2016 Restaurant Of The Year:
Tempo Urban Kitchen

Cody Stans
Executive Chef
Our recent Anaheim Economic Development Conference and Business Awards, held on November 16, were a wonderful reminder of the strength and commitment of our local business community.

The 2016 recipients are an amazing collection of small businesses, non-profits, and woman-owned businesses, among other categories, that demonstrate why we all need to value the entrepreneurial spirit and outstanding corporate culture within our great city. Our small business owners especially illustrate the determination it takes to turn a dream into reality.

The reasons behind starting a business may vary. However each of these entrepreneurial successes is a story of dedication, starting with little more than a desire to make a difference. We recognized a mother’s commitment to giving her children a better opportunity and another entrepreneur looking to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities. We honored a marine who wanted to help others to achieve confidence and meet their goals through physical fitness as well as a busboy turned chef who dreamed of owning his own portfolio of restaurants.

Perhaps for all of us the greatest takeaway is realizing that the American Dream remains possible. For anyone who has ever wondered if they can do it, they only need to look at these examples of success and determination.

More importantly, each of these small businesses creates jobs and is an important member and contributor of the local community. In many cases, making a positive difference in so many others lives, whether as an employee, client or customer.

The Chamber is honored to support these businesses and owners and will continue to do its part to ensure that there is a support system for the city’s existing businesses and the ones that today may only be a dream, a passion, or an idea. We believe in you, we can advocate for you and we will do our job to help to support you in your growth.

Together we can ensure that Anaheim remains home to the American Dream for anyone who is willing to make the leap.

Diana Ramirez
Reborn Cabinets
Honoring The 2016 Business Award Winners (Small Business Edition)

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Bear Pit Training & Fitness Center

Bear Pit is owned and operated by Travis “Coach” Torres, a former Marine who has made it his life’s mission to help others build confidence, self-esteem and to reach goals they thought otherwise impossible. All who come to the Bear Pit find more than a gym, they find a family. Everyone is welcomed and accepted no matter what their fitness level. Staff is trained to get to know members as individuals, to help them overcome their struggles and to help them set and reach goals.

The original concept of the Bear Pit was to offer mixed martial arts training, but from the start it was destined to be so much more. Shortly after opening, Coach Torres was asked to do a fitness boot camp. That first boot camp had three people. However, those three people got such a great workout that word of mouth spread and the class grew. Interest grew so quickly that Bear Pit had to expand and moved to their second location less than 18 months later.

Over the past three years, Bear Pit has expanded from a studio space of 1200 square feet to a warehouse space almost triple that size. For the past six months Bear Pit has been exploring another move to an even larger facility. Last year’s earnings were almost 20% greater than the previous year, and Bear Pit is on target to blow 2016 out of the water. Additionally, Bear Pit continues to be a fixture at local community events bringing their members, resources and sponsorship dollars.

From inception, Bear Pit has been focused on giving back to the community, starting some years ago working with the Anaheim Hills Buzz to raise funds to replace damaged military banners throughout the city. Bear Pit is also extensively involved in the 4th of July Firecracker run, as well as Relay for Life.

NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR

Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled

The Non-Profit of the Year Award recognizes a non-profit organization for exceptional achievements in building the community and enhancing the quality of life in Anaheim.

Founded in 1977, The Dayle McIntosh Center for the Disabled (DMC) is an Orange County-based organization that partners with people with disabilities to address barriers to and achieve independence. With its main office located in Anaheim, the DMC has been a community resource for 38 years and serves approximately 1,000 individuals each year through various programs and activities.
Don’t become a victim.

In one of the most common scams, a fraudulent caller may:

- **PRETEND** to be from Anaheim Public Utilities (Your caller ID may even display our name).
- **THREATEN** to turn off power or water services to your home or business within an hour.
- **DEMAND** immediate payment - often by prepaid debit card.

Suspect fraudulent activity?

Here’s what to do if you receive a call that seems suspicious:

1. Hang up.
2. Call Anaheim Public Utilities.
3. Call the police.
Current DMC services include: individual and systems advocacy, instruction and support for aging adults adjusting to vision loss, assistive technology, employment assistance, housing referral, sign language interpreter services, bus training, youth transition services, peer counseling, personal assistant referral, orientation and mobility instruction, and relocation from institutions. DMC works with people without regard for age, race, income, or type of disability. Most of the staff and governing board consists of individuals, who have disabilities themselves and have met the challenge of becoming self-sufficient.

The center is named in memory of Dayle McIntosh, who worked tirelessly to lay the foundation for an independent living center in Orange County. Ms. McIntosh had a congenital disability that limited her physical capacity to the use of her thumbs and forefingers. She fully managed her own life including obtaining a college education and employment. Regrettably, Ms. McIntosh died as the age of 26, shortly after the center opened. The fierce independence that Dayle McIntosh displayed exemplifies the philosophy and spirit of the center that is part of her legacy.

WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
Say Cargo Express, Inc.

Say Cargo Express was established in January 2000 with the dream of having a family-owned and operated business. Shortly after it was established, Sue Young lost her husband of 30 years. Due to her strength and determination of the dream, Say Cargo Express continues to grow today. Her children joined the family business at that time and brought their education, knowledge and teamwork to help contribute to the success of the company.

Sue’s background in the freight industry, leadership qualities, and her beliefs in a friendly work environment where each team member and customer are treated with respect and dignity, have led to the continued success of her business. Sue knows what it takes to stand out in a competitive industry. Many of the clients that first started working with Say Cargo Express in 2000 are still some its strongest supporters today.

Say Cargo Express has continued to prosper over the past 16 years and is on track to grow over 9% this year.

For over 16 years Say Cargo Express has maintained its headquarters in Anaheim and expanded to additional facilities, all also located in Anaheim.

Anaheim is now home to Tempo Urban Kitchen, a Chef-driven, farm-to-table dining experience unlike any other in the region. With a menu of fresh, sustainable ingredients presented in one-of-a-kind dishes, this new Anaheim restaurant brings a modern American dining experience to the region’s vast culinary landscape.

The mastermind behind Tempo Urban Kitchen is seasoned restaurant veteran Jorge Cueva, who has opened numerous concepts across the country. From busboy to business owner, Cueva has worked in every position in the restaurant industry, giving him the experience and knowledge necessary to own and operate his own. Having served as a top executive for Daphne’s Greek Café and Sharky’s Woodfired Mexican Grill, he helped companies grow to hundreds of locations. Now, as President of Lascari’s Restaurant Group and Cibo Fresh Catering, he is focusing on his passion project, Tempo Urban Kitchen, which combines his love for hospitality with an enticing menu that is meant to attract diners from around the world. He worked feverishly to seek out fresh, hot talent of the culinary world to bring his dream to life.

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR
REBORN CABINETS, INC.

“Craftsmanship with Personal Service”

Old world craftsmanship, values and ethics were brought to California over 45 years ago by Reborn Cabinets founders Vinny and Brenda Nardo. Founded in 1983, the original Showroom and Manufacturing Center is still based in Anaheim. Together with Vinny and Brenda’s sons, Vince and Anthony, Reborn has expanded to South Orange County, Northern California and Nevada.

Team Reborn is built on the foundation of respect, Christian principles and family values. This being the underlying tone throughout the entire team. Team members are chosen based on their individual talents, what they contribute to the team and how well they adapt to team culture and core values at Reborn Cabinets.
“I believe Reborn Cabinets’ Core Values, morals and ethics have held Team Reborn to the highest standard in the remodeling industry”, says Vince Nardo, President of Reborn Cabinets.

“Signature Kitchen Refacing” and “Custom Designed and Manufactured Cabinets” are available for full-service kitchen and bath remodeling. Quality, Excellence of Product and Customer Service are mindfully delivered to ensure Reborn Cabinets’ Mission: providing “The Ultimate Remodeling Experience” for their clients. The relationship continues long after completion of their project. “We don’t just try to sell something. Our focus is on building relationships. It’s as if we adopted each customer into our family,” says Brenda Nardo, CEO of the family owned and operated business.

Reborn Cabinets does not address the staff as “employees”. The term “team member” is highly encouraged amongst staff. By adopting this practice, overall atmosphere is positive, respected and supported.

Reborn Cabinets has been a Toys for Tots drive supporter for over 10 years, and also hosts free quarterly seminars to educate homeowners and keep business local

FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
NORTHGATE GONZALES MARKETS

Northgate Gonzalez Market is a family-owned and operated business spanning three generations. Over 40 years ago Miguel Gonzalez left his small town in Mexico to make a living in the United States. In 1980, with the help of his wife, sons and daughters, Don Miguel opened a 3,000 square foot grocery store in Anaheim. Today their corporate office and distribution center remains in Anaheim and employ over 300 people.

Widely recognized as a leader in ethnic retailing, Northgate Gonzalez Market operates 41 supermarkets serving consumers across Southern California. In the past 3 years they opened 6 grocery stores including in Anaheim. They currently employ over 7,500 people and actively invest in developing future generations of managers and leaders. One way they do this is through their WAFC/Cerritos College program which currently has 86 students enrolled. Northgate Gonzalez Market pays $138 per student plus book fees. In addition, Northgate Gonzalez Market has contributed over $100,000 in scholarships.

Known as a good corporate citizen, Northgate Gonzalez Market is also involved in a wide variety of community-based organizations such as Cooking Up Change, Downtown Anaheim 5k and Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as well as charitable programs through both its stores and their Gonzalez Reynoso Family Foundation. Some of the charitable programs Northgate Gonzalez Market offers are: health services to customers in the form on onsite mobile screening and other health fairs held at their stores, cooking classes for customers and their children emphasizing family dinner time and healthy preparation of traditional dishes and free shuttle for customers without cars so they don’t have to lug heavy shopping bags home.
When opening your business in any city, I suggest joining the local chamber. This membership will be what you make of it and can be one of your company’s greatest resources to help your business grow.

Reborn Cabinets joined the Anaheim Chamber in 2003. Still not knowing what this membership entailed, we renewed every year with the plan we would ask what the Chamber could do for us. In 2007, after attending one of the events a Chamber staff member had invited us to, I came back with several business cards of new contacts who would become valuable partners through the years.

The Anaheim Chamber hosts a multitude of events to meet your schedule. The monthly First Friday Breakfast, Leads Lunch, Mixers and grand openings are just of few. The biggest plus is most events are held at a Chamber Member’s place of business. Offering this rotation of locations, gives each the opportunity to promote their company and gain new business.

In 2008, I was invited to join the Chamber Ambassadors. What a great experience this has been. Representing Reborn Cabinets and the Anaheim Chamber AND having fun at the same time! (Yes, I will probably approach you to come to a meeting and consider becoming an Ambassador).

Having gotten involved and participating in the local functions has generated business and the benefits continue from being Chamber members.

Reborn Cabinets has roots in Anaheim and the Anaheim Chamber recognizes its members’ desire to build and establish a strong business relationship with other local venues.

For more information about Reborn Cabinets, visit www.reborncabinets.com, come in to the showroom at 2981 E. La Palma Ave. (just west of Kraemer), or call 714-630-2220.