

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jamie Pfuhl, President
Minnesota Grocers Association
(651) 228-0973
jpfuhl@mngrocers.com

Grocers Recognize Magnuson Nelson of Hugo's Family Marketplace / Valley Markets, Inc. as 2019 Outstanding Grocer

St. Paul, MN – August 2, 2019 – Kristi Magnuson Nelson, owner of Hugo's Family Marketplace in East Grand Forks, MN was honored by the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) with its 2019 Outstanding Grocer award. This award is presented annually to a grocer who has successfully developed a company and is respected by industry peers. Additionally, the recipient must demonstrate contributions to the industry in the areas of government affairs, community service, and involvement in the MGA. This award was presented by MGA Board Chair, Kris Kowalski Christiansen, and MGA President, Jamie Pfuhl on July 28, 2019 at the MGA's Annual Conference in Brainerd, MN, which was attended by over 350 members of the Minnesota food industry.

Hugo's history in the grocery industry goes back to 1939 with Kristi's grandparents, Hugo and Dorothy's first store. Kristi grew up in the business, first by playing with her siblings under her father Curt's desk. She helped sort coupons with her grandmother and aunt, and eventually became a carryout. She went to the University of North Dakota and graduated with a criminal justice degree. She returned to the grocery industry as the head of marketing for Hugo's in 2000. Kristi is the CEO and President of Hugo's Family Marketplace / Valley Markets, Inc. Hugo's currently has ten supermarkets, five liquor stores, seven Caribou Coffee shops, and three pharmacies in North Dakota and Minnesota. Hugo's employs 1,200 associates.

Kristi is a dedicated member of the MGA and numerous groups in their community. She serves on the boards of the Minnesota Grocers Association, National Grocers Association, North Dakota Grocers Association, and the Prairie Harvest Foundation.

Kristi and her husband Bob have been married 13 years. They live in Grand Forks with her stepdaughter Juliana and their three dogs.

Magnuson Nelson's entrepreneurial spirit exemplifies what it means to be a grocer. Their pursuit of excellence, community engagement, and association support makes her a role model for her peers. This is why she was chosen as the 2019 MGA Outstanding Grocer.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 120 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacture, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

###