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Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) Recognizes Aquafil USA as CARE Recycler of the Year; and Rocky Pounder and Robert Goldberg as CARE Persons of the Year

CARE Awards these Winners at its 2016 CARE Conference in Greenville, South Carolina

May 31, 2016, Dalton, Georgia - The Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), which develops new processes, products, equipment and markets that reuse the valuable raw materials of post-consumer carpet, awarded Aquafil USA the CARE Recycler of the Year, for Aquafil’s historic and continuous consumption of post-consumer nylon 6 carpet across the USA.

Aquafil’s reclamation of post-consumer carpet is a first step in the ECONYL® Regeneration System, which creates recycled nylon 6 fibers from post-consumer carpet in a continuous production cycle. Aquafil’s process transforms the nylon 6 back into raw material without any loss of quality.

“We are pleased to present Aquafil USA with this award, which recognizes Aquafil’s continuous commitment and leadership in sustainable manufacturing and a circular economy”, says Brendan McSheehy, Chairman of the Board of CARE.

Rocky Ponders and Robert Goldberg, Columbia Recycling Corporation, were named CARE Persons of the Year. These two outstanding individuals transformed their company’s business model, expanding post-industrial and post-consumer carpet recycling over the past 36 years. As a result, they increased employment from fewer than 25 employees to over 500 people. Rocky and Robert led the company’s growth
into production of melt filtered pellets for the compounding industry, and the production of carpet cushion manufacturing, using recycled carpet components.

“CARE is pleased to recognize Rocky and Robert’s leadership of Columbia Recycling Corporation. Over the years, these two innovators have led their company to divert significant amounts of carpet from landfills across the USA, through innovations in process technology, equipment design and product development”, says Robert Peoples, Executive Director of CARE. “We especially want to recognize Rocky, as he retires from the day to day operations of Columbia Recycling, and wish him all the best in his new efforts to further develop the carpet cushion business.”

About Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE)

Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) is a voluntary, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the landfill diversion, reuse and recycling of post-consumer carpet, through market-based solutions that benefit the economy as well as the environment.

Since 2002, CARE has diverted more than 4 billion pounds of carpet from landfills in the United States, and promoted the use and development of products containing materials derived from carpet. CARE members include independent carpet recyclers, carpet manufacturers, dealers, retailers, suppliers and non-governmental organizations. For more information about CARE, visit www.carpetrecovery.org.

Left to Right: Bob Peoples, Executive Director, CARE, Jim Lindsey, Aquafil USA, and Brendan McSheehy, CARE Chairman of the Board
Left to Right: Fred Williamson, Starnet, Rocky Ponders
CARE 2016 Person of the Year, and Bob Peoples,
Executive Director, CARE