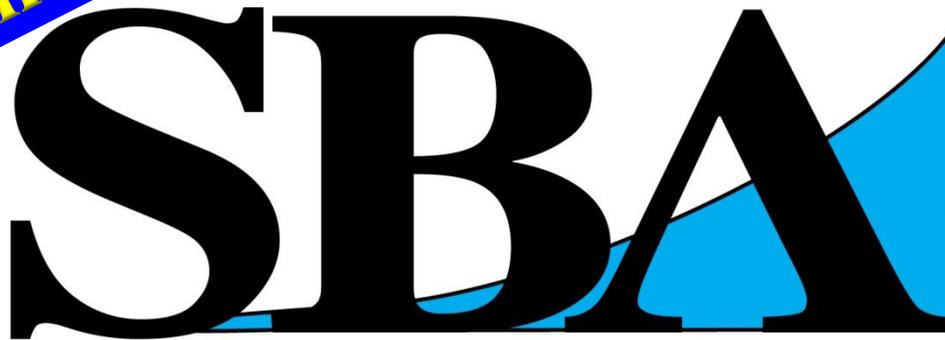


...And The Winner Is



U.S. Small Business Administration

The Georgia District Office
Small Business Week
Award Winners



wiseGEEK

Small Business Person of the Year

Beth Cayce

CaraVita Home Care

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Website: www.caravitahomecare.com



Beth Cayce is the founder and CEO of CaraVita Home Care, a private duty homecare agency serving the Metro Atlanta area since 1998.

Prior to founding CaraVita, Beth was President of Persona Care, a \$200 million subsidiary of TheraTx, a \$450 million NASDAQ-traded rehabilitation and long-term care company. Over the last 35 years, Beth has served in the roles of President, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Officer, and Vice President for acute care and rehab hospitals, a large Atlanta-based home health company, and a chain of outpatient rehab clinics. She was the consultant for development of the Wesley Woods and Piedmont Hospital Rehabilitation Units, and was the founding operator of the rehabilitation unit at North Fulton Hospital.

Upon founding CaraVita in 1998, Beth served as its CEO and as founder and partner in two additional companies which held and managed a complement of senior-care related assets. Her companies were responsible for managing multiple senior living communities and won 3 statewide best practice awards before she sold them in 2008. Since 2008, Beth has focused on CaraVita Home Care.

Beth is a past president and current board member of the Georgia Assisted Living Federation of America (GALFA). She is the chairman of GALFA's legislative and regulatory committee and as such was instrumental in helping to pass Georgia's Aging in Place and Proxy Caregiver legislation, allowing certain health maintenance and medication administration functions to be provided by certified nursing assistants and reducing the cost of care to families.

Beth is founder and secretary for Care to Learn, an international non-governmental organization that promotes training and development of African pastors and leaders. She serves as chairman of the Global Missions Committee of Roswell United Methodist Church, and is the district representative for the North Georgia Conference of Missions. In addition, her family is one of 25 that support New Vista Partners, a private venture that boosts leadership development in Romania.

Beth was a TheraTx team recipient of Inc. magazine's Top 2 fastest growing companies in America in 1996 and a winner of Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur Award for team excellence in the same year. She is a former national board member of the Assisted Living Federation of America and the Long-Term Care PTAC for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Beth graduated summa cum laude from Georgia State University in 1975, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy. In 1985, she graduated magna cum laude from Georgia State University with a Master's degree in Health Leadership and Administration. She was also awarded the Outstanding Alumnus Award. She is a guest lecturer at Georgia State University, speaking on entrepreneurship and allied health. Her passions include her service to Africa and Romania through leadership training, sustainable business development, health promotion, and applied technology.

Small Business Person of the Year (1st runner up)

Jeffrey Manley & Jusak Bernhard

TailsSpin Pet Supply Store

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TailsSpin is a retail pet supply store that opened its first location in 2007 in Savannah, Georgia with one employee. Owned and operated by Jeffrey Manley, Vice President and Jusak Bernhard, President. The business has grown to three retail store locations in three different cities with a total of 24 employees. Sales through November 2012 were more than five times sales in 2008, the business' first full year. The business has won local, national and international awards. Both Jeffrey and Jusak are deeply committed to their local community.

Jeff is an award winning video editor, audio engineer and technical director. Jusak is an award winning independent producer and actor. While in Los Angeles in 2003, they adopted their first dog, Kai, from a local pet rescue agency. Kai was suffering from allergies and hot spots. Jusak and Jeff first tried treating their new pet with steroids, which helped some, but after six months of treatment Kai had lost energy and was gaining weight.

Jeff and Jusak already knew they wanted to start their own business when they moved to the City of Savannah in Chatham County, Georgia in 2006, but they had not yet made a decision concerning what type of business. Once they were in Savannah, they discovered that they could not find the brands of pet food they had been purchasing for Kai and the two other dogs they had later adopted. They realized there was a need in the Savannah market for the innovative natural solutions to food related pet health issues that was not being met by stores in the area. It had taken a long time for them to find help for Kai through natural means and they wanted to help other people with the same issues solve their problems more quickly and easily.

So they began exploring the idea of opening a retail pet supply store in the Savannah area. They began working with the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Savannah with developing their business plan, acquiring funding and opening their first location in October 2007. The space was 800 square feet and they had one employee.

TailsSpin has grown steadily since its start, with sales of over \$350,000 in 2008, their first full year. As sales continued to grow the duo expanded their first store to a new space in Midtown Savannah in 2009.

- From one employee to now 24 employees
- From an 800 square foot store to now over 8,000 square feet in three different cities.
- From selling a \$0.89 can of coke their first day to more than \$2 million in annual sales.

Jeff and Jusak's dedication to succeed embodies the criteria for the award of Georgia Small Business Person of the Year (1st Runner Up) 2013, and is a true testament to their many achievements. The criteria included, but not limited to; 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.

Small Business Person of the Year (2nd runner up)

Loretta Emmons

Heartsong Spay Neuter Clinic

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Loretta Emmons, Heartsong Founder and service dog, Shadow

Mrs. Emmons was raised on a farm in rural Ohio, has been rescuing and caring for animals since she was old enough to walk and has worked with animals of all kinds her entire life. She has held licenses for rescue of both domestic and exotic animals, been a veterinary technician for 30+ years and has extensive experience in animal husbandry, behavior and general care.

Loretta and her family have also been involved in 4H throughout their lives. As a child, Loretta was a member of 4H and, as an adult, went on to become a 4H advisor. Loretta has also been involved with breeding, exhibiting and judging cats, dogs, horses, swine and goats. She is currently a judge with the American Kennel Club for canines.

Loretta has been featured in numerous stories over the years and, most recently in a news story about “Dog Flipping” that aired on CBS affiliate WJBF. She is also a published author, including writing for “Chicken Soup for the Soul” and “Arabian Horse Journal”. In addition, she was asked to be a guest author for the soon to be published, “Dog and Hound Magazine”, and will become a regular, paid author for this publication.

Loretta’s dedication to the welfare of animals and her advocacy on their behalf is evident in the organizations she supports. In September 2011, Loretta was nominated and chosen as the National Association of Professional Women’s “Woman of the Year”.

Georgia Exporter of the Year
Fondarific/Candy Craft Creations
Laura Darnall
Lois Judy
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ljudy@fondarific.com
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How Sweet It Is: Savannah fondant manufacturer achieves spectacular growth!

When Savannah, Ga., residents Laura Darnall and Lois Judy formed Fondarific in 2008, they were making their fondant — a moldable icing used on baked goods — in a 10-foot-by-14-foot building in Darnall's backyard. Five years later, the company operates a 10,000-square-foot production facility, is shipping its product to international customers, and has received recognition from the U.S. Small Business Administration as Small Business Persons of the Year 2012 and now Exporter of the Year for 2013.

Home Based Business Champion of the Year

Pam Schloemer

Schloemer Business Services, LLC

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Pam Schloemer is the founder and President of Schloemer Business Services LLC. After dedicating over 30 years in accounting with Fortune 500 companies and small businesses, she launched Schloemer Business Services, LLC. in 2008. A business designed to meet the accounting and bookkeeping needs for small business, auditing for medium to large corporations at a cost that fit within their budget and impacts their bottom line as a positive.

Pam's clients are engaged in over 50 industries including; telecommunications, real estate, entertainment, Management companies, Home Owner Associations, Point of Sale, and varies professional services. Her experience includes new business startups, home office services and general business consulting. She along with her team focuses on auditing, bookkeeping/accounting transactions, tax preparation, Trust and Guardianship accounting, business plans and budgeting.

Pam received her Bachelor of Accounting from Oglethorpe University and her Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University. She has been LGBT Certified and has been recognized as one of its Most Prominent and Influential Members. In 2010, she became the first accepted openly gay member of the Atlanta Lions Club. Pam has been a recipient of awards from such groups as the AGLCC, Member of the Year, Fenuxe Magazine and BET Plant Services. Pam is certified in QuickBooks, Peachtree and with the AIPB.

Pam has been a featured speaker for such groups as the International Association of Business Communicators, Atlanta Women's Business Networking and the NGLCC. She also hosts educational seminars in bookkeeping, budgeting and business plans. In addition, she serves on the board of the Circle C 2 It, the Atlanta Lions Club, GA Lions State Chair for Leader Dog for the Blind and AGLCC.

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Lloyd Atkins

Business Consultant, The University of Georgia SBDC

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Mr. Atkins is a business consultant with the Office of Minority Business Development (OMBD) at The University of Georgia Small Business Development Center. Prior to joining the staff of OMBD in 2010, Atkins was a consultant with the Georgia State University Small Development Center for 26 years. In his current position, Mr. Atkins co-ordinates statewide initiatives for the Georgia SBDC network on procurement and minority business issues. Additionally, Atkins has worked closely with many business and community groups including the Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council, the Georgia Power Company and Invest Atlanta as well as a host of SBDC stakeholders to promote the development and growth of minority businesses and small businesses in general.

Mr. Atkins is a graduate of Hampton University.

Veteran Small business Champion of the Year

Mr. Dwayne Hayes

Founder and President

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Dwayne Hayes is the CEO of Exalt Integrated Technologies a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business headquartered in Roswell, GA. Exalt specializes in providing IT services, as well as hardware, software and mobile solutions to meet government requirements. Exalt's clients include the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Army.

After attending Jackson State University, Dwayne joined the United States Air Force and earned an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Construction Technology from Sheppard Air Force Base through a partnership with California State University.

Dwayne's awards include the Air Force Commendation Medal and an Employee Support of Guard and Reserve Patriot Award from the Georgia National Guard.

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Diana Morrison

Advertising Specialty Services

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A native of Claxton GA, long-time Savannah resident Diana Morrison has devoted her professional life, for almost three-decades now, to helping businesses, large and small, brand their identity, and express thanks to clients and employees, no matter the occasion, with customized promotional products, through her market-leading firm, Advertising Specialty Services.

If you were to ask her how she's managed to grow her business, literally, from the trunk of her car to its current leadership status, she'd tell you it took " lots of hard work, sleepless nights, mistakes-a-plenty, patient mentors, a great staff , and an unquenchable personal desire to succeed. "

Along with her business responsibilities, community involvement has always been important to Diana. As such, she currently contributes her time and talents to many area organization boards such as the Savannah-Area Chamber of Commerce, Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, USO-Savannah, YMCA of Coastal Georgia, Metro YMCA, Coastal Area District Development Authority United Way of the Coastal Empire and Healthy Savannah.

Diana's true passion is engaging with businesses large and small watching them thrive and take their next step forward. Many have benefited from her past and current efforts with the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce as Founder of the Owners Council, Chair - Savannah's Business to Business Expo, Chair- Small Business Council, Campaign Chair Annual Member Drive.

Diana also enjoys speaking and teaching, her topics include, Branding Related to Customer Service, the Power of Promotional Advertising, Grass Roots Networking for Profit, Successful Tradeshow Exhibiting, It's not What You Say it's How You Say It and Success Comes from You.

Entrepreneurial Success Award

Almark Foods of Gainesville, GA

John Stanton 678.849.7774

Don Stoner 770.355.9875

dstoner@almarkeggs.com

jstanton@almarkeggs.com



Mr. Don Stoner (left) & Mr. John Stanton

John and Don have been friends since they were teenagers. They graduated from Milan High School in Michigan and both attended Michigan State University. After graduating, John went to work for General Mills. Rising through the manufacturing ranks, he spent significant time in both cereal and dairy plants. He moved on to Pepsi where he ran their North American Concentrate plant. He ended up in Atlanta as CEO of Nordic Refrigerated Services. Don left college and joined KPMG in Detroit. He eventually left and joined Amerisure, a large property and casualty Insurance carrier. Rising through the finance ranks, he eventually ended up in Atlanta as CFO of another insurance group. Tiring of the corporate world, they joined forces to purchase Almark Foods in 1998. The original purchase would not have been accomplished without an SBA loan guarantee.

Almark Foods is based out of Gainesville, GA and has been in business for over 30 years providing high quality hard-boiled, peeled eggs to some of the country's largest and most

successful grocery stores, restaurant chains, retailers and salad manufacturers. ST Partners presently controls 70-80% of market share country-wide for retail hard boiled eggs.

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Guardian Bank

Dr. Ronald M. Zaccari

Eric Johnson

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Guardian Bank

In 1997 the founding directors of Guardian Bank made a bold decision to begin a new bank, one that would have its roots firmly planted in South Georgia and dedicated to serving the people who enjoy living and working in this unique and prosperous region of our nation. The primary goal was to develop a safe and sound community bank to serve the growing economic needs of South Georgia.

It is our good fortune to have an outstanding Board of Directors which works closely with Guardian Bank's management team and practices perpetual and long-range planning, investing, and improving services.

In the spirit of our founding fathers, Guardian Bank has the opportunity to continue its proud legacy and build its visionary future. Guardian Bank thanks its loyal customers for entrusting their financial resources and banking needs with our growing community bank.

Eric Johnson

Commercial Banking Officer - Commercial Lending

A Valdosta native and graduate of Lowndes High School, Eric Johnson received a bachelor degree in Business Administration from The Citadel and later graduated from the University of Georgia with an MBA in Real Estate and Finance in 2006. He began his lending career in Atlanta as an Analyst for ING Investment Management and was later promoted to a loan officer originating commercial real estate loans throughout the U.S. Mr. Johnson joined Guardian Bank in 2009 as a Commercial Lender and in 2011 was promoted to a Commercial Banking Officer. He most recently completed the GBA Banking School at the University of Georgia in 2012 and will be entering his first year at the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University in 2013. Eric was nominated as an emerging leader in the community and successfully completed the Leadership Lowndes program in 2011. Mr. Johnson currently serves as a United Way board member and a member of the Valdosta North Rotary Club.

Dr. Ronald Zaccari

Dr. Zaccari's higher education career spans 47 years, primarily in administrative positions culminating in two university presidencies: West Liberty State University in West Virginia and Valdosta State University, Georgia. He retired in 2008 and joined Guardian Bank (GB) in the position of Community and Regional Relations.

He is the recipient of the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation Stewardship in recognition of significant leadership and achievements in Georgia's state-owned buildings. In 2008, he was honored with the Distinguished Citizen Award for Valdosta and South Georgia, and in 2008 and 2009, Georgia Trend magazine named him one of Georgia's Most Notable Citizens.

Small Business Media Advocate of the Year

Lisa Schoolcraft

Industry Focus Editor

Atlanta Business Chronicle

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lschoolcraft@bizjournals.com



Lisa R. Schoolcraft is the Industry Focus Editor and Strategies Editor at Atlanta Business Chronicle. As a Strategies editor, she focuses on stories that help small-business owners and entrepreneurs grow their businesses.

Prior to being named editor, Schoolcraft worked as a reporter at Atlanta Business Chronicle, covering hospitality, retail and residential real estate. She has also worked at the Jacksonville Business Journal in Jacksonville, Fla., and The Brunswick News in Brunswick, Ga.

The native Nebraskan is a graduate of the University of Missouri's School of Journalism and is a die-hard New York Yankees fan. When she's not editing copy, she can be found gardening or running 5K races in an attempt to run a race in all 50 states.