

# 2011 Eagle Award Winners

During lunch, the Eagle Award, presented by the Mobile Area Chamber, will be given to two minority-owned businesses that have demonstrated achievement in certain business areas including maintaining a solid financial base, revenue and/or employee growth, evidence of community service contribution or involvement. This year's Eagle Award recipients are Touching Hearts Senior Care and Don's Café and Catering.

**Touching Hearts Senior Care** provides in-home senior care including transportation, meal preparation, housekeeping, companionship and case management, among many other services for the senior population in four counties.

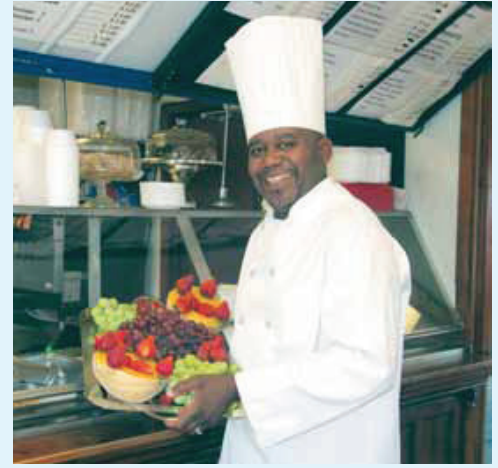
The company has grown each year since its inception in 2007, and it continues to add more services that improve the quality of life for their clients.



Touching Heart President, Gina Germany (right) is pictured with Ruth Crawford (left) and her mother, Mary Crawford (seated), Germany's client.

**Don's Café and Catering** is a full-service café and catering company that serves hot breakfast and lunch in the restaurant, as well as catering for corporate meetings and private parties.

The seven-year-old company has experienced revenue and employee growth and, just as important, a solid reputation for delicious food.



Donald Torrance is owner/operator of Don's Café and Catering Service located 273 N. Broad Street.

## MBC Recognized for Creating Jobs



The local team charged with minority business development include Pam Ramos (center), director of the MBDA Business Center - Alabama; Darrell Randle (right), Mobile Area Chamber small business vice president; and Machelles Leslie, MBC business consultant.

MBDA Business Center-Alabama (MBC) ranked fifth in job creation, according to a recently released performance report by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. In 2010, the center, located in Mobile and operated by the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, helped local minority businesses create 314 jobs.

Ranked first with 935 jobs was the center in Chicago, followed by Albuquerque, N.M., 836 jobs; Atlanta, 395; and the Washington D.C. suburb of Falls Church, Va., 370.

The grand total for all MBCs-assisted jobs created was 6,397, plus nearly \$4 billion in contracts and capital – a "historic high," says National Director **David Hinson**.

The Mobile Area Chamber's Vice President of Small Business Development **Darrell Randle** believes what is just as important on the national level, is how the agency saved tens of thousands of existing jobs by helping minority-owned and operated businesses obtain 964 contracts, totaling \$1.688 billion.

"Since its inception five years ago, the Alabama MBC has assisted minority businesses in acquiring over

\$116 million dollars in federal and private procurement contracts and approximately \$55 million in access to capital," said **Pamela Ramos**, Alabama's MBC director.

To further its reach, the organization developed a local Minority Business Directory, listing more than 500 regional minority-owned businesses. It is the first directory of its type in several years, and is designed to build awareness for minority companies and serve as a resource for companies looking to diversify client and vendor lists.

Additionally:

- MBC assisted minority-owned enterprises during the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill by offering claims workshops and one-on-one counseling sessions.
- A Connect Commerce Center opened in Mobile to make businesses more competitive by bringing all of the U.S. Department of Commerce services together.

• The center was approved as a loan originator for Economic Development Network to review and forward loan applications to the Overseas Private Investment Corp. (OPIC).

• MBC initiated trade missions to Africa and China to assist minority-owned firms in increasing export activity. ☺☺

