

Local businesswoman chosen for Sam's Club honor, mentoring aid

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For Christmas, Becky Anderson received two gifts any business owner would welcome: money and a mentor.

The Colorado Springs woman was one of just two small business owners in Colorado — and 102 nationwide — chosen by SCORE to receive a \$1,000 Sam's Club gift card and mentoring from the nonprofit organization. The training includes an expense-paid trip to a two-day educational seminar in Dallas and three regional educational workshops. Anderson and the other winners also receive a full year of mentoring either through a SCORE volunteer who is local to the winner's area or through online communication.

The organization has 354 chapters in the U.S. that provide help and advice to business owners through mentoring and educational seminars, according to its website. Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., teamed up with SCORE to provide nearly \$550,000 in supplies and training to small business owners across the country. Recipients were chosen based on each business's need and commitment to ongoing learning and growth.

Anderson owns Earth Cures, which designs, manufactures and distributes herbal remedies for adults, children and some animals. Anderson started her business in February.

Anderson was nominated for her award in October by Kate Keeley who volunteered with the local SCORE office. Soon after, Anderson's printer quit working, but she avoided buying a new one immediately.

"I kept telling people I was not getting one," she said, "because I was convinced I was going to win."

Sam's Club \$1,000 gift card, which she received last month, allowed Anderson to purchase a multifunction printer, fax and copy machine that she said is saving her a lot of time. She also used some of the money to buy brown paper lunch bags used to package her home-made herbal products. She still has about \$600 left on her gift card.

"Being such a small company, the \$1,000 grant will help me cover my other funds, such as advertising and marketing," she said, "and help me expand the product line."

Now Anderson is excited about going to Dallas to learn tips on how to expand her business. The seminar is scheduled for Jan. 23.

"I can't wait to come back and use all that I learn there," she said.

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