

Growth leaders

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But that doesn't mean it's impossible. In fact, there are dozens, if not hundreds of businesses across Northeast Ohio whose leaders understand how to run successful endeavors under the most difficult of circumstances.

Sometimes, a business owner can take advantage of tough times to enhance a relationship with an existing client, driving deeper and expanding sales. Other times, they can build up cash reserves and use that money to construct a building or expand operations. Or, it could be as simple as seizing an opportunity to fill a gap in the marketplace caused by a competitor going out of business.

This year, *Smart Business* is proud to team with Cascade Capital Corp. to present the 2003 Business Growth Awards, honoring companies in Summit, Portage, Medina, Ashland, Holmes and Wayne counties that have experienced significant sales or employment growth.

Honorees have achieved an increase of at least 100 percent in sales growth, or of \$5 million in total sales; or increased employment by at least 50 percent, or 25 employees, over the past five years.

More than 40 companies have reached this impressive milestone and are being honored Oct. 9 at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn. Here are a few examples of why these companies are so outstanding, and the full roster of this year's honorees.

The honor roll 2003 Winners

ACRT Inc.

Richard Abbott
Cuyahoga Falls
(330) 945-7500

ASC Industries

Ted Swaldo
Green
(330) 899-0340

The American Group

Lou Bologna
Akron
(330) 668-1845

American Health Care Center

Robert & Phyllis Leatherman
Wadsworth
(330) 336-6684

Automated Window Machinery

Tom Whitehead
Akron
(330) 535-9200

CEIA USA

Scott Dennison
Twinsburg
(330) 405-3190

Cambridge Home Health Care

Nancy Diller-Shively
Akron
(330) 668-1922

Conferon

Bruce Harris
Twinsburg
(330) 425-8333

Diskin Enterprises

Michael Diskin
Garrettsville
(330) 527-4308

EPG

Mike Orazen
Aurora
(330) 995-9725

Edgepark Surgical

Ronald Harrington
Twinsburg
(330) 963-6998

Elbex Corp.

Edward Bittle
Kent
(330) 673-3233

Emerson & Skeriotis

Roger Emerson
Akron
(330) 535-9999

Excello Specialty Co.

Jeff Jones
Macedonia
(330) 581-2600

Family Dental Team

James George
Akron
(330) 376-9424

First Communications

Brian Murphy
Akron
(330) 762-4900

Group Transportation Services

Michael Valentine
Twinsburg
(330) 405-1200

HB Chemical Corp.

F. Hill Browning
Cuyahoga Falls
(330) 920-8023

Highlander Logo Products Corp.

Tom Deighan
Ravenna
(330) 298-6767

Hitachi Medical Systems America

Richard Ernst
Twinsburg
(330) 425-1313

Hunter's Manufacturing Co.

Richard Bednar
Suffield
(330) 628-9245

InfoCision Management Corp.

Gary Taylor
Akron
(330) 668-1400

Katherine's Collection at Silver Lake

Wayne & Katherine Kleski
Cuyahoga Falls
(330) 572-2780

Mainstreet Gourmet

Steven Marks
Cuyahoga Falls
(330) 929-0000

Malone Advertising

Fred Bidwell
Akron
(330) 376-6148

Patio Enclosures

Robert & Phyllis Schneider
Macedonia
(330) 253-9270

Performance Elastomers Corp.

Arthur Bowen
Ravenna
(330) 297-2255

Petit Auto Wash

Tom Petit
Norton

(330) 861-0760

The Press of Ohio

David Bracken
Brimfield
(330) 678-5868

Renner's

Patti Renner
Akron
(330) 836-0377

Roetzel & Andress

Timothy Ochsenhirt
Akron
(330) 376-2700

SAS Environmental

Jim Smith
Akron
(330) 666-1546

SS&G Financial Services

Mark Goldfarb
Akron
(330) 668-9696

Sequoia Financial Group

Thomas Haught
Akron
(330) 375-9480

The Sharon Cos.

Robert Coles
Medina
(330) 723-3225

Software Answers

Paul Chaffee
Copley
(330) 665-9007

Spectrum Diversified Designs

Sheldon Goodman
Streetsboro
Portage
(330) 422-1840

Technical Consumer Products Inc.

Ellis Yan
Aurora
(330) 995-6111

USA Instruments

Mark Zou
Aurora
(330) 562-1000

Viking Forge Corp.

Roger Koeberle
Streetsboro
(330) 562-3366

Washington Properties

Mike Rose
Medina
(330) 725-4610