consultations, store tours, cooking demonstrations, and wellness classes designed to help shoppers make informed choices.

This emphasis on accessibility has expanded in recent years through digital innovation. Wakefern introduced virtual dietitian services, enabling customers to connect directly with nutrition experts online for guidance on meal planning, dietary needs, and overall wellness. This hybrid model that combines in-store and virtual support reflects the company's broader effort to meet customers wherever they are in their health journey.

Beyond education, Wakefern has increasingly focused on providing practical tools that support healthier lifestyles. Programs such as "Wellness Your Way" illustrate this approach, offering customers resources like nutrition guides, recipes, and product recommendations developed by dietitians. These initiatives are designed to simplify the process of adopting healthier habits, whether a shopper is managing weight, improving hydration, or making incremental dietary changes.

The company has also expanded access to health-related products and services within its stores. Customers can use health benefit programs, including those tied to Medicare Advantage and Medicaid, to purchase nutritious foods, vitamins, and wellness essentials—an effort that helps remove financial barriers to healthier living.

Wakefern's commitment extends beyond individual shoppers to the broader community. Through its social responsibility initiatives, the cooperative has directed funding toward health and education programs, contributing millions of



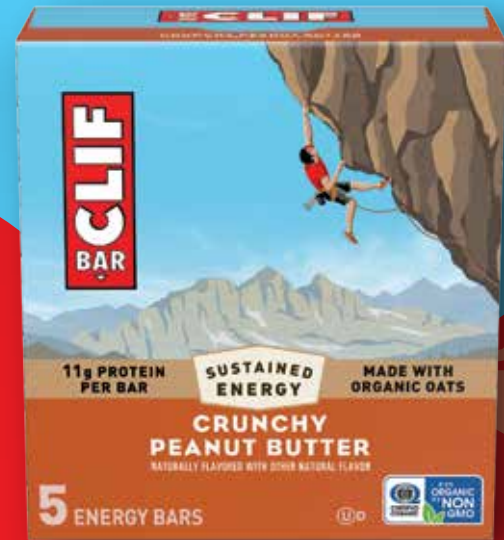
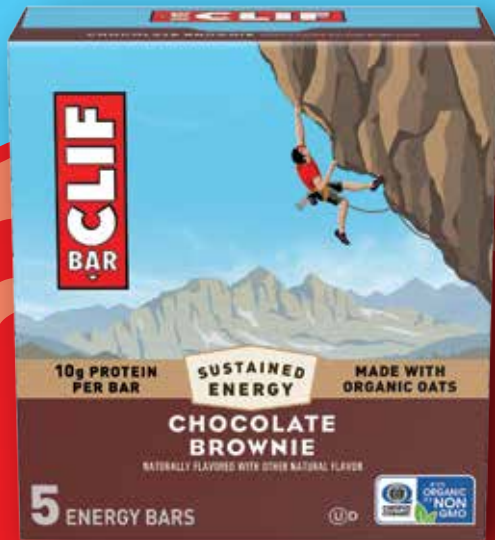
dollars to support community well-being. These efforts complement its hunger-relief work, recognizing that access to nutritious food is foundational to overall health.

What distinguishes Wakefern's approach is its integration of health and wellness into the core retail environment. Rather than treating wellness as a niche category, the company embeds it across departments—from fresh foods and private brands to pharmacy services and community outreach. Its dietitian-led programming, in particular, underscores a philosophy centered on empowerment: giving customers the knowledge and tools to make healthier decisions on their own terms.

As consumer expectations continue to evolve, Wakefern's model positions it at the intersection of retail and wellness. By combining education, accessibility, and community investment, the cooperative is not only responding to demand, but helping to shape a more health-focused future for grocery retail.



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

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Wellness Supplier Summit Fuels Next Generation Of Better-For-You Products

Wakefern's Local Wellness Supplier Summit has emerged as a targeted pipeline for sourcing the next wave of health-focused products, aligning the cooperative's merchandising strategy with rapidly evolving consumer demand for better-for-you foods and beverages. Built around discovery, evaluation and partnership, the summit connects emerging suppliers with one of the largest retailer-owned grocery networks in the United States.

The annual program begins with an open call for suppliers across Wakefern's trading area, inviting companies that specialize in clean-label, organic, plant-based and functional products to submit their offerings for review. Wakefern evaluates applicants not only on product quality, but also on differentiation, scalability and alignment with wellness trends shaping today's grocery landscape.

From that pool, a select group of finalists, typically around 10 companies, is invited to present their products in person to Wakefern's procurement and merchandising teams. The pitch component is central to the summit's structure, giving suppliers the opportunity to articulate their brand story, demonstrate product functionality and showcase how their items meet growing consumer expectations around health, transparency and ingredient integrity.

The stakes are significant. Winning suppliers are

awarded at least a year of placement in select stores, often within banners such as ShopRite, with the potential to expand across Wakefern's broader portfolio. For emerging brands, that kind of distribution can rapidly accelerate growth, transforming niche wellness products into widely accessible offerings.

Recent summits underscore the caliber of innovation the program attracts. At the 2026 event, beverage company Asarasi earned top honors with its organic sparkling tree water and probiotic sodas, products rooted in sustainability, clean ingredients and functional benefits. The company's approach, leveraging natural maple tree water and avoiding added sugars or artificial ingredients, reflects the broader trends Wakefern is targeting through the summit.

Beyond product sourcing, the Wellness Supplier Summit plays a strategic role in reinforcing Wakefern's cooperative model. By prioritizing local and regional suppliers, the company strengthens its connection to the communities its member-owners serve while diversifying its supply chain with innovative, mission-driven businesses. The initiative also complements other supplier-focused programs, creating a multi-channel approach to discovering new products across categories like produce, private label and total store merchandising.

Ultimately, the summit is both a sourcing mechanism and a signal of where the grocery industry is headed. As consumers increasingly prioritize health, functionality and transparency, Wakefern is leveraging its scale to identify and elevate brands that meet those expectations, ensuring its stores remain competitive, relevant and closely aligned with the future of food retail.



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Wakefern's Social Responsibility Is Built Into Its DNA and Deeply Rooted in Community

For Wakefern Food Corp., corporate social responsibility is not a trend or a marketing strategy layered onto the business. It is, according to Chief Communications Officer Karen Meleta, something that has been embedded in the Cooperative's identity since its earliest days.



Karen Meleta
Chief Communications Officer

Founded 80 years ago by independent grocers who came together to pool resources and support one another, Wakefern and its member families also understood the importance of giving back to the communities where they lived and operated their stores.

"If you look at the company's history, you can see that giving back and supporting the community has always been part of Wakefern's DNA, with a strong and consistent focus on fighting hunger and building long-standing relationships with food banks," said Meleta.

She pointed to the cooperative's early connection with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey as a defining moment. In 1982, when founder Kathleen DiChiara reached out to then Wakefern Chairman Tom Infusino for help storing donated frozen food at the food bank's new building, Infusino immediately arranged for a refrigerated trailer to be delivered. That response launched a decades-long relationship and reinforced Wakefern's commitment to supporting organizations that help feed people in need.



Fighting Hunger As A Core Commitment

Today, hunger relief remains Wakefern's most prominent social responsibility focus, a natural alignment for a supermarket cooperative serving millions of customers.

"We know that we can help families facing food insecurity, and there are many ways we do that," Meleta said.

ShopRite Partners In Caring, Wakefern and ShopRite's signature hunger-fighting initiative, was established in 1999. Since then, the program has generated more than \$65 million in donations for food banks, pantries, shelters, senior centers, and other community-based organizations across markets served by Wakefern's supermarket banners.

Wakefern also works with vendor partners and customers to raise funds through long-running promotions like the ShopRite Partners In Caring Cheerios Contest, sponsored by General Mills. Held during Hunger Action Month each September, the friendly fundraising competition among stores supports hunger relief by raising both money to fight hunger and awareness about the problem of food insecurity.

This year alone, generous customers and dedicated associates raised \$1.3 million toward that goal. Associates from ShopRite stores that raise the most money and

demonstrate the most passion during the annual contest are recognized with their photos featured on special-edition Cheerios boxes, a beloved ShopRite tradition.

Beyond fundraising, Wakefern and its members provide in-kind food donations and operational expertise. The Cooperative has supported food banks in the past by sharing logistics knowledge, advising on warehouse management, and assisting with transportation equipment.

Hunger relief efforts also include food gleaning programs that safely redirect wholesome foods and produce nearing expiration to food banks and pantries rather than letting them go to waste. Wakefern members have expanded donations of fresh food and often partner with organizations like Grow-A-Row, which delivers free produce to food-insecure families through volunteer planting, harvesting, and retail gleaning distribution efforts.



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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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A Multifaceted Approach To Community Support

Wakefern members and their family-owned businesses also support thousands of local organizations - ranging from youth sports teams and first aid squads to hospitals and charitable groups - in the neighborhoods their ShopRite stores serve.

And while hunger relief remains the Cooperative's core area of giving, Wakefern's broader community engagement also spans many other areas including health, wellness, and women's sports.

Through its nearly 40-year sponsorship of the ShopRite LPGA, Wakefern and ShopRite have donated \$45 million

to community-based organizations that include hospitals, charitable foundations, research organizations and schools. Last year, Wakefern awarded a record \$1.8 million to 50 organizations at its annual ShopRite LPGA charitable luncheon, and the Cooperative expanded its long-running partnership with the LPGA to include new incentives benefiting athletes and programs focused on improving the lives of young people.

Wakefern is working with the non-profit organization First Tee to provide college scholarships to a dozen high school athletes, and with its new "Team ShopRite," sponsoring four deserving golfers on the LPGA circuit. ShopRite is also collaborating again with Colgate-Palmolive through its Colgate's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® and TeamSmile® to bring dental care and oral health education to underserved children with a one-day clinic at the tournament.



Price Rite Marketplace, a wholly-owned Wakefern supermarket banner, also plays a significant role in supporting communities where its stores operate in the northeast. Its annual Feeding Minds & Bodies events, hosted in partnership with Feed the Children, provide families in need with nutritious food, personal care items, and school supplies. Since the program's launch, Price Rite has donated approximately \$14 million in gift cards and in-kind product support, helping hundreds of thousands of individuals



in the communities where Price Rite stores operate.

"Local families are pre-selected for the Feeding Minds & Bodies events by neighborhood organizations, and Price Rite team members volunteer at each event to load boxes of donated food and supplies into the cars of recipients. These are really community events that reinforce a message of hope and help for people who are struggling," said Meleta.

Sustainability Grounded In Practical Stewardship

Environmental sustainability is another key pillar of Wakefern's social responsibility philosophy, one Meleta describes as centered on responsible stewardship and thoughtful efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.

Wakefern's sustainability efforts include responsible sourcing, waste reduction, recycling and energy conservation.

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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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“We recognize there’s an opportunity to reduce our impact as we operate our business,” she said.

The Cooperative takes a proactive approach to sustainable seafood by working with fisheries and farmed suppliers that adhere to established regulatory standards and align with recognized benchmarks such as those set by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and the Global Seafood Alliance (GSA). GSA Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) ensure seafood is responsibly sourced to protect aquatic ecosystems and fisheries.

Wakefern and ShopRite have also significantly expanded their food waste reduction efforts. More than seven million pounds of wholesome food are donated annually to food banks and pantries. At the store level, composting programs are also now standard, with many implemented even before state mandates required them.

The Cooperative also operates a materials recovery facility in Elizabeth, NJ, that has recycled more than 3.1 million tons of material over the past five decades. Today, Wakefern’s warehouses, offices, and retail banners collectively recycle more than 150,000 tons each year, with near-

ly all stores participating and many offering in-store plastic recycling for customers.

Wakefern members are also investing in energy-efficient upgrades such as LED lighting and natural refrigerant systems, while some have also added solar installations and electric vehicle charging stations.

In 2024, the Kinsley family installed a 10-acre solar array adjacent to their ShopRite in Brodheadsville, PA, designed to supply nearly 90 percent of the store’s energy needs. Other members have introduced electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, including at ShopRite locations in Yardley, PA, Wilmington, DE, and Bloomfield, Flemington, Carteret and Paramus, NJ, further expanding access to clean transportation infrastructure.

Integrity And A Holistic View

Throughout all of its social responsibility efforts, Wakefern emphasizes integrity and practicality.

“One of the things we do really well is approach this work holistically, and always with our members, associates and communities in mind,” Meleta said.

Ultimately, Wakefern’s philosophy reflects the belief that social responsibility is inseparable from its role as a



community-based grocer. Through decades of hunger relief, sustainability initiatives, and local partnerships, the Cooperative continues to demonstrate how retailers can meaningfully serve not just customers, but communities and future generations as well.

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The Bottino Family

Family-owned for two generations, our stores have been rooted in South Jersey since 1977. In addition to offering fresh foods and superior customer service at our four ShopRite stores in Cumberland and Gloucester counties, our family is committed to assisting families impacted by cancer through the Bill Bottino Cancer Foundation.

Giving Back

“We launched the Bill Bottino Cancer Foundation in 2016 as a way to honor our family patriarch, Bill Bottino, who lost his life to cancer in 2006. Through the foundation, we help families cover the cost of expenses like utilities, food or household items. We know what it is like to have a loved one experience cancer and how important it is to focus on healing - without the distraction of bills. Removing that burden for someone else is a way of helping those in our community, while also honoring my father’s memory.”

Bill Bottino Jr., President of the Bill Bottino Cancer Foundation.



ShopRite®

The Bracey Family

Our family owned stores have been rooted in the Pennsylvania community since 1974. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. Our three ShopRite stores are located in Moosic, Mt. Pocono and Covington.

Giving Back

“Being a trusted neighborhood grocer and community partner has always been at the core of our business. As a family, we prioritize giving back to our local communities and supporting education. We believe that success is not just measured by what you achieve, but by the impact you make.”

Laura Bracey,
Director of Operations,
Bracey Supermarkets, Inc.



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The Brown Family

Family-owned for five generations, our stores have been rooted in the Greater Philadelphia community since 1988. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. In addition to operating 12 ShopRite stores and 2 Fresh Grocer locations, the Brown family mission is to 'Bring Joy to the People We Serve.'

Serving the Community

"Our family is inspired by the diverse communities we serve and we believe strongly in giving back to the people who have supported our family business for years. From our nationally recognized work to eradicate food deserts, to hiring previously incarcerated applicants and supporting local grassroots organizations and faith-based groups, Brown's Super Stores is more than just a grocery store company. We are a trusted partner for all of the communities we serve."

Sandy Brown, Chairwoman and Executive Vice President
of Brown's Super Stores.

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ShopRite®



The Buonadonna Family

Family-owned for two generations, our stores have been rooted in the Long Island community since 2004 - ShopRite of Bayshore and ShopRite of Massapequa. We pride ourselves on our tradition of providing fresh produce, meats and seafood and excellent customer service to our customers, and we enjoy giving back to many local charities, especially those that fight hunger.

Giving Back

"Our family believes no one should go hungry. For that reason, we are especially proud to support the Long Island Cares food bank. Through ShopRite Partners In Caring, we have been able to donate thousands of dollars to combat hunger across Nassau and Suffolk counties."

Melissa Buonadonna-Hernandez,
President of Buonadonna ShopRite



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The Burns Family

Our family-owned grocery business and ShopRite stores have been rooted in the Greater Philadelphia area for 45 years - ShopRite of Brookhaven and ShopRite of Drexline Shopping Center, as well as five Fresh Grocer stores. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families and making a difference every day.

Giving Back

“Our mission has always been about more than groceries. It’s about people — our customers, our associates, and our communities. We believe in making a difference every day, not only through the quality of the food we provide but through the care we show beyond our store walls. Philanthropy is a core part of who we are. Whether it’s partnering with neighborhood non-profits, supporting local schools and faith-based programs, or stepping up to help community groups in times of need, we are intentional about giving back. Our efforts include donations of food, supplies, gift cards, and financial contributions — and often, our time and presence as well. We’re proud to play a consistent, active role in efforts that uplift and strengthen the neighborhoods we serve. To us, being a good neighbor means doing our part to build healthier, more connected, and more resilient communities.”

Patrick J. Burns, President and CEO
Burns’ Family Neighborhood Markets



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ShopRite®

The Capano Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in New London County in Connecticut since 1996, with two stores located in New London and Norwich. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families and believe strongly that success comes from being a good neighbor.

Giving Back

“While we support regional organizations such as Catholic Charities and Three Rivers Community College, we also believe strongly in supporting smaller, local organizations that reach out to us for help. We want to help people achieve their goals, and sometimes that involves a donation and sometimes it involves a gift basket or gift cards for a fundraiser. We also like to focus on local organizations that our employees care about. We’ve endowed scholarships through Three Rivers Community College that we make available to our employees, their children or grandchildren, and we are really proud to work with the The ARC New London County. My dad, Ken Capano Sr., served on the board for nine years and we are a big supporter of the work they do to help people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.”

Ken Capano Jr., Five Star Supermarkets.



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The Cingari Family

Family-owned and operated for four generations, our stores have been rooted in the Connecticut community since 1929. In addition to operating 11 ShopRite stores in the state, our family is committed to providing customers with value and quality and blending tradition with innovation to serve our community in meaningful ways.

Giving Back

“Through Our Cingari Family Foundation, we support local organizations, including Connecticut food banks and area hospitals. The family also donates \$500,000 annually to support local schools, sports teams and first responders, and each year the foundation hosts a golf outing that raises nearly \$2.5 million for charitable organizations. We’re also passionate about sustainability and always looking for new and innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint.”

Tom Cingari, Sr., President and CEO of Cingari Family ShopRite



The Cohen Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the central Connecticut community since 1999 and we currently operate three ShopRite stores. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families.

Giving Back

“Since our inception, Waverly Markets has believed strongly in fighting hunger in our region. Our family has contributed to Connecticut Foodshare for many years, helping them deliver to hundreds of food pantries, meal programs and mobile distribution sites across the state. We are also proud to support the work and groundbreaking research at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford, CT – where our family, associates and customers have found tremendous care and support. Sharing a passion for workforce development, we have made great effort to work with MARC Community Resources, MARC, Inc. of Manchester, Goodwill, Easterseals, Our Piece of the Pie, Capital Workforce Partners, YWCA and many more to create opportunities for training, development and meaningful work.”

Jordan Coe, President, Waverly Markets



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The Colalillo Family

Family-owned for three generations, our stores have been part of the communities we serve since we opened our first ShopRite store in South River, New Jersey in 1954. In addition to providing high-quality, on-trend products and personalized services at our five ShopRite stores, we believe strongly in giving back to those same communities where our neighbors support our family business.

Giving Back

“Our priority is fighting hunger and giving to local food pantries, but we also donate to schools, religious organizations, local nonprofits, youth athletics, scouts and more. Our store teams do great work raising money for the hunger-fighting initiative ShopRite Partners In Caring, and one of our favorite events is our annual 5K Run for Hunger in Flemington, NJ, which has raised nearly \$700,000 over the years for Norwescap’s Food Bank. We also believe in sourcing food from local farmers and suppliers — not only because it’s good for the environment and allows us to provide customers fresh, high-quality products, but because supporting small businesses is at the core of our mission. We are so proud of that.”

Joe Colalillo, President of ShopRite of Hunterdon County



The Collins Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the Philadelphia area since 1995. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. In addition to operating four ShopRite stores that are known for providing fresh, high-quality foods, exceptional customer service and access to local jobs, our family also donates to groups that work to reduce hunger and end violence.

Giving Back

“In 2012, we established the Collins Family Markets Community Fund to make a positive impact on the neighborhoods surrounding our stores. We are committed to working with groups that fight hunger and help to prevent violence. Being a good neighbor that cares deeply and strives to do good in the community is what differentiates us from our competitors.”

Larry Collins Jr. President, Collins Family Markets



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The Cowhey Family

Our family-owned store has been rooted in the Warminster community since 2010. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. In addition to operating the ShopRite of Warminster in Pennsylvania, we are dedicated to helping our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

Giving Back

“Fighting hunger is at the heart of our charitable giving. We are proud to support the Warminster Food Bank and Meals on Wheels of Central Bucks County. At the ShopRite of Warminster, we believe it’s our duty to provide quality food and service both in-store and out in the community we serve. Giving is a powerful reminder that we are all interconnected.”

Deborah Cowhey, Owner and Operator of the ShopRite of Warminster



The Drust Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the Connecticut counties of New Haven and Hartford since 1997, and we pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families..

Giving Back

“Our family and ShopRite are longtime supporters of the Nutmeg State Games, the largest amateur multi-sporting event in Connecticut and one that promotes positive, healthy activities for the athletes and their families in the communities where they live. I’m proud to have served in the past as a grand marshal for the games and as president of the executive board of directors for the organization. We also work with local food banks and support the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Over the years, our stores in Wallingford and Southington and the dedicated retail teams there have hosted fundraisers for MDA. We are lucky to have generous and caring customers who help us help neighbors in need.”

Don Drust, Drust Markets



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FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE **Campbell's** COMPANY

The Eickhoff Family

Family-owned for four generations, we started our grocery business in 1955 with a small corner meat market and opened our first ShopRite stores in Burlington County, NJ in 1998, and today operate five ShopRite locations in the state. We take pride in providing quality and service to our customers and are committed to ensuring that every shopping experience delivers total value.

Giving Back

“We believe in supporting the communities that support us. We consistently support ShopRite Partners In Caring, ShopRite’s signature hunger-fighting initiative, and ShopRite’s annual Check-Out Hunger event, as well as our local schools, churches, youth athletics, and service organizations. Whether it’s food drives, fundraising efforts, or local sponsorships, Eickhoff Supermarkets is dedicated to giving back to the neighborhoods we serve.”

Geoffrey Eickhoff, President, Eickhoff Supermarkets



The Fasula Family

Our family passionately continues the business that traces its roots back to 1895 when William Gerrity opened a small butcher shop named Gerrity’s. Later, business was operated by the late Neal Fasula and his family. Joyce Fasula, who is now better known as “Mom” remains the president and CEO with her son, Joe, assisting with the daily operation and administration of the company. Today, Gerrity’s is a Wakefern member with 10 Fresh Grocer stores that employ more than 1,300 associates and is one of the oldest and most well-known local businesses in Lackawanna county and the Wyoming and Lehigh Valleys.

Giving Back

Gerrity’s “Bagging for Charity” program gives non-profit organizations the opportunity to collect money while providing a service for our customers and our store.

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The Gallagher Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the Long Island community since 2012. We are now proud to have our children working alongside us as we continue our tradition of families serving families. In addition to operating three ShopRite stores, we support local charities that fight hunger and local first responder organizations that serve the communities where our stores operate.

Giving Back

“We are proud supporters of the Long Island Cares food bank and local veterans groups and firefighter organizations. We are also big supporters of Hobbs Community Farm. As one of the few remaining farms in our area, Hobbs provides area food banks with organically grown produce. A favorite Gallagher tradition is sponsoring the farm’s ‘Run the Farm’ event held each August to raise money for the farm. We have a group of employees who support local charitable causes by participating in this 4-mile run, as well as other 5k runs throughout the year. All of their entry fees are contributed by Gallagher Family Markets. We also sponsor annual “trunk or treat” and National Night Out events with local police, youth sporting events, and Chamber of Commerce activities in the communities where we have stores.”

Charles Gallagher, President of Gallagher Family Markets



The Garafalo Family

Our family-owned stores have been based in Connecticut for more than 20 years. In addition to operating eight ShopRites that are known for quality, variety and value, we also believe our commitment to philanthropy and sustainability plays a key role in our business.

Giving Back

“I’ve spent most of my life in the grocery business and our family understands how important supermarkets are to the community. That is why we are passionate about the people we serve and the organizations we support. We are so proud to have played a role in the opening of the Fisher House in West Haven in 2018. Fisher House provides no-cost temporary housing and comfort lodging to military members and their families during visits to nearby VA medical centers. We are also longtime supporters of Connecticut Foodshare and the local pantries they support; the Get in Touch Foundation, which promotes breast health and education; Milford United Way; Junior Achievement, and Boys & Girls Club. We are also proud to support the Connecticut Audubon Society’s Coastal Center and the organization’s annual Return of the Osprey event. And we are especially thankful to our store teams and associates who volunteer for community cleanups and tree plantings while helping our stores be more sustainable through recycling, composting and fresh food donations.”

Harry Garafalo, Garafalo Markets



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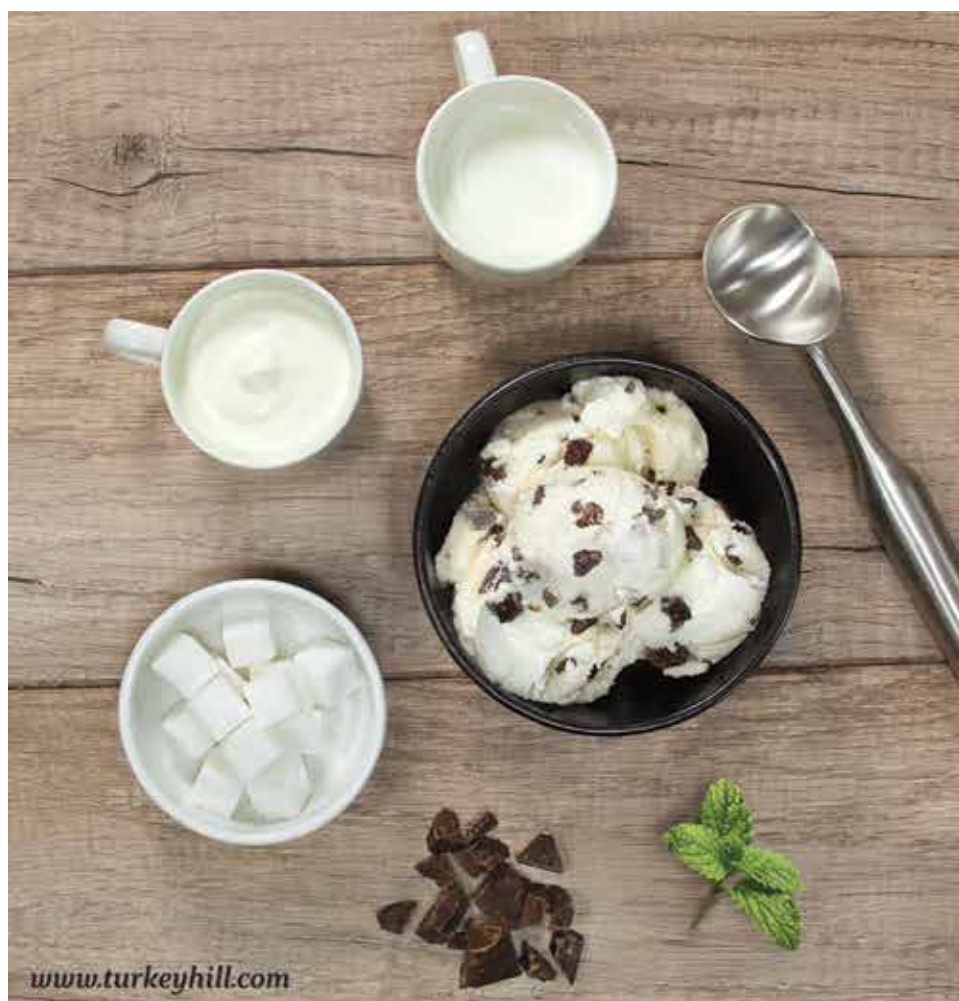
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The Gladstein-Sblendorio Family

Owned and operated by the Gladstein-Sblendorio family for four generations, Sunrise ShopRite has been rooted in Northern New Jersey communities since 1940. At our two ShopRite stores in Parsippany and West Caldwell, we take pride in providing families with everything they need for daily life as well as life's celebratory moments.

Giving Back

"Our family-run business, Sunrise ShopRite, is dedicated to serving the people of the West Caldwell and Parsippany communities – both in-store and beyond our four walls. In addition to our local schools and sports teams, we have long supported the West Essex First Aid Squad, an entirely volunteer-driven organization charged with the health and safety of our neighbors. Additionally, through the proceeds from our Annual Charles Matejka Golf Outing, we have contributed to the Rachel Coalition, a division of Jewish Family Service that assists victims of abuse, as well as Goryeb Children's Hospital in Morristown, NJ. Most recently, we donated to support Goryeb's Child Life program, enabling them to purchase a new CinemaVision 20/20 system to enhance pediatric patient comfort and entertainment during an MRI at the hospital. Not only does the system allow for two-way communication between the patient and the MRI technician, but patients can also enjoy a relaxing visual experience during what is often an anxiety-inducing experience for children. We are truly honored to be able to give back and support the communities we serve."

Dara Sblendorio, fourth-generation grocer & President of Sunrise ShopRite



The Glass Family

Family-owned for three generations, our stores have been rooted in the New York and New Jersey communities since 1955. The Glass brothers, Ben & Abe, started our family's legacy in the supermarket industry when they opened a produce business in 1938. After many successful years, they officially incorporated their company, calling it Glass Gardens, Inc., and opened their first store in Rochelle Park, New Jersey, in 1955. Glass Gardens and affiliated companies currently have nine New Jersey and four New York ShopRite stores and are led by second-generation cousins Irv and Terry Glass. Irv's two sons, Daniel Glass and Andrew Kent, and Terry's daughter, Karen Holbrook, all serve as executive vice presidents in the family business. Our mission is to quietly become the uncommonly best: people, sales, service and profit.

Giving Back

"We are committed to giving back to the members of our communities who enable us to grow our business, enhance our services and create new jobs. We consistently support ShopRite Partners In Caring, Check-Out Hunger, Special Olympics, environmental programs, along with our local schools and service organizations. We have also partnered with food banks in New Jersey and New York in the fight against hunger."

Terry Glass, co-CEO and co-president of Glass Gardens, Inc.



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The Greenfield Family

Family-owned for four generations, our supermarket business today operates six ShopRite stores on Long Island, and we are dedicated to bringing ShopRite value, variety and quality to the communities we serve.

Giving Back

“We are in the food business and believe strongly in helping struggling families get access to the fresh foods they need. That is why we support important local organizations and food banks such as Island Harvest with monetary and food donations. We were also proud to work with TerraCycle, Colgate, and students to bring a new playground made of recycled material to an elementary school in Bethpage. Long Island is our home, and we are grateful for the continued support from the community.”

Jon & Seth Greenfield, Owners, Food Parade, Inc.



The Infusino Family

Family-owned for four generations, our store has been rooted in the community since 1947. Our family and team at the ShopRite of Little Falls not only serve the community, but we also share a desire to make a difference in peoples' lives.

Giving Back

“Supporting local charitable initiatives means so much to us – as it aligns with our core values of generosity, empathy and making a positive impact on the world. One of our favorite traditions is the ShopRite Partners In Caring Cheerios Contest. Each fall, our team members give their all to raise money and awareness about food insecurity in our community. We also support The Salvation Army, Cans for Dan, New Jersey Knights of Columbus, Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Program, VFW Montville Memorial Post 5481, American Legion West Paterson Memorial Post No 238 and many more.”

Christian Infusino, President of ShopRite of Little Falls





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The Inserra Family

Family-owned for four generations, our stores have been rooted in the community since 1954. In addition to operating 24 ShopRites, two Price Rite Marketplace stores, and two Fresh Grocers in New Jersey and New York, we have a longstanding tradition of caring for and supporting the communities our stores serve.

Giving Back

“Following in the footsteps of my grandparents and company founders, Antoinette and Patsy Inserra, and my father, Lawrence Inserra, each generation of our family has built upon their mission to lend a helping hand to those in need. As our company has grown, we have continued to expand community partnerships and provide funding and support to hundreds of charitable and local organizations, including hospitals, schools, community wellness programs, and civic and veterans groups. In 1986, our family created the Inserra Family Foundation and have proudly supported organizations making a difference in the lives of many people. Each year, our foundation hosts the Carl Inserra Memorial Golf Outing in memory of my late brother, Carl. With the help of generous corporate and community leaders, we are able to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in support of national and local organizations dedicated to medical research, health and wellness, education and community services.”

Lawrence Inserra Jr.,

Chairman and CEO, Inserra Supermarkets Inc.



The Janson Family

Family-owned for two generations, our stores have been rooted in the Long Island community since 1998. In addition to operating two ShopRite stores, we enjoy supporting our local schools, fire and police departments and food pantries. Our family also has a special place in our hearts for veterans. Our founder, Harry Janson Sr., served in the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1970 and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Giving Back

“The charity that is closest to our heart is The Long Island State Veterans Home – which provides high quality and compassionate health care services for veterans and their families. It’s the charity that we have supported the longest because we feel the sacrifices that those men and women made, should be recognized! Every September our family sponsors an annual golf outing. All of the proceeds go directly to the Veterans Home. On behalf of the entire Janson family, thank you to our veterans and active-duty officers for your courage and dedication to our country.”

Harry J. Janson Sr., President of Janson Supermarkets, LLC



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The Joseph Family

Family-owned for generations, our stores have been rooted in the Connecticut community since 2010 and we currently have one location in Canton. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families.

Giving Back

“None of the families in the neighborhoods around our store should experience food insecurity and hunger. We support our community food banks with donations and other contributions through ShopRite Partners In Caring, as well as an ongoing food gleaning program with Foodshare. We live here and are happy to support our friends and neighbors in need, with a focus on the fight against hunger and children’s initiatives.”

Chuck Joseph of Joseph Family Markets



The Kenny Family

Family-owned for two generations, our stores have been rooted in Delaware since 1995. In addition to operating six ShopRite stores that are known for value, variety and quality, our family has donated \$6 million to nearly 1,000 community-based organizations since the creation of our charitable arm, the Kenny Family Foundation, in 2008.

Giving Back

“Our giving is focused on fighting food insecurity in the community, supporting arts and education programs and helping furry friends through our longstanding relationship with the Brandywine Valley SPCA. We are also proud each year to sponsor much-loved Delaware events like the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation’s LEGO Shipbuilding Day and the annual Wilmington Grand Prix, a premiere cycling event. Serving the community is what inspires and drives us.”

Melissa Kenny, Executive Vice President of Kenny Family ShopRites





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The Kinsley Family

Proudly family-owned for three generations, our store has been a cornerstone of Monroe County in Pennsylvania since 1950. Home to the world's largest ShopRite, we're driven by a shared passion for service, our customers and the community we call home.

Giving Back

"We are so grateful to the people who have supported our family business since its inception as a small meat market in 1950. The ShopRite of Brodheadsville has been among the top fundraising stores for ShopRite's annual ShopRite Partners In Caring Cheerios Contest and is a longtime supporter of dozens of local organizations including The Salvation Army, the American Cancer Society, Red Cross, March of Dimes, Operation Touch of Home and nearby churches, sports teams, fire departments and food pantries. We also feel a sense of responsibility to protect our beautiful community through sustainability enhancements. In 2023, the ShopRite of Brodheadsville unveiled a 10-acre solar array to reduce the store's energy use, and we are proud to meet EPA GreenChill Gold standards for sustainable refrigeration, using only non-ozone-depleting refrigerants."

Christopher Kinsley Sr., President, ShopRite of Brodheadsville



The Klein Family

Family-owned for four generations, our stores have been rooted in the Maryland community since 1925. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. The core values of our nine ShopRite stores are, 'One Family. Executing with Excellence. Serving Tenaciously.'

Giving Back

"Something that was always important to my grandparents, my father and uncles and now my generation, is service to the community. This is something that we take seriously, and we feel very responsible to our customers who ultimately support our business. Our family believes that investments in local healthcare, education and fighting food insecurity are the best ways for us to support this mission."

Marshall Klein, President of Klein's Family Markets



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The LoCurcio Family

Family-owned for four generations, our three ShopRite stores are deeply rooted in New Jersey. We began serving the Nutley community in 1932 as Park Fruit & Vegetable Market, and in 1954 we joined the Wakefern co-op, becoming Nutley Park ShopRite. Today, we also have stores serving the New Jersey towns of Belleville and Kearny.

Giving Back

“Whether it’s lifting up the Nutley Rotary with support or working together with Rutgers Athletics and ShopRite Partners in Caring to help fight food insecurity, being good neighbors in ‘our towns’ has given us so many years of success that we are delighted to give back wherever and whenever we can. They are our family. So, it is extremely rewarding to lend them a helping hand, bring smiles to children’s faces, and greet our local community day in and day out.”

Carol LoCurcio, Owner, Nutley Park ShopRite



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The Maniaci Family

Nick and Anna Maniaci had a passion for all things food – and they believed that where you purchased your food mattered. They made it their goal to create a place where people who loved food would also love to shop. They created Nicholas Markets in North Haledon, NJ in 1943, and their specialty grocery has been family-owned and -operated ever since. Today David Maniaci and his eldest son Nick own and operate four The Fresh Grocer stores in Northern and Central New Jersey where they carry on Nick and Anna’s legacy.

Giving Back

While Nicholas Markets expanded to locations in Cedar Grove, Colonia, North Haledon and Washington Township, they focused on creating a family-oriented environment for their customers and employees. The Maniaci family welcomes their local communities as extended family and has shown their support for local authorities and schools within the areas they serve.

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The Mannix Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the Staten Island community for years and we pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. We operate four ShopRite stores in the borough. In addition to running stores that are known for value, variety and quality, our family is dedicated to fighting hunger in the community.

Giving Back

“Mannix Family Markets supports food pantries year-round across our borough and makes a special annual Thanksgiving gift card donation to dozens of local organizations. We are also proud to sponsor the historic St. George Theater, Grace Foundation of Staten Island, Richmond University Medical Center, the Staten Island Children’s Museum and Staten Island Sunrise Day Camp.”

Tim Mannix, a second-generation grocer and Vice President of Mannix Family Markets



The McMenamin Family

Family-owned for two generations, our stores have been rooted in the Philadelphia community since 1995. In addition to operating our two stores – the ShopRite of Morrell Plaza and ShopRite of Hatfield – our family is honored to be part of the Northeast Philadelphia community and give back to our neighbors in need.

Giving Back

“We understand the importance of coming together to make our community stronger. Throughout the year, my family and our retail teams support hunger-fighting programs at Philadelphia food banks, churches and synagogues, and raise money and awareness about food insecurity as part of ShopRite Partners In Caring, ShopRite’s signature hunger-fighting initiative. We are also dedicated to uplifting the work of groups that serve people with special needs – including the Association for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (AADD) and Special People in the Northeast (SPIN), whose commitment to helping people find independence and confidence is inspiring. We love being part of the Northeast Philadelphia community and creating relationships that help make our community strong, safe and united.”

Sean McMenamin, President of McMenamin Family ShopRite & Wakefern Food Corp. Chairman



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The Ravitz Family

Family-owned for four generations, we have been deeply rooted in the South Jersey region since our grandfather, Stanley Ravitz, started the family business in New Jersey in 1968. In addition to operating five ShopRite stores that are known for quality, variety and value, we share a strong commitment to the communities we serve.

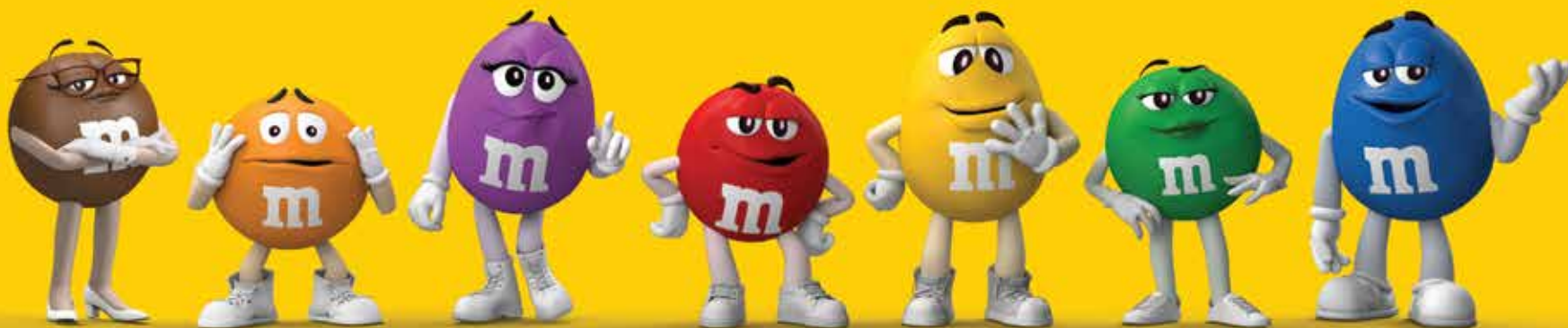
Giving Back

“In 1996, our family created the Ravitz Family Foundation to help families and children in need. A decade later, we launched ‘Ravitz Cares,’ which allows our associates to designate community organizations to support. Over the years, we have collected more than \$1.5 million for local charities, including the Yellow Ribbon Club of South Jersey, Operation Yellow Ribbon, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Animal Welfare Association and Make a Wish Foundation.”

Shawn Ravitz, Vice President of Administration,
Ravitz Family Foundation



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The Romano Family

Family-owned for generations, the RoNetco ShopRite stores have been rooted in northwest New Jersey since 1927. In addition to operating nine ShopRite stores that are known for value, variety and quality, our family also lives and works here and believes strongly in giving back to the communities where our stores operate.

Giving Back

“Every year, we support more than 300 organizations and individuals in need with both monetary and product donations. Our dedicated store teams have raised over \$2.1 million for local food pantries as part of ShopRite’s signature hunger-fighting initiative, Partners In Caring. We work with local radio stations and the Sussex County Social Services Food Pantry for our annual Stuff the Bus event that collects many food donations at Thanksgiving. Our family is proud to support the Newton Medical Center Foundation and Atlantic Health Medical Centers. We sponsor community blood drives and the annual Pat Romano Sr. Golf Classic to benefit the SCARC Foundation, which raises over \$380,000 annually. We are grateful to continue the legacy of our parents and grandparents to give back to the community. It’s part of our culture and a huge part of our family’s company.”

Dominick J. Romano, Co-President & COO,
RoNetco Supermarkets, Inc.



The Saker Family

Family-owned for five generations, our stores have been rooted in New Jersey since 1947. Our 40 supermarkets -- including 39 ShopRites with ShopRite Pharmacies and one Dearborn Market -- are known for value, variety and quality and have served the residents of Monmouth, Middlesex, Mercer, Burlington, Somerset and Ocean counties for decades. Our stores are committed to community and donate to many local charities and organizations.

Giving Back

“We work hard to be the local neighborhood grocer for our customers. We employ close to 12,000 associates and maintain a family tradition of giving back to the communities where our stores operate. Thousands of New Jersey organizations have benefited from our company’s charitable donations and we are especially proud to have played a key role in fundraising for the Joan Dancy & PALS (People with ALS) Foundation, a New Jersey-based organization that provides support for those suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). With the help of our associates, we have raised more than \$1 million for this incredible organization. We also believe strongly in fighting food insecurity and are proud to support ShopRite Partners In Caring, ShopRite’s year-round hunger-fighting initiative, and food banks such as Fulfill and the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.”

Richard Saker, CEO and president of Saker ShopRites





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The Sitar Family

Family-owned for three generations since 1954, our ShopRite of Carteret is deeply rooted in our hometown and proud to help feed the community, employ our neighbors, and give back to Carteret, NJ.

Giving Back

“Our company founder and father and grandfather, John Sitar, was well known for his philanthropy and helped establish the Carteret Honorary Policemen’s Benevolent Association. Today, one of our favorite charities is Mayor Daniel Reiman’s Children’s Charity Trust Fund because of all the work it does for the young people of Carteret. The fund supports Carteret youth through scholarships, and provides academic, athletic, and arts programs for children and young adults. We are also proud to support the new Carteret Performing Arts Center – one of our favorite new additions to the community. We are inspired to help our town thrive by providing fresh food and job opportunities – and we are so proud to have longtime associates on our team who know our customers and Carteret. We are always working to make the shopping experience the best it can be. In 2024, we updated our entire Meat department with new, energy efficient fresh and frozen cases. We’re also installing 20 new Tesla (EV) supercharging stations in our parking lot.”

Jonathan D’Orsi, VP of Operations, ShopRite of Carteret



The Slawsby Family

The Slawsby Family’s company, Massachusetts-based Madison Food Corp., is a third-generation grocery business currently operating four Price Rite Marketplace supermarkets in the Boston area.

Giving Back

The Slawsby family, owners of Price Rite stores in the Boston area, are deeply committed to making fresh, nutritious foods accessible to all families while supporting the well-being of their communities. Through longstanding partnerships with local food banks and hunger-fighting organizations, they work to ensure neighbors in need have access to essential resources. The family plays an active role in the annual Check-Out Hunger campaign, helping to raise critical funds for regional food banks, and extends its impact through support of partners like Feed the Children. Their ongoing efforts reflect a strong dedication not only to affordability, but to fighting hunger and strengthening the communities their stores proudly serve.





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The Smutko Family

Family-owned for three generations, our grocery business has been rooted in New Jersey since 1953. We pride ourselves on knowing our neighbors and team members and being part of the community where we operate ShopRite of Hillside.

Giving Back

“We are so thankful to have had the opportunity over the years to serve the community and work with so many wonderful people who are like our second family. Our grandfather and uncle founded our grocery business and we believe strongly in helping neighbors in need. That’s why we support ShopRite’s hunger-fighting initiative, ShopRite Partners In Caring, and other community-based programs that help people.”

TJ Smutko, AJS Supermarkets



The Sumas Family

Family-owned for three generations, our stores have been rooted in the community since 1947. In addition to operating 30 ShopRite stores in New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania, as well as four Fairway Markets and three Gourmet Garage locations in New York City, giving back has always been at the heart of our family business, Village Super Market.

Giving Back

“Our inspiration comes from the legacy and teachings of the generations before us — their hard work, dedication and deep commitment to serving our communities. In 2019, our family established the Sumas Family Foundation to expand our charitable efforts and make a greater impact in the areas we serve. The foundation’s primary fundraiser is the Jimmy Sumas Golf Classic, an annual event honoring the late Jimmy Sumas. This tournament raises more than \$200,000 each year to support our charitable initiatives for Autism Speaks, Sharing Network, The ALS Association, the Community FoodBank of NJ, The Valerie Fund, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cycle for Survival and Ss. Nicholas, Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church. In 2023, we launched the ‘You Choose, We Give’ program that empowers our associates to nominate hyper-local charities to receive \$2,000 grants. There’s still a great need and knowing that we’re playing an integral role in our communities keeps us motivated every day.”

Perry Blatt, Third-Generation Grocer and Director of E-Commerce & Business Development for Village Super Market, Inc.





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Wakefern Banner To Come

The Thompson Family

Our family-owned stores have been rooted in the Long Island community since 2010, with three generations working together today in our grocery business which operates three ShopRite supermarkets. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families and believe that when you do business in the community, you become part of the community.

Giving Back

“Our family lives on Long Island and we believe strongly in supporting the communities where we live and work and where our stores operate. We are proud to work with organizations such as Vision Long Island, which is dedicated to advancing the growth of the Island’s downtown areas, and PinkTie Delivers, which helps feed food insecure Long Islanders. We are also honored to have partnered over the years with Bishop R.W. Harris and his Grace Cathedral International Church in Uniondale on a variety of initiatives to help Long Islanders.”

Ken Thompson Jr., chief operating officer of K. Thompson Foods



The Wolfson Family

Family-owned for four generations, our one ShopRite store has been rooted in the Lincoln Park community since 1920. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. In addition to providing value, variety and quality at the ShopRite of Lincoln Park, we are committed to giving back to the families we serve.

Giving Back

“We want our customers to know we are here to support them and elevate the missions that make our community stronger. Our family business has contributed to many local organizations, veterans groups, Lincoln Park and surrounding community events and more. We give back because it’s the right thing to do.”

Larri Wolfson, Third-Generation Grocer &
Owner and Operator of ShopRite of Lincoln Park



Wakefern Banner To Come

The Zallie Family

Family-owned for three generations, our stores have been rooted in the New Jersey community since 1956. We pride ourselves on our tradition of families serving families. In addition to operating 11 ShopRite stores, our family company, Zallie Family Markets, is proud to support local charities that make a positive impact on our communities.

Giving Back

“We created the Zallie Community Foundation in support of regional food banks, local nonprofit organizations, youth groups, first responders, schools and more. Through the foundation, we have formed strong friendships with The Food Bank of South Jersey, The Unforgotten Haven, Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey, Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge and Cathedral Kitchen. Our family and retail teams also take a very active role in the annual ShopRite Partners In Caring Cheerios Contest, helping raise money to address hunger in our community. We are so proud of our teams, which have been among the top fundraising ShopRite stores each year.”

David Zallie, President of Zallie Family Markets



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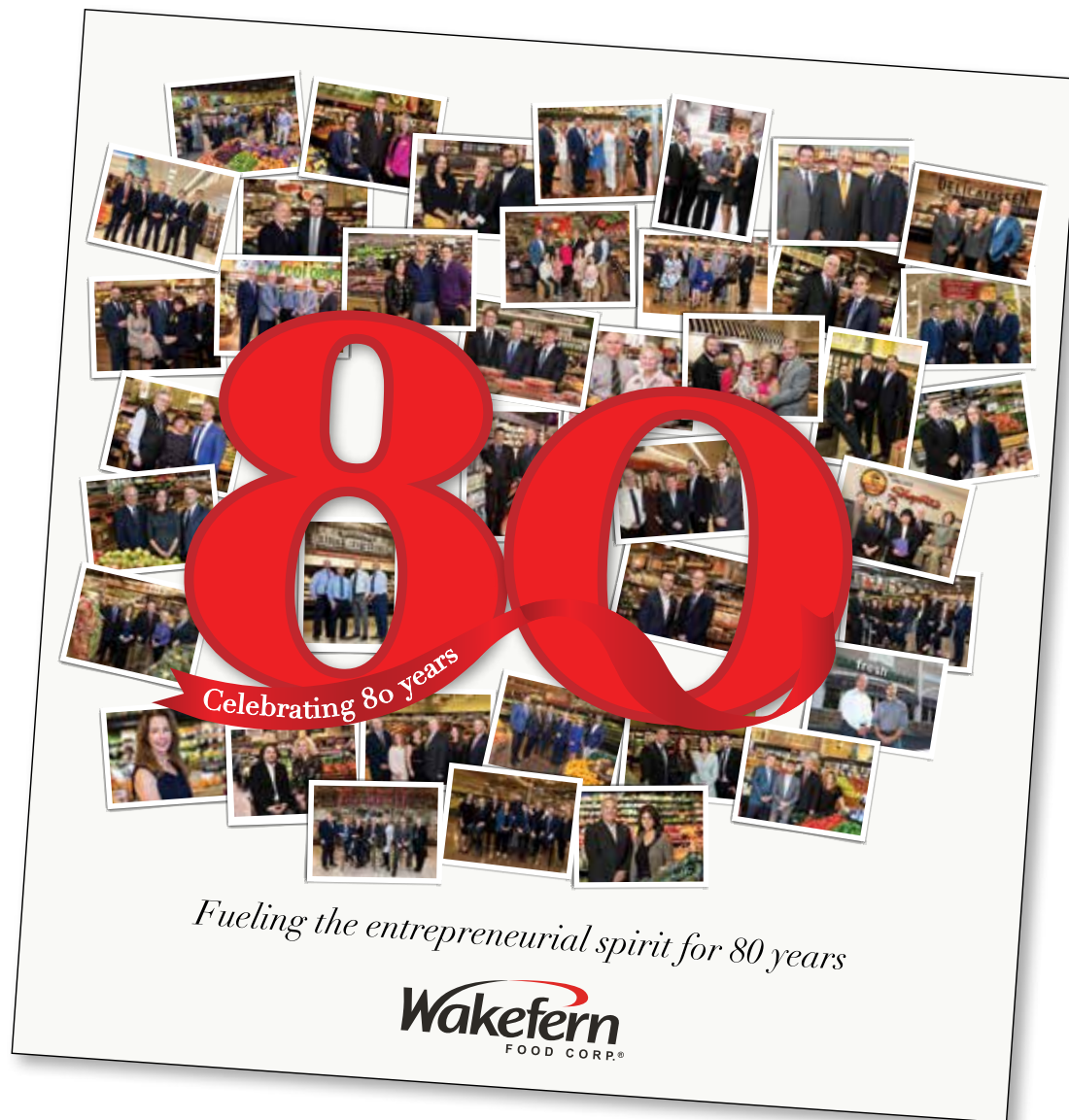
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