



# News Release

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**Contact:** David Perry 404-331-0267  
**E-mail:** david.perry@sba.gov

## **SBA Names Savannah Business Owners 2012 Georgia Small Business Persons of the Year**

**ATLANTA-** The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Laura Darnall and Lois Judy, Co-Owners of Candy Craft Creations, the Georgia Small Business Persons of the Year for 2012. They were nominated by Connie Edwards and Lynn Vos of the Georgia Small Business Development Center in Savannah.

Candy Craft Creations manufactures and distributes Fondarific; a new type of fondant which offers improved ease of use as well as a pleasing taste. Fondant has long been used by chefs and bakers to create the smooth malleable icing that forms round edges. It is rolled into a uniform thickness and laid over cakes. It is also used for detail work such as making intricate flowers.

Small Business Person of the Year winners from 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam will converge in Washington, D.C. May 20 -22, 2012 to mark the annual celebration of National Small Business Week. One of them will be selected as *National Small Business Person of the Year*.

The criteria for the award include: Staying power – a substantiated history as an established business, growth in number of employees, innovativeness of product/service offered, response to adversity and contributions to community-oriented projects.

With its special qualities, food channel exposure and endorsements by some of the country's top chefs and cake artists, it is not an understatement that Fondarific has taken the confectionery world by storm. In five short years the company has moved from a 10 by 14 foot fabricated building in Laura Darnall's back yard into a 10,000 square foot manufacturing and distribution center with 28 full time employees.

Such rapid growth often creates big challenges for new companies. So Laura and Lois turned to the Georgia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) area office in Savannah to help them manage critical issues such as cash flow, receivables and inventory growth, just to name a few. And even more recently the team has been working with the SBDC Export Division to pursue international markets. Soon the whole world will be in on their "Fondarific" product.

The company was recognized at a luncheon hosted by the Georgia Lender Quality Circle in Atlanta on May 16. Other Georgia Small Business Week winners are: Financial Services Champion, Colby Cardin of Columbus; Exporter of the Year, Paresh 'Perry' Vyas, President of SKAPS Industries of Athens; Women in Business Champion Judy Randle of Albany; and Susan Taylor, owner of Taylor Services of Macon, Family Owned Business of the Year.

Contact SBA's David Perry to coordinate one on one interviews with any of the Georgia Small Business Week winners 404-331-0267 or david.perry@sba.gov.

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