



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Berkshire Bank Named 2018 Halo Award Winner**  
*Berkshire's XTEAM® Receives Gold (Award) for Employee Engagement*

BOSTON, MA- Berkshire Bank, the largest regional bank headquartered in Massachusetts, announced that it was awarded the prestigious 2018 Gold Halo Award for its XTEAM® corporate volunteer program. The award recognizes the top corporate social responsibility efforts in North America across multiple categories including education, cause marketing and employee engagement.

Berkshire received the award for the Employee Engagement (Group Volunteering) category, which recognizes initiatives that meaningfully and measurably engage its employees in a cause-focused initiative to achieve both a social and a business impact. Berkshire's Xtraordinary Day of Service, held in June of 2017, mobilized 92% of their workforce across the country and impacted more than 400,000 individuals. In 2017, the XTEAM® logged an impressive 306 projects benefiting 203 organizations and contributed 40,000 hours of service. This corporate employee volunteer program boasts a 100% employee participation rate, earning them the highest recognition in the Employee Engagement category.

“While many companies offer some form of employee volunteer program, Berkshire has gone above and beyond to truly engage employees in ways that are significant and personally meaningful to the employee. We are honored to receive this recognition and have the opportunity to improve and create change in the communities in which we live and work” stated Gary Levante, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at Berkshire Bank.

“The Halo Awards were created to acknowledge best in class corporate social impact

programs. This year's winners are a fantastic representation of the effective and innovative ways companies and causes can work together to create meaningful business and social returns," said Engage for Good President, David Hessekiel.

The Halo Awards are North America's highest honor for corporate social initiatives and cause marketing and presented by Engage for Good (formerly Cause Marketing Forum). 2018 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year that [Engage for Good](#) will honor businesses and nonprofits with Halos for doing well by doing good. The awards were presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual [Engage for Good conference](#) in Chicago on May 24, 2018. A complete list of the Halo Award finalists can be seen at <http://www.engageforgood.com/halo-awards>.

### **About Berkshire Bank**

Berkshire Bank, America's Most Exciting Bank®, is recognized for its entrepreneurial approach, relationship customer experience and distinctive culture. With \$11.5 billion in assets, Berkshire provides business and consumer banking, mortgage, wealth management, investment and insurance services through 114 full service branch offices throughout New York, Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts, including Commerce Bank, a division of Berkshire Bank. Berkshire Hills Bancorp (NYSE: BHLB) is the parent of Berkshire Bank. To learn more, visit [www.berkshirebank.com](http://www.berkshirebank.com), call 800-773-5601 or follow us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Berkshire Bank is the official bank of [NESN's Boston Bruins coverage](#), [the Pan-Mass Challenge](#) and the community partner of [Boston Seasons at City Hall Plaza](#).

### **About Berkshire Bank Foundation**

Through foundation grants to nonprofits, scholarships to students, environmental programs, and employee volunteerism, Berkshire Bank is making a difference. Each year the Foundation donates \$2 million to nonprofits throughout the Bank's footprint and 100% of bank employees provide over 40,000 hours of service through their XTEAM® corporate volunteer program. Berkshire Bank was named one of Massachusetts' Most Charitable Companies by the Boston Business Journal in 2017. To learn more about Berkshire Bank Foundation, visit [www.berkshirebank.com/community](http://www.berkshirebank.com/community).

### **About Engage for Good**

Engage for Good, producer of the Engage for Good conference and Halo Awards, helps business and nonprofit executives succeed together by providing practical information and inspiration, opportunities to build valuable relationships and recognition for outstanding work engaging employees and consumers around social good and cause-related marketing efforts. A wealth of information on cause marketing, corporate social impact programs and Engage for Good's offerings can be found at <https://www.engageforgood.com>

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