Congratulations to our very own Mary Lou Panzano, Board President, for her selection as a NJBIZ ICON Award winner!

The NJBIZ ICON Awards program recognizes New Jersey business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.

Mary Lou Panzano has enjoyed a distinguished career spanning 40 years, demonstrating excellence in leadership and communications at some of the world's leading companies, including Prudential, Pfizer, and Bayer. She retired early from her executive position as Vice President of Internal Communications, where she managed global communication strategies and initiatives that significantly enhanced organizational cohesion and performance.

Throughout her corporate career, Mary Lou garnered numerous accolades for her innovative approaches and outstanding contributions. She was instrumental in developing and implementing communication frameworks that increased employee engagement and streamlined internal processes. Her notable achievements include launching Pfizer's internal communication platform in 2005, which won the Excellence in Communication Award, and leading a successful corporate rebranding initiative at Bayer in 2012.

Mary Lou's professional journey is marked by her commitment to mentoring and developing future leaders, especially women in the workplace. Her efforts were recognized in 2014 when she was named one of the "Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business" by New Jersey Business magazine.

Leadership and Vision

After retiring from the corporate world, Mary Lou founded Panzano Enterprises LLC, through which she shares her principles of prosperity and her 4Cs Change Framework. Her seminars, workshops, and one-on-one coaching sessions have empowered countless individuals to unlock their potential and achieve personal and professional success.

Mary Lou's influence extends to her community involvement, particularly through her role as President of the Board of Directors for Morris Habitat for Humanity. Under her leadership, Morris Habitat has expanded its reach and impact, significantly increasing the number of affordable homes built for families in need. She has spearheaded numerous fundraising initiatives and partnerships, which have resulted in unprecedented support and resources for the organization.

Her commitment to Morris Habitat for Humanity is a testament to her dedication to service and community. She actively participates in build days, engages with volunteers and homeowners, and advocates for affordable housing policies at the local and state levels. Mary Lou's leadership has not only strengthened the organization but has also brought greater awareness to the critical issue of affordable housing in New Jersey.