

James E. Hammer

President and CEO, Hammer Packaging

Jim Hammer, 60, serves as President and CEO of Hammer Packaging, a fourth generation family business founded in 1912. He began his career at, then, Hammer Lithograph in 1969 in the sales and customer service department. He was promoted to vice president in 1975, and president and CEO in 1983. Jim has grown the company from a \$4 million, 60-employee regional firm into a \$100 million, 400-employee global organization. Jim built a culture based on a commitment to five shared values – integrity, respect, trust, credibility and continuous improvement – and a business philosophy of “Lead, don’t follow”.

Success has evolved from Jim’s continued investment in leading-edge technology, hiring the right people and listening to the voice of the customer. The company has won many awards, most notably Best Workplace in America and Rochester’s Business Ethics Award. Hammer has been named to the Top 100 list of fastest growing privately held companies in Rochester for the past seventeen years.

Jim has received numerous distinctions, as well. He was the recipient of the 2008 Herbert Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award from Rochester Institute of Technology. The award honors Jim for successfully developing a business that positively impacted the local economy and recognizes his innovative management skills. In 2007, he was inducted into the New York Business Hall of Fame, and in 2005 Jim was awarded the Business Person of the Year by the Rochester Small Business Council.

Jim is a member of the World Presidents Organization and has served as President of the National Label Printing Industries of America. He is a director of the Mary Cariola Children’s Center and serves as chairman of the governance committee. He also serves on the board of the James P. Wilmot Cancer Center at Strong Memorial Hospital and Catalyst Direct, a Direct and Internet Marketing Provider. He serves as a member of the regional board of directors of JP Morgan Chase.

Hammer actively supports a variety of local, state and national charitable organizations, including United Way of Greater Rochester, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Camp Good Days and Special Times, Ronald McDonald House and Disabled Children of Monroe County.

Jim Hammer received his Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing from Drake College; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He and his wife, Donna, have three children: Lisa, Jason, and Ashley.