



May 4, 2018

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Bunzl Distributing's Larry Baker Named WFIA 2017-2018 Vendor of the Year

Sumner business leader recognized for support of independent grocers

SUMNER — The Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA) has named **Larry Baker of Bunzl Distributing in Sumner** as the recipient of its 2017-2018 Vendor of the Year award. The honor gives special recognition to an individual who has shown exceptional dedication and support to independent grocers in Washington state.

“Larry Baker is perhaps one of our industry’s greatest ambassadors, continually advocating for the success of independent grocers,” said **Jan Gee, President and CEO of WFIA**. “Through his work at Bunzl, Larry has tirelessly committed himself to the success of independent grocers in Washington state. He has made special effort to provide competitive pricing to independent grocers that is comparative to big, national chains. His leadership and commitment to our industry ideals and ethics are why we have chosen to honor Larry with our Vendor of the Year award for 2017-2018.”

Representatives from WFIA presented Baker with the award at a ceremony today held at the Bunzl Distributing office in Sumner. Baker, general manager of Bunzl, also serves on the WFIA board of directors and has been a long-time supporter of the association’s [educational foundation](#). In recent years, Baker has co-chaired one of the foundation’s more visible events, the statewide Best Bagger grocery bagging championship.

Baker has also led various charitable initiatives at Bunzl, ranging from employee fundraisers for local food banks to an adopt-a-family program for families in need at Christmas. Baker and his team at Bunzl are also quick to organize in support of disaster relief. In recent years, they have raised money and provided support for victims and first responders in the Oso landslide as well as support for seasonal wildfire crews.

“As an association, we are fortunate to have someone with Larry’s industry knowledge and expertise on our board of directors,” added Gee. “We are grateful for his time and contributions and are proud to honor him with this award.”

About the Washington Food Industry Association

The Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA) is dedicated to promoting and protecting the independent, community-focused grocery industry and its suppliers. Founded in 1899, the WFIA represents the state’s independent grocers. Membership includes all levels of the food and beverage distribution industry who collaborate to promote the principles of free enterprise to ensure a vigorous, competitive, economically healthy food industry. The grocery industry provides about 50,000 Washington jobs. For more information, visit www.wa-food-ind.org.