

For Immediate Release
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Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce that the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award has been awarded to James Floros.

To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

These are the words that have inspired James (Jim) Floros for his entire nonprofit career that spans nearly four decades. Doing something bigger than yourself and making the world a better place has made Jim the person he is today.

Jim Floros was born and raised in Ripon and while he left Ripon for San Diego after graduating in 1979, he has remained an ambassador of Ripon and the State of Wisconsin. Jim always touts that his midwestern roots and strong work ethic have served him well in his life and career. And while he has lived in San Diego, CA since 18 – he still bleeds green and gold and is a Packers Fan for life.

Jim graduated from the University of San Diego with an International Relations degree. From there Jim's quest to make the world a better place started at the World Headquarters of Project Concern International – helping build community-based health clinics around the world. From there Jim moved to the Burn Institute, where he assisted burn survivors cope with the devastation of their injuries and prevent burn injuries and fires. In 2008 Jim was awarded the prestigious National Burn Prevention Award for his dedicated efforts. Jim joined the San Diego Food Bank (SDFB) in 2013 where he worked tirelessly to end hunger and lift people out of poverty. Jim's finest achievement may be his work during the COVID 19 Crisis. Jim mobilized his agency to expand from feeding 350,000 to 600,000 people a month. He raised tens of millions of dollars, purchased millions of dollars in food, helped create innovative program strategies to meet the increase in need and is credited with not only leading the SDFB through the pandemic, but the San Diego

community as well. He received numerous awards during the pandemic but was always adamant that these awards reflected on his great staff and volunteers.

Jim and his wife Cheryl reside in Chula Vista, CA, and have two grown sons who have always excelled in their endeavors. Jim is quick to say that his greatest achievement in life are his sons, Jack and John.

When asked about his life and what it has meant to the thousands of lives he has touched, improved, and perhaps saved, Jim's reply is simple, "life is too short to not do something that matters."