

2009 Gold Pan Award Finalists

Business Excellence Award Finalists

Kaladi Brothers Coffee Company

Kaladi Brothers Coffee Company began as an espresso cart on Anchorage's Fourth Avenue and within weeks of their opening day, the demand for their coffee was so great, they needed another cart. More than 20 years later, Kaladi Brothers roasters produce nearly one million pounds a year of air roasted coffee, providing jobs for 165 people throughout the state. The company has 12 locations throughout Alaska and one in Seattle. The Kaladi Kids program was recently launched, raising funds to help local youth, as well as last year's Youth Vote 2008, which aids local high school kids in the democratic voting process. In 2008, Kaladi Brothers received the Made in Alaska Manufacturer of the Year Award, to name a few.

Neeser Construction, Inc.

Jerry Neeser, the 2008 Alaska Business Monthly Contractor of the Year has been in construction since 1974. As president and CEO of Neeser Construction, Inc., (NCI) he and his 160 employees has taken on some of Anchorage's biggest projects, including the Goose Creek Correctional Center at Point Mackenzie project, a 435,000 square-foot facility budgeted at \$216 million. The company was also selected as general contracted for the Anchorage Crime Lab, the recently built Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center and community projects that include the Ernie Turner Center, the Brother Francis Shelter, the Salvation Army Center, the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club and St. Patrick Church, to name a few.

Senior Care of Alaska, Inc.

Kevin Turkington first opened the doors of Senior Care of Alaska, Inc (SCA) in July of 2002. Turkington aligned with key players in the health care industry to provide high level care to senior and disabled Alaskans. SCA employs 65 full- and part-time Certified Companion Aides (CCAs) who work with elderly and medical challenged individuals to ensure they receive assistance they need. Turkington and SCA participate or volunteer in a variety of community organizations, such as Older Persons Action Group, Hospice of Anchorage, Alaska Health Care, Inc., the Alaska Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup Program and the Alzheimer's Resource Agency. The SCA team was recognized with the National Service to Seniors Community Citizen award in 2007 and this year, the Better Business Bureau's Large Business of the Year Torch Award.

Entrepreneurial Excellence Award Finalists

Carl Propes, Jr., Scan Home

When Carl Propes bought his first home more than 25 years ago, he didn't have any furniture. A salesman from Portland sold him unassembled Scandinavian furniture which would later be the catalyst for his own business: Scan Home. Today, Scan Home is still a sole proprietorship with Propes traveling to markets all over the world to hand pick the furniture he sells in his stores. Today, Scan Home has more than 20 employees, some with more than 20 years of Scan Home experience. Propes can be found on the Girdwood 2020 board of directors, and consistently donates furniture and monetary gifts to organizations such as Safe Harbor, Catholic Social Services and AWAIC.

Dr. David Alexander, Nine Star Enterprise

More than 30 years ago, Dr. David Alexander founded Nine Star Enterprise as a non-profit organization. Today, nearly 70 full- and part-time employees and 39 AmeriCorps members assist in providing services to the Anchorage area at nine locations. A supporter of education and workforce development, Dr. Alexander works with the National Center for the Study of Adult Literacy and Learning as an advisor. He has taught basic education to students since 1976, publishing books and articles along the way. Presently, he is working to expand adult basic education services through Anchorage's job center network. Dr. Alexander has received the 2009 Fairview Citizenship Award and the Anchorage Mayor's Diversity Award in 2006.

Tim Melican, Magic Bus

After completing his MBA at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) in 1996, Tim Melican founded the Magic Bus, Anchorage's very first "party bus," providing onboard entertainment as well as safe transportation to local party goers. Today, Magic Bus runs six medium to large sized, first-class vehicles in its fleet, providing shuttle service to local venues such as sports games, the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Sullivan Arena and UAA. Melican is involved as a UAA sports sponsor and winner of the 1999 Alaska Top Forty Under 40 award. Melican and Magic Bus volunteers assist each year for March of Dimes, AWAIC and Covenant House events.

Community Service by an Individual of Small Business/ Organization Award Finalists

Anchorage Project Access

Anchorage Project Access (APA) is comprised of more than 400 volunteer health care providers. The project was founded through Christian Health Associates and brought to the implementation stage through efforts of community stakeholders and local physicians. Providing access to health care in 39 specialties for low-income families, APA has received more than \$7.3 million in medical care services from major health care donors between 2006 and 2008. More than 1,190 Anchorage residents have been

medically served because of these contributions and the community service provided by the medical field. This year, APA has received the Hospice of Anchorage's Heroes of Health Care Award and the Shining Lights Award, presented by Congregation Beth Shalom.

Carla Beam

Carla Beam's nominator said many people consider her a "worker bee." Beam serves as director of community affairs for one of Alaska's largest employers, BP, and works day-to-day to give back to the community. She helped set up an energy rebate fund, donating her own and several others rebates to assist others throughout rural Alaska and Anchorage with utility assistance programs. A past board member with YWCA and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anchorage, Beam has continually been involved in fundraising efforts and supporting several local humanitarian causes throughout Alaska, including the United Way and Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. She helps coordinate the Alaska Run for Women and has received the YWCA Outstanding Woman in Philanthropy Award in 2005, as well as several outstanding volunteer awards in the past 15 years.

Tennys Owens

For more than 35 years, Tennys Owens has exuded passion about improving Anchorage's community as a whole. As a co-planner and coordinator for Anchorage's Statewide Celebration of Alaska's 50 Years of Statehood, she has worked with hundreds of volunteers to enhance Alaska's rich history. In 1999, Owens started up Lend a Hand, a breast cancer research fundraising program. She is the owner and president of Artique, Ltd., a local art gallery. Through her gallery, Owens raises funds to help support local causes, including the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and the Nature Conservancy. She has received the Junior Achievement's Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureate in 2005 and the Mayor's Distinguished Leadership Award in 2000, to name few.

Community Service by a Large Business/ Organization Award Finalists

The Salvation Army

For more than 100 years, the Salvation Army in Alaska still provides assistance to a variety of issues affecting Alaskans. Major Doug Tollerud and his staff of more than 300 full-time employees provide above and beyond service in collecting donations for the homeless, drug and alcohol affliction, youth programs, food distribution and countless other "missions." Currently, the Salvation Army runs the McKinnel House, the only homeless shelter for single parenting fathers in Anchorage. Its Eagle Crest recovery facility provides a clean and sober, safe and affordable transitional living environment. Each holiday season, volunteers spend countless hours collecting thousands of dollars in donations that go right back into the community.

The Odom Corporation

The Odom Corporation has teamed up with non-profit agencies such as the Food Bank of Alaska and Catholic Social Services' St. Francis House Food Pantry to battle hunger. In

the past few years, the company has leveraged its resources to mobilize Anchorage's community participation in the "People and Pets" food drive, where more than 5,000 pounds of food was issued to people, and pets, in need. The organization has received the Heart of the City Award, School Business Partnership Executive Award and the Fighting Against Hunger Award in recent years. In June, the Odom Corporation advertised the "People for Pets" food drive through radio stations and retail outlets, broadening their community service messaging to a wider audience.

Alaska Communications Systems

With more than 900 employees, Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) is one of Alaska's leading telecommunications companies. Recognizing its role as a corporate citizen within Anchorage, ACS staff and volunteers have donated their time to give back to the community. Last year, ACS employees volunteered hundreds of hours to internal fundraisers for United Way, raising more than \$100,000. ACS installed a booster on the McNeil Canyon cell site in Homer, doubling the area of coverage providing wildfire emergency responders with extended coverage. In 2009, ACS also donated 20 telephone and DSL lines to the Alaska Earthquake Information Center in Fairbanks, giving emergency responders and public officials more reaction time.