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Chestnut Hill Realty founder and CEO Ed Zuker receives Humanitarian Award

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Afghani immigrant Rahmat Wakili prepares to hand award to Chestnut Hill Realty founder and CEO Ed Zuker. Shown (from left) are: Janeth Medina Tellez from Venezuela, Ilona Sviezhentseva from Ukraine; Sabira Khalili, Rahmat's wife; Ed Zuker and Rahmat Wakili.

Waltham, MA Ed Zuker, founder and CEO of Chestnut Hill Realty, received the Max Michelson

Humanitarian Award at Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Metrowest's annual Seize the Dream event held on May 11.

Seize the Dream honors area leaders and volunteers who have demonstrated an unflinching commitment and personal dedication to supporting vulnerable children, families, and senior adults in the local community and beyond.

Zuker and Chestnut Hill Realty were honored for providing housing to 30 refugee families from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Venezuela in its apartment communities since November 2021. Zuker was recognized for donating to ensure that these families can afford to stay in their homes and for working with JFS and local resettlement agencies to help these new immigrants integrate into the community.

"As an apartment owner in Boston for the past 50 plus years, I feel a sincere responsibility to help others who are less fortunate get their start in this great community and great country. Finding a safe, secure place to live is a critical first step in beginning a productive life. I hope our example inspires others to do what they can to give newcomers a head start in our country." said Zuker.

In his remarks at the awards ceremony, JFS CEO Lino Covarrubias applauded Zuker and Chestnut Hill Realty for opening their heart and communities to refugee families.

"Chestnut Hill Realty has welcomed these families with warmth, dignity and generosity," said Covarrubias. "We are very proud to partner with Chestnut Hill Realty in our mission to provide vital social, health and community services to people in need."

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