

20 Under 40: Adam Vitale

This week's recipient of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce's "20 Under 40" award to be profiled is Adam Vitale, president of G&M Distributors, Inc.



Adam Vitale, president of G&M Distributors, Inc., is a recipient of the 20 Under 40 Award. — STEVE DAVIS/The Register-Mail

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GALESBURG — This week's recipient of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce's "20 Under 40" award to be profiled is Adam Vitale, president of G&M Distributors, Inc. Vitale is the final recipient of the award to be featured.

According to his nomination, "Adam encompasses all the attributes of a successful and giving business owner. He makes community involvement and philanthropy a foundation of his business model. He's a wonderful role model for other young professionals in the community and we're lucky to have him."

Here's more about Vitale in his own words:

Q. What do you do in your current position?

A. As president of G & M Distributors, Inc. (G&M) I oversee all operations, sales, and administration. My role includes managing customer and

supplier relations, company profitability, and strategy. Our team is approximately 130 full-time employees in central and northern Illinois.

Lately, my position has centered on acquisition and integration. G&M recently purchased a distributorship in Dixon, Illinois. Integrating the new family of employees and learning the new market has been my focus.

Q. How are you involved in the community?

A. Serving the community is important to me. I am the current area wide board chairman of OSF St. Mary Medical Center, vice chairman of the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development, and the vice president of the G. L. Vitale Family Foundation. I am a member of the Illini Chapter of Young Presidents Organization (YPO). Additionally, I serve on state and national industry organizations.

Q. Of what achievement are you most proud?

A. I am most proud of our family of employees and the culture at G&M. Through hard work we have been able to grow the company and give back to the communities we serve. Our last two acquisitions have been examples of our forward looking agenda and long term vision. When I returned to G&M in 2008 we had approximately 65 employees. We've grown our team to 130, while increasing wages and benefits.

Simultaneously, we have encouraged our team to be more active in the communities we serve. G&M team members are parts of local boards and organizations across central and northern Illinois.

Q. What advice do you have for other young professionals?

A. We only have once chance to make a positive impact on our families, coworkers, and community. You cannot sit around and wait for opportunity. As young professionals, we need to constantly and actively seek it. Patience is critical. Many of us yearn for opportunities with instant gratification. It's not always possible; good things will come with consistent cultivation.

And — ignore people that say, “This is the way we've always done it.”

Q. What's the most important thing people should know about your community

A. Galesburg has a solid bedrock of opportunity now and into the future. For a smaller community, we have more amenities and culture than cities much larger than us. Simultaneously, we have a lower than average cost of living. When you throw in our solid infrastructure and things like Amtrak, it's hard to beat Galesburg.

Like many communities, we have naysayers who are solely focused on the past. We cannot dwell on it or change it. We must learn from our past successes and missed opportunities to make Galesburg stronger for future generations. I am proud that our community is optimistically focused on the future through city leadership, economic development, philanthropy, and an improving educational system. Our future is bright.

Adam Vitale: Age: 37, Residence: Galesburg, Profession: President, G & M Distributors, Inc.,

Education: University of Delaware, bachelor of science in Hotel Administration; Pepperdine University,

Master's in Business Administration with a marketing emphasis, Family: Mother, Andrea F. Vitale,

Galesburg

About the award

The Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce have launched the “20 Under 40” award.

This award honors 20 individuals under the age of 40 considered to be “movers and shakers” in the community.

Honorees will be profiled each week through Jan. 31, 2016, in The Register-Mail. They will be included in a special supplement in February 2016, in addition to being recognized at the chamber's annual dinner to be held in February 2016.

The 20 honorees are judged on their outstanding career achievements and community impact. A panel of judges evaluated each nomination on information provided in the following categories: Reason for nomination, career achievements/special awards and recognition, community involvement, volunteerism and community service leadership skills.