



Fox Cities

Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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FOX CITIES CHAMBER HONORS SMALL BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Today's business world is an ever changing place. Several area firms not only rise to the occasion of change, but thrive. These firms were honored in June by the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce & Industry as recipients of the 2007 Small Business of the Year Awards. Sponsors of this year's awards include First National Bank – Fox Valley and Schenck Business Solutions in conjunction with The Post-Crescent and WHBY 1150 AM. Kathi Seifert of Pinnacle Perspectives, a business consulting firm in Appleton and co-chair of New North, Inc, was the featured speaker at the awards luncheon held at the Wave Ballroom, Appleton.

This year's award recipients include: **Alpha-Prime, Inc.** in the Manufacturing Category;
QuickStart, Inc. in the Service Category; **Good Company, LTD** in the Wholesale/Retail Category.

The Chamber also presented its 2007 Rising Star Award to **United Translators, Inc.** The Rising Star recipient is a firm in existence for less than five years that shows early success and promise for continued growth.

Service Category

QuickStart, Inc.

Kent Nelson, President (920-730-4060)

QuickStart, Inc. has done just that, had a very quick start since it was founded by Kent Nelson, president, in 2002. QuickStart, Inc. assists people through the entire business start-up process from financial and business plan assistance, SBA loan packaging, to determining what financing options are available for a business such as SBA, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), Wisconsin Department of Commerce or grants through the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs Network. Their mission is to help small business owners start, purchase, expand, and maintain successful businesses.

Nelson first opened QuickStart in Appleton with one employee, himself, in 1998 and offered only one service, QuickBooks® Consulting. In 2001, the company was incorporated as QuickStart, Inc. Since then, the Company has grown to five employees and has two locations, one in Menasha and one in Green Bay.

QuickStart has taken the time to understand what banks and credit unions in Northeast Wisconsin are looking for during the lending process. This helps them to better assist clients in planning, whether it is for business start-up, debt consolidation, financial analysis, including cash flow, budgeting and planning including setting up an accounting system, such as QuickBooks or developing business policies and procedures. QuickStart educates their clients on understanding the financial aspects of their business.

Understanding their own business has benefited them in increased revenues each year while continuing to grow primarily through referrals from existing clients and lenders.

In 2005, Nelson was named the Wisconsin Financial Services Champion by the SBA.

Nelson devotes a significant amount of time to the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). The company gives back to the community by volunteering to speak at various seminars, workshops and educational classes. In addition to the Fox Cities Chamber, they are involved in the Heart of the Valley Chamber, Wisconsin Hmong Chamber, Fox Valley Technical College's E-Seed classes, Urban Hope, Home Based Business Association in Green Bay, Inventors Network of Wisconsin, My Brother's Keeper, and New North.