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CHAMBER ANNOUNCES 2020 SMALL BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS

Local businesses recognized for overcoming adversity during challenging times of COVID-19

SAN DIEGO (October 8, 2020) – Businesses of all sizes have been hit hard by the economic pressures of the pandemic. However, the business community, especially our region’s small businesses, have shown resilience and innovation in responding to challenges and supporting the community. Today, the San Diego Regional Chamber recognized three local small businesses for their outstanding work in our region during the 2020 Small Business Awards.

“Small businesses are the heart and soul of our communities and we celebrate the important role they play in rebuilding our economy and keeping our region moving forward,” said Jerry Sanders, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber. “The majority of our Chamber membership is small businesses and we are committed to empowering them with the programs and resources they need to manage the impacts of this crisis and thrive long after.”

Small businesses - those with fewer than 50 employees - employ half of San Diego’s workforce and account for more than 90 percent of businesses in San Diego County. Small businesses are an important economic generator for the region and a foundation for our region’s business community. The Chamber is dedicated to advocating for a business climate that is supportive and empowering of small businesses.

This year’s Small Business Awards were presented via livestream during a special program presented by the Chamber that provided resources, workshops, networking, and information specific to small businesses. The 2020 Small Business Awards winners are:

Computers 2 Kids – Winner of the **Community Minded** award recognizing dedication to helping others and making a positive impact in the community during this challenging time.

- Computers 2 Kids is helping bridge the digital divide by refurbishing used computers and giving them to families in need. Since March the organization has distributed more than 19,000 computers to help students from elementary school to college complete their education online.

FASTSIGNS San Diego Mira Mesa – Winner of the **Creative Pivot** award which recognizes an organization that has shown leadership, resilience, and creativity by making adjustments in response to the pandemic.

- FASTSIGNS, a print and signage shop, switched from traditional business printing to becoming experts on health ordinances so they could advise businesses on the best solutions during COVID, turning their store into a nearly one-stop shop selling items like PPE and safety barriers.

GoBeRewarded – Winner of the **2020 Success Story** award which recognizes the resilience and pride of a small business that was able to triumph above challenge.

- GoBeRewarded, a digital marketing and communications firm, put its expertise to work helping local businesses respond quickly to changing information and make updates to websites and marketing campaigns and in the process added new staff to help respond to the needs of businesses.

All award nominations were evaluated by a panel of Chamber Ambassadors who reviewed applications based on criteria for each award category and winners were selected based on the highest score in each category.

For highlights from the Small Business Awards search the hashtag #SBA2020 on social media.

About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is working to make the San Diego region the best place to live and work. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.

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