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Entrepreneur Susan Johnson receives California Small Business Association Award

The owner of 3 Irvine-based companies was honored for her mentoring and philanthropic contributions to the O.C. community.

BY BRANDON RUSSELL

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Entrepreneur and Newport Beach resident Susan Johnson, owner of three Irvine-based businesses, on Monday received the 2011 California Small Business Association Award for the 70th Assembly District at a special ceremony in Sacramento.



Entrepreneur Susan Johnson

Established in 2000, California Small Business Day gathers state senators and assembly members to recognize the success and contributions of



She founded her flagship company – Susan's Healthy Gourmet, which produces and distributes nutritious precooked meals – in 1996, and has since created two additional healthy-living companies:

- LifeSpring Home Nutrition creates frozen meals for seniors and is broadening its market to a wider consumer market.
- Xan Confections offers a line of vegan, low-glycemic chocolates.

At the ceremony, the healthy-living advocate was recognized for her savvy, efficient business practices (all three companies share a common management team, staff and commercial kitchen facility), her assistance to women business owners and her philanthropic contributions to the Orange County community. Assemblyman Donald P. Wagner nominated Johnson for the award.

"This recognition is truly an honor – for myself, as well as for our three companies," Johnson said. "I appreciate Assemblyman Wagner's recognition and also am very pleased to see the state Legislature spotlight the important work that small businesses are doing, as they represent the true business engine of California."