



June 15, 2011
For Immediate Release

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Winners Announced in the Great Space Giveaway

Downtown Duluth will be gaining a women's clothing store, a baby store and a glass art gallery thanks to a recent competition for business plans.

As part of Go Downtown, Grow Downtown, the Great Space Giveaway, three lucky winners will be working with property owners to secure free space in the Downtown. The contest drew in 56 concept papers and was narrowed down to 15 finalists. Due to the quality of the candidates, the selection committee opted to provide three grand prizes rather than the original two that were offered.

"The selection committee felt that these three winners were very viable, sound businesses that could truly enhance our mix of retail in the downtown," said Kristi Stokes, GDC President.

Finalists went through the process of creating business plans with the help of the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund and will each receive an incentive package that includes free rent for one year (of a three year lease), free advertising package with the Duluth News Tribune, free marketing services from Out There Advertising, free retail mentoring services from Maurices, free membership with the Greater Downtown Council and start-up loan assistance from the Northeast Entrepreneur Fund.

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The winners are:

Expanding Business

Dan Neff, Lake Superior Art Glass. Dan currently has a home-based studio and will be expanding to create Lake Superior Art Glass. It will include storefront glass blowing demonstrations, a gallery, classes, supplies and studio rental.

New Business

Kelly Letko, All About Baby. Kelly comes from a family of entrepreneurs and saw a need in our community for a specialized baby boutique. It will offer high quality and affordable baby items ranging from furniture and accessories to one-of-a-kind items.

Wendy Myers, franchised women's clothing store. Wendy has more than 20 years of retail and management experience. She is looking to bring a new franchise in women's clothing to Duluth and fill a niche in our local market.

Come grow with us in Downtown Duluth. For contest details, visit www.downtownduluth.com.

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