

# 2017 Large Business of the Year

## Hardester's Market

Hardester's Market is a unique business that delivers quality products and excellent service with friendliness and a smile. Their small town, small store business structure serves both our diverse population and out of town visitors with a variety of products including organic food, good meat cuts, gift items and a wide variety of household needs and supplies.

Hardester's receives FIVE STAR ratings on Yelp and a FIVE STAR rating from many South Lake County residents. Their philosophy or tag line "Neighbors helping Neighbors" is absolutely true and lived every day of the year. Rain or shine, it doesn't matter, Hardester's Market is here in our community always helping neighbors and they do it with a smile.

Owners Ross and Grant lead by example and they attract and employ many local people of all ages to help model the "Neighbors helping Neighbors" messaging of Hardester's Market. Many employees have worked for Hardester's Market for years because Ross and Grant treat their employees well and provide first time job experience to many of the youth in our community.

For over 70 years, Hardester's has been an active partner in our community. They regularly lend support to a variety of community events, projects and organizations; and they do so quietly, kindly and with a humble heart.

- During the recent flooding, Hardester's made sand available for FREE
- For Christmas in Middletown, Hardester's provided strings of holiday lights to local businesses
- Every summertime, they give free pool passes to the youth in our community who need them
- Hardester's supports numerous school programs including Sober Grad
- They also sponsor the movies for "Movie in the Park", a summertime family fun activity put on by the Middletown Area Merchants Association
- Hardester's generously and quietly supplied gifts cards to people in need in our community, primarily those that lost homes in the fires and seniors

Over the years, Hardester's Market has invested in our community, always ready to give and support community members.

Bottom line, Hardester's Market is an active member of our community in so many ways and on so many levels; and they do it all just because it is the right thing to do, in our small community where Neighbors help Neighbors.