



NEWS RELEASE

SBA Number : SS -02-02-1017
Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Stacey Sanchez
714-550-7420 x 3202
e-mail stacey.sanchez@sba.gov

Historic Irvine Property Purchased by Knowlwood

Santa Ana – Thanh Duc and Ginger Nguyen, owners of Knowlwood Enterprises, Inc., better known as Knowlwood Restaurants Home of the World’s Best Hamburger, acquired the Irvine Blacksmith Shop in Old Town Irvine in 2001.

The company was established in 1957 in Anaheim Hills and acquired by the Nguyens in 1998. Knowlwood currently employs 100 in five locations in Orange County: Santa Ana, Laguna Niguel, Fullerton, Anaheim Hills and Irvine.

Mr. Nguyen left a position with California State University Fullerton (CSUF) to fulfill his dream of entrepreneurship. While at CSUF Nguyen was instrumental in helping to establish the Center for Socio-economics. He was able to purchase the business using the help and financial support of friends and family. In 2001 he used the assistance of the SBA’s 504 loan program to purchase the Irvine Blacksmith Shop in Irvine. Southland EDC and Union Bank provided funding on the 5,727 square foot building.

Thanh Duc and Ginger Nguyen were recognized for their business success on October 17, 2002 at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario by the U.S. Small Business Administration as part of the SBA’s salute to Minority Enterprise Development.

For more information on all of SBA’s programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-ASK-SBA, or visit the SBA’s extensive website at www.sba.gov

###