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My Chef Catering Wins U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award

WASHINGTON, D.C.—My Chef Catering of Naperville, Illinois, has won the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award. The company was honored today during an awards dinner at *America's Small Business Summit 2007* in Washington, D.C.

“My Chef Catering has earned this distinction by showing remarkable dedication to its employees, customers, and community. The high standards and commitment to success that this business maintains perfectly exemplify America’s spirit of enterprise and entrepreneurship,” said Thomas J. Donohue, Chamber president and CEO. “William and Karen Garlough and their team deserve this recognition for the innovative and caring ways they conduct business every day.”

The Small Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Microsoft adCenter, was designed to honor businesses that demonstrate excellence in a variety of selection criteria, including financial performance and business history, staff training and motivation, community involvement, customer service, and business planning. My Chef Catering excelled in every category of the competition.

In particular, the company was noted for its extraordinary commitment to its community. My Chef Catering designates up to 2% of gross sales annually to support charities and non-profit organizations and is active in Cuisine for a Cause and Toasting for a Cause, annual dinners to raise funds for NapervilleCARES, an organization that provides assistance to those in need.

In an industry with high turnover, My Chef Catering has been able to retain many employees for nearly 10 years by treating them like extended family. The business offers wages and benefits above the industry standard, achievable bonuses, group health plans, and retirement plans. They also facilitate employees’ career development by sending them to trade shows and seminars.

The seven finalists for this national top prize were selected from the regional winners of the U.S. Chamber Blue Ribbon Small Business Award. My Chef Catering was nominated by the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce for the Great Lakes region.

The U.S. Chamber is the world’s largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.