

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio CareerConnect voted one of the top five finalists in the 2012 Connectors Choice Awards for “Networking Organization of the Year”

February 25, 2013, Cleveland: Szarka Financial is excited to announce that Ohio CareerConnect has been voted one of the top five finalists in CBC Magazine’s 2012 Connectors Choice Awards for “Networking Organization of the Year”. Ohio CareerConnect is a job seeker’s networking group geared toward career professionals in transition, and is the brain child of Chuck Conrad, JD and Rick Martin, CFP®, Senior Financial Planners at Szarka Financial in North Olmsted.

“Rick and I formed Ohio CareerConnect in order to give back to the community,” says Conrad. “We never imaged that we would be in the running for ‘Networking Organization of the Year’”!

Since February of 2011, Szarka Financial and Ohio CareerConnect have co-sponsored the Ohio CareerConnect Job Seeker’s Networking Event the last Wednesday of each month and are now partnering with The Oak Barrel in Valley View. “Because we’ve seen such a tremendous turnout for our monthly networking meetings, we’ve had to find a larger venue. We are so excited to call one of northeast Ohio’s newest restaurants, The Oak Barrel, our new home. They understand and support our goal of helping professionals in career transition, which is why they have generously partnered with us for these events,” says Mike Perry, President of Szarka Financial. “We are also extremely proud that in the last several years we have helped over 900 people from northeast Ohio with their respective job searches, with over 95% being re-employed.”

“I have had the pleasure to be associated with Ohio CareerConnect since they initially began, as both a job seeker and now as a networking contact for those still searching for their next career position,” says Stan Zemka, Information Technology Technical Manager for PNC. “I have missed very few, if any, meetings because of my belief in what they have to offer. Ohio CareerConnect was invaluable during my job search experience, and I would highly recommend anyone desiring a highly positive networking experience to attend.”

Why is an independent financial planning firm dedicating hundreds of man hours to assisting people who have experienced a forced job transition? Szarka Financial has a long history of providing objective information/education to persons affected by layoffs, in order to help them be better prepared to make the critical financial decisions that come along with being in an unexpected job transition.

“We feel it is our way of ‘paying it forward’”, states Martin. “We want to do our part with helping talented professionals make good connections and become re-employed. It’s one way to help build a thriving local economy, which ultimately benefits all of us.”

For more information, please visit SzarkaFinancial.com.

Szarka Financial has provided comprehensive financial services since 1982 to clients nearing and in retirement. One of the leading financial planning firms in Northeast Ohio, Szarka Financial was named a 2010 COSE "Ten Under 10" winner. They offer comprehensive financial education programs and apply industry best practices to areas such as investment, retirement, estate, tax, 401(k) plans and insurance planning.*

Securities and investment advisory services offered through FSC Securities Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC and SEC registered investment advisor. Szarka Financial is not affiliated with FSC or registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor.

**The Council of Smaller Enterprises(COSE) "Ten Under 10" award honors companies with less than 10 full-time employees for their best practices in innovation, growth/success, value to the community and the environment, diversity promotion and customer service excellence. Please see www.cose.com/10under10 for more information.*

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