

# News Release

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## **Wisconsin Family Business of the Year Award Winners Announced**

**Madison, WI – May 8, 2009:** Six family businesses were honored in the sixth annual **Wisconsin Family Business of the Year Award** banquet held Thursday evening in Madison. Three grand awards were presented along with three special awards.

According to the Family Firm Institute, over 80 percent of all business enterprises in North America are family-owned. Nearly 35 percent of Fortune 500 Companies are family firms. Family businesses account for 78 percent of all new job creation, 60 percent of the nation's employment, and 50 percent of the GDP.

“Family businesses are a major force in our economy”, stated Jeanie Farmer, Partner at Smith & Gesteland and Chair of the firm’s Family Business Practice. “This award honors family businesses, some of whom are into their third, fourth, and fifth generations. They anchor their communities, provide jobs, support charities, and lead by example. We wanted to acknowledge those contributions with these awards”.

Winners were selected by an independent panel of judges from nominations submitted by the companies. The award program is sponsored by Smith & Gesteland, a Madison-based CPA and consulting firm, Associated Bank, and the Madison-based law firm of DeWitt Ross & Stevens.

Grand awards were presented in three size categories: Large (100+ employees), Medium (50-99), and Small (under 50). Special awards were given by the judges to companies excelling in a particular area.

### *Grand Awards*

**Bassett Mechanical, Kaukauna  
Breuer Metal Craftsman, Inc., Beaver Dam  
The Gialamas Company, Madison**

**Large Company  
Medium Company  
Small Company**

### *Special Awards*

**The Konop Companies, Green Bay  
Vogel Bros. Building Co., Madison  
Sherman Plaza, Inc., Madison**

**“Staying Power”  
“More Than a Family Business”  
“Anchoring the Neighborhood”**

Further information about the award winners can be found at [www.familybusinessaward.com](http://www.familybusinessaward.com).

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