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## **Four Small Businesses Named SCORE Greater Cincinnati**

### **Clients of the Year**

#### *Business mentors laud successful small business owners*

Yoga, olive oil, bikes and teaching small children piano may not seem like the stuff of off-the-charts business success.

But they are—because entrepreneurial passion united with the business acumen of greater Cincinnati SCORE mentors.

SCORE, the volunteer arm of the Small Business Administration, honored its 2015 Clients of the Year on Sept. 18 at a luncheon at the Kenwood Country Club in Montgomery. SCORE is made up of working and retired executives who donate their expertise to help small business owners start up and succeed.

The Yoga Bar in Over-the-Rhine and Newport, Ky., owned by Rachel Roberts and mentored by Hugh Dayton of Union, Ky.; Pianimals in Mason, owned by Deborah Thompson and mentored by Thane Brown of Sycamore Township; The Spicy Olive, with stores in West Chester, Hyde Park and Austin Landings, owned by Melanie Cedargren and mentored by Jim Stahly of West Chester; and Spun Bicycles of Northside, owned by

Judi and Dominic LoPresti and mentored by Carlin Stamm of Mt. Lookout were all named top clients for their sustainability and business success.

SCORE chairman Jim Stahly of West Chester said the perfect SCORE client is an entrepreneur who is very bright, always prepared and listens to mentor advice.

He said SCORE mentors may be successful business owners or company executives, but they are also generous, lifetime learners who want to share their business expertise with entrepreneurs and help them succeed.

“There are three important tenets of the perfect SCORE mentor mentality: one who suspends judgement on an entrepreneur’s ideas; communicates the importance of operating agreements for businesses operated as partnerships; and knows that the best way to grow a business is to effectively network by talking to people and media,” he said.

The Greater Cincinnati SCORE chapter has 90 volunteer business executives and specialists who donate their time to help small businesses succeed. Greater Cincinnati SCORE’s territory includes 19 counties in southern Ohio, northern Kentucky and southeast Indiana.

For more information about greater Cincinnati SCORE, its counseling, team mentoring, and seminars and workshops, go to [www.scoreworks.org](http://www.scoreworks.org) or call (513) 684-

2812.

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