

Dear Sir,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to you in regards to recommending Anthony Sblendorio for your Person of the Year Award. Initially, when asked to comment about Anthony, I was taken by surprise as my association with him is more a personal friendship than a professional relationship, but what convinced me to write was the impact Anthony has had on my life both personally and professionally.

I have known Anthony since his graduation from college, just as he was starting Back to Nature, the business which is still going strong today. I can clearly remember sitting in his parents basement going over hand drawn plans (because nobody used AutoCAD back then), bouncing ideas off of one another, and driving through empty wooded lots of land throughout New Jersey while he tried to teach me about "sustainable development", a term totally foreign to me, and to most, at the time.

As my own education came to an end and I became an architect, it was Anthony who insisted I become LEED certified, an exam I passed thanks largely to his help. It was that certification that got me my current job managing a large portion of the restoration project currently taking place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, a project striving for LEED Gold certification.

However, when discussing Anthony I believe you'll find a long list of professional awards and accomplishments. The Anthony I want to tell you about is the one outside the office, off the job site.

When I purchased my first home, I arrived home one evening to find Anthony knee deep in mud in my front lawn installing a new rain water drainages system- by himself, free of charge. The following Spring I mentioned to him how green my lawn looked. He said, "Oh yeah, I sent someone over to fertilize the lawn and clean it up for you." Again, all on his own, free of charge.

I'm glad to say, after 22 years, through personal ups-and-downs, I still proudly call Anthony my best friend. Our son's even share a birthday, which we often celebrate together every October. And when Anthony's name comes up in conversation people sometimes ask me, "Who is Anthony? Your friend?" I always answer with, "No, he's more like my brother."

Be confident in your selection of Anthony for your Man of the Year Award. There is nobody more qualified for the title.

Kevin Galgano
Project Manager – United Nations Capitol Master Plan