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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **RANDY MUNNS HONORED AS 2024 GROCER OF THE YEAR**

*De Pere/Madison WI* – Randy Munns, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Festival Foods, has been selected as the 2024 Grocer of the Year, the Wisconsin Grocers Association's (WGA) highest honor. The surprise presentation was held Friday morning, September 6th at the Festival Foods Support Center in De Pere. Randy was nominated by Mike Jankovich of UNFI, a wholesale distribution company.

"We are proud to honor Randy Munns as the Wisconsin Grocers Association's Grocer of the Year," stated Mike Semmann, WGA President/CEO. "His dedication to providing exceptional service, commitment to his community, and leadership within the industry sets a high standard for others to follow. Randy understands what it means to be a successful, community-focused grocer, and is an outstanding advocate for his team. We are thrilled to celebrate his contributions to both Festival Foods and our state's grocery industry."

This is the 50th year the WGA has presented their Grocer of the Year Award and a clear milestone for the Association's membership. WGA Chair Bob Jaskolski commented, "WGA is proud to present the 50th Grocer of the Year award to Randy. He exemplifies the highest qualities of leadership in business and his community, and his influence has positively enhanced the lives of others."

Starting in 1991, Randy's journey through the merchandising channels culminated in his current role as Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the entire Skogen's Festival Foods Group in 2021. His leadership has been pivotal in expanding the Festival Foods Banner to 43 stores as of 2024. Randy's close collaboration with two generations of the Skogen family—Dave and Mark—has been a driving force behind this impressive expansion, reflecting his ability to foster long-term partnerships and steer the company toward continued success.

One of Randy's notable achievements was to help create the vision of the Hometown Grocers Group. This initiative, launched to help small communities retain their local grocery stores, has grown to nine stores in just two years and continues to expand. Randy's vision for this group underscores his commitment to supporting independent grocers and ensuring they remain competitive by emphasizing customer service, community involvement, and fresh, clean stores.

Under Randy's leadership, Festival Foods has cultivated a unique retail culture focused on collaborative leadership, customer service, and community engagement. "Randy has been a champion of a management style that emphasizes

respect and growth, connecting with everyone from executive leaders to hourly associates, according to Mike Jankovich. “His dedication to people is evident in his personal touch—whether it's sending birthday wishes or anniversary congratulations to every leader at Festival, Randy consistently reminds his team that they are more family than just business associates.” Randy's influence extends beyond his team to the vendor partners he works with. He has built long term, win-win relationships with major brands and his focus on selling products and delivering results has created a synergy that benefits guests, vendors, and Festival associates alike.”

Festival's commitment to community support is equally remarkable. Randy's team consistently prioritize community involvement, from organizing fireworks displays and promoting healthy living through local athletic events, to supporting green initiatives at various events. His passion for giving back, such as his work with Aspiro organization, has solidified Festival Foods as a community leader. Randy Munns exemplifies the qualities of a true leader in the grocery industry, and his contributions have left an indelible mark on the communities he serves.

***The WGA is the Wisconsin food industry's trade association with more than 500 members, and the Grocer of the Year Award is its most prestigious award. Presented annually, the award is given to a WGA member who makes significant contributions to the industry and the community.***

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