



"Where business soars with eagles"
SAUK COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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PRESS RELEASE

Four Elements Herbals The Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort and St. Clare Hospital & Health Services Named 2008 Sauk County Businesses of the Year

The Sauk County Development Corporation (SCDC) is pleased to announce the selection of **Four Elements Herbals**, located in the Town of Freedom, as the 2008 Small Business of the Year, **The Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort** located in Village of Lake Delton, as the 2008 Large Businesses of the Year, and **St. Clare Hospital & Health Services**, located in Baraboo and Lake Delton, and Wisconsin Dells as the 2008 Non-Profit Business of the Year. All three of these companies have had significant recent business accomplishments and excel in customer service. The companies and their employees have also made substantial charitable and professional contributions to their local communities, Sauk County, and within the State of Wisconsin.

This is the seventeenth year that SCDC has sponsored the Businesses of the Year competition. "Our 2008 Small, Large and Non-Profit Business winners are all home-grown businesses that showcase the very best of what Sauk County has to offer," said Karna Hanna, Executive Director of the Sauk County Development Corporation. "The employees of all three of the corporations that we are honoring have worked long hours to make their organizations successful, while always generously remembering and giving back to their communities."

The winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by the Sauk County Development Corporation Board of Directors. The celebration will take place starting at 6:00 p.m. on

Monday, January 19, 2009, at The Wilderness Hotel in Lake Delton. The public is invited to join in the festivities. To make reservations call the SCDC office at 355-2084. Tickets to the event are \$20 per person. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, January 14, 2009.

Four Elements Herbals was nominated by the six employees of the business. Four Elements Herbals and Nature's Acres, the farming component of the business, are located on a 130 acre organic farm nestled in the Baraboo Bluffs, Jane Hawley Stevens is the owner and founder of both businesses. Four Elements Herbals was founded in 1986 and certified organic in 1990.

The company offers nature's remedies for healing and body care. The farm gardens produce the organic herbs, flowers, and vegetable produce. Other plant materials are harvested from the woods and meadows on the farm. Plants are harvested at their peak potency and blended in small batches. Jane's goal is to discover the alchemy of nature — simple and pure food for your skin. She says "We hope you will feel the love and respect for our earth and its healing power as it flows from our gardens to you."

All the harvested plant materials are handcrafted into a full product line including: creams, salves, lip balms, therapeutic bath salts, tinctures, teas, flower essences, body oils, body butters, liniment, deodorants, hydrosols, soaps, insect repellent, facial toner and elixir. In all, 235 different products are manufactured, packaged, and shipped on and from the workshop in a renovated dairy barn on the farm. Locally, products are available at The Grainery Organic and Natural Food Store in Baraboo, the Willy Street Co-op and Community Pharmacy on State Street in Madison, or my mail order or phone (608-522-4492).

Six local women whose schedules revolve around their commitments to children, family, and the local community help with all aspects of the business. Jane's husband, David, helps manage and tend the gardens. She and all of her employees are heavily involved with numerous projects that reflect the company's commitment to community and charitable contributions with a big focus on education, gardening and integrated medicine. Jane is an active contributor to numerous professional publications and regularly makes educational presentations in a variety of settings.

The Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort was nominated by Heidi Fendos, PR Counsel. Since its creation in 1995, The Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort has grown from 75 rooms and a 35,000 square foot water park to a property that features 444 guest rooms, 40 Vacation Villas, 76 Frontier condominiums and 35 Cabins & Retreats which are all part of Wilderness Territory. This 60 acre property also is home to Wilderness on the Lake and Glacier Canyon Lodge. Combined, these three properties offer four indoor and three outdoor waterparks that total over 12 football fields of water fun – making it America's Largest Waterpark Resort. The Territory is also home to the new Wild Rock Golf Club and which was recently named as the #5 best new courses in America for 2008 by *Golf Magazine*.

The Wilderness Resort employs approximately 1,500 employees during the summer and 750 during the off season. Approximates 550 employees reside in Sauk County. The Wilderness Territory is a major tourist destination in the Midwest bringing in approximately 1.5 million guests. Through payroll and patrons, the business is a major contributor to the Sauk County economy. In 2008, Wilderness Territory also doubled the size of the Glacier Canyon Lodge

Conference Center bringing the space up to 55,661 square feet and allowing for the attraction of larger meetings and conventions.

The Wilderness Territory also believes strongly in giving back to the community and this year was no exception. When devastating rains struck the region in June, Wilderness officials created a Family Fun Day to benefit the victims of this terrible flooding. In day, the resort raised over \$23,500 helping many in the region. The Wilderness also purchased \$100,000 of Tommy Bartlett Show tickets in a show of support for one of businesses that was most impacted by the floods and passed the tickets out to Wilderness Territory Guests free of charge.

The Wilderness Territory regularly provides discount certificates for all area non-profits to use as fundraisers and has a special school fundraiser program. In 2008 Wilderness Resort donated over \$20,000 to various deserving organizations. The Wilderness Territory also sponsors local youth teams, supports the local fire department, helps to sponsor the local Wozawa Festival, and partners with Christmas Mountain and Trappers Turn to run a Junior Golf program for area children.

St. Clare Hospital & Health Services was nominated Keri Olson, St. Clare Health Care Foundation. As a nonprofit health care business that has been located in Baraboo for 45 years, St. Clare Hospital & Health Services offers an award-winning campus of facilities featuring state-of-the-art technology, innovative programs and a compassionate, professional staff who provide a continuum of high-quality health care services to Sauk County and its residents. St. Clare Hospital & Health Services is part of SSM Health Care, a St. Louis-based, not-for-profit health care system. The organization strives in all ways to achieve its mission – “Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.”

The St. Clare Campus has expanded to include several facilities beyond the hospital, in a several-block region in Baraboo. In addition to the hospital, the St. Clare Campus features St. Clare Meadows Care Center and its community-based residential facility, the St. Clare Tommy Bartlett Child Care Center, St. Clare Dialysis Center, St. Clare Center (drug and alcohol rehabilitation inpatient facility), St. Clare Hospice House, and Clarion Center Outpatient services (geriatric psychiatric services). In addition, the hospital owns and operates St. Clare Urgent Care Clinics in Lake Delton and Wisconsin Dells.

Since 2000, the physical plant and services have been expanded and enhanced multiple times. Just some of the clinical programs of special emphasis at St. Clare Hospital & Health Services include the largest emergency department outside of Madison in the region, the only radiation oncology service in the region north of Madison, and a state-of-the-art childbirth center. St. Clare is proud of its strong partnerships with Dean Health System, the University of Wisconsin Family Practice Rural Residency Training Program and Meadow Ridge, a 24-unit residential facility, and Meadowview, a 17 bed memory care unit.

St. Clare Hospital & Health Services is the recent recipient of numerous awards and commendations for its high level of service and customer satisfaction. Through its fundraising arm, the St. Clare Foundation, the ST. Clare Campus has raised \$2 million via community support beginning in October 2000 when the Foundation was incorporated. The Foundation is

meeting its fundraising goals for 2008 despite unprecedented and volatile economic conditions, thus demonstrating an appreciation by local residents for St. Clare's quality health care services.

St. Clare Hospital & Health Services is an active and contributing organization in its service area. St. Clare Hospital contributes to the community in a variety of ways, from its charity care program and unpaid Medicaid costs to its free health and wellness seminars and sponsorships of health and other community events. In 2005, such benefits to the community totaled \$3,995,225. In 2006, the dollar amount grew to \$5,224,437. And in 2007, the dollar amount grew again to \$6,228,367. In 2007, over 2,700 people were served in the charity care program. St. Clare Hospital & Health Services provides financial and in-kind sponsorship of and encourages employee participation in numerous local events, activities and fundraising events.

Through its dedication to its mission, expansion of facilities, introduction of innovative health care services, adherence to quality improvement principles, and service to community, St. Clare hospital & Health Services demonstrates the qualifications of an exemplary nonprofit business in Sauk County.

The Sauk County Development Corporation is proud to recognize Four Elements Herbals, The Wilderness Hotel and Golf Resort, and St. Clare Hospital and Health Services, as excellent representatives of the many fine corporations operating in Sauk County. Congratulations!