

# Wakefern Food Corp.

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For Immediate Release

## **WAKEFERN FOOD CORP. RECEIVES EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYER AWARD**

**Keasbey, NJ (May 19, 2010)** – Wakefern Food Corp. has been chosen as the 2010 recipient of the prestigious Harold R. Hawkey Exceptional Employer Award. This annual recognition is given to a New Jersey company of distinction by the Employers Association of New Jersey (EANJ). The award will be presented at the EANJ 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at The Imperia in Somerset, NJ.

Wakefern will receive this honor in recognition of the health and wellness initiatives it has implemented for its more than 1,500 associates. These programs – designed to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent disease and manage existing medical conditions – include a company-wide weight loss contest, walking club, health fairs, exercise classes and fitness center membership reimbursement, to name just a few.

“Investing in the health of our associates is one of the most effective means we can employ to improve productivity and the overall success of the company,” said Dean Janeway, president and COO of Wakefern Food Corp. “The health and well-being of associates is always top of mind when we consider our goals and objectives for the year ahead. It is so important to provide a working environment that not only fosters a healthy lifestyle but that also encourages a strong support system among peers to help them achieve their goals.”

“Wakefern is a long-time member of the EANJ and over the years we have often utilized its employee relations as ‘best practices’ in our training and consulting initiatives,” said John J. Sarno, president of Employer Association of New Jersey. “Not only do Wakefern’s health and wellness programs demonstrate impressive results, but they also exemplify the kind of workplace excellence this award was designed to spotlight.”

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### **About Wakefern Food Corp.**

From a small, struggling cooperative with eight members – all owners of their own grocery stores – Wakefern Food Corp. has grown into the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the United States. Founded in 1946, the cooperative is comprised of 46 members who today individually own and operate more than 200 supermarkets under the ShopRite banner in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. In 1996, Wakefern introduced PriceRite stores, extending the company’s reach into Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Today, there are 43 PriceRite stores in five states. As the merchandising and distribution arm of both ShopRite and PriceRite, Wakefern, together with its member companies, employ more than 50,000 people; making it one of the largest employers in New Jersey. In addition, Wakefern also distributes products to other supermarkets throughout the northeastern United States and Bermuda. For more information, please visit [www.Wakefern.com](http://www.Wakefern.com).

### **About the Employers Association of New Jersey**

The Employers Association of New Jersey (EANJ) is the only nonprofit association in the state of New Jersey dedicated exclusively to helping employers make sound and responsible employment decisions through education, informed discussion and training. [www.eanj.org](http://www.eanj.org)