



News Release

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SBA Honors New York Business Owner Scott C. Smith For Outstanding Disaster Recovery Effort

WASHINGTON –Scott Smith, owner of Collect, LLC, faced every business owner’s nightmare when his company had to shut down for four months in the aftermath of torrential rainfall on June 18, 2006 and the flooding that followed. Fifteen feet of water rose inside the plastic foam factory located in St. Johnsville, N.Y., destroying expensive equipment, supplies and inventory in Collect’s 200,000 square-foot plant.

Although Collect sustained an estimated \$10 million in damages and lost revenue, Smith’s priority was to take care of his employees first. He organized a meeting with the New York State Department of Labor, quickly securing unemployment assistance for his 100 employees.

The care, concern and innovation that Smith displayed in getting his employees back to work in the aftermath of the devastating flood and his tireless devotion to the rebuilding and subsequent expansion of this St. Johnsville business has earned him the ***2008 Phoenix Award for Small Business Disaster Recovery***.

The award will be presented during the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) *National Small Business Week 2008*, to be held in Washington, D.C and New York City April 21-25.

“The Phoenix Award is an acknowledgment of an individual’s heroic effort and recognition of contributions to the physical and economic recovery of their communities,” said SBA Administrator Steve Preston. “Mr. Smith displayed tremendous courage and resourcefulness in the aftermath of the disaster, and he exemplifies the spirit one must have to rebuild after a tragedy like this.”

This marks the 10th year the SBA has given Phoenix Awards to business owners, public officials and volunteers who displayed courage, ingenuity and tenacity in the aftermath of a disaster, while contributing to the rebuilding of their communities.

The SBA makes low-interest, taxpayer-backed disaster loans to homeowners, renters, and businesses of all sizes. Following the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes, the SBA has approved more than \$10.9 billion in disaster loans to more than 160,000 hurricane survivors, the largest response in the agency 55-year history. To find out more about the SBA’s disaster assistance program, visit the Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance/>.

For more information about National Small Business Week, visit www.sba.gov/sbw.

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