Financial Management

A Large Business Provides Grant to Help Small Businesses

Last week I had the opportunity to witness a local business event in my role as State District Director for SCORE where a “big” business provided a contribution to a local SCORE Chapter for the purpose of supporting workshops for area “small” businesses. Sam’s Clubs of Bloomington, Apple Valley, and Shakopee presented a check for $20,000 to the South Metro SCORE Chapter to assist them to serve business clients through a variety of workshops and seminars.

Chad Bridenstine, Sam's Club Manager of the Apple Valley Club commented that small businesses today contribute over 32 million jobs to the American economy and if one in three of these businesses hired just one employee, the country would be at full employment. Despite this, many small businesses face steep challenges in gaining access to the capital and counseling that would allow them to achieve increased success. He said that “Sam’s Club is proud to present this grant to the South Metro SCORE Chapter to help support SCORE’s mission to provide mentorship and ethically sound business practices to small business owners.”

The donation in Burnsville is a result of volunteer efforts by Sam's Club Associates during "Step Up For Small Business Week" in May of this year. Sam's Club associates donated hundreds of hours to celebrate small businesses nationwide. By utilizing skill-based volunteering, the Sam's Club associates were able to not only assist with day-to-day operations, but to also better understand their members, allowing Sam's Club additional opportunities to better serve the local small businesses.

"Sam's Club was founded to help small businesses," Bridenstine added, "We volunteer our time to our Business Members and small business owners in the community to show our appreciation and enable them to step away from the operations and evaluate how to better their business. Providing assistance to small businesses is the very foundation of Sam's Club."

"Each SCORE chapter works hard to support all small business owners in their community," said Dennis Jacobson, Chapter Chair of the South Metro SCORE, “This grant allows us to reach more business owners and help them succeed with SCORE mentors' free, expert advice."
Sam's Club is an American chain of membership-only retail warehouse clubs owned and operated by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., founded in 1983 and named after Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton. It describes itself as being the nation’s eighth largest retailer and a leading membership warehouse club serving over 47 million members in the U.S. as well as in Brazil, China, and Mexico. They state that their members save an average of over 34% compared to traditional retailers.

Sam's Club Giving supports community-based programs that empower young people, families and small businesses to make smart choices that lead to healthy and bright futures. In 2011, the Sam's Club Giving Program made cash and in-kind contributions of more than $101 million, which included donating more than 38 million meals. They invite anyone to visit www.SamsClub.com/giving for more information.

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