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Contact: Melende Ward
(559) 487-5791, ext 143

**J. M. Keckler Medical Company, Inc. Named Central California
2008 Small Business Person of the Year**

National Small Business Week April 21-25, 2008



Pictured: J. Michael Keckler, President, Suzanne Keckler, CFO, Jana Ollar, Secretary and Jim Whitworth, VP and General Manager

Oakdale, CA - The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Fresno District Office announced today that J. M. Keckler Medical Company, Inc. has been selected as the 2008 Central California Small Business Person of the Year.

This year marks the 45th annual proclamation by the President calling for the celebration of National Small Business Week. The award recognizes a business owner who exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit and honors his or her individual contributions to the community. J. M. Keckler Medical was selected after a competition held amongst businesses located within the 15 Central California counties.

"The Small Business Administration is very proud of the tremendous growth and success that J. M. Keckler Medical Company, Inc. has achieved. This company serves as a role model for other small business entrepreneurs," said Carlos G. Mendoza, District Director for the Fresno SBA Office.

Small Business Person of the Year nominations are judged on seven basic criteria: staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-oriented projects.

Originally located in Modesto and now in Oakdale, J. M Keckler Company, Inc. is a well established distributor of critical care equipment for hospitals and medical clinic use. Within a few hours the company is able to respond and replace failed equipment. Prior to the Keckler formation businesses were forced to wait many hours and sometimes days for equipment to arrive from the San Francisco and Los Angeles area. The company has been in business since 1973 and is owned by J. Michael Keckler, President, Suzanne Keckler, CFO, Jana Ollar, Secretary and Jim Whitworth, VP and General Manager.

Borrowing money from an uncle, Mike and Suzanne set up office on their kitchen table and utilized their garage as a warehouse. The company today employs 18 and recently received a SBA 504 loan through Success Capital of Modesto. The loan provided funds to build a permanent facility. The SBA 504 loan program is designed to assist small business entrepreneurs with land and building acquisitions.

Susan Martin, President of Success Capital said, "All of us at Success Capital are proud to have been

able to assist the people of J. M. Keckler Medical Company, Inc. with their financing for a new headquarters, consolidating operations from three sites into one new, more efficient facility. Starting in their garage in 1973, they have built a very successful, respected business, and are incredibly generous in sharing their success with communities less fortunate, literally around the world."

"Our SBA 504 loan allowed us to consolidate from three different sites into one wonderful office/warehouse building - bringing order to chaos," said Michael Keckler, President of the company.

Not only is the company known for their success in the medical distribution field but it is also known nationally for their humanitarian aid. As there is limited need for used medical equipment, Keckler Medical donates and distributes this equipment to countries around the world. The company typically ships a 40' container full of medical supplies approximately every 90 days to third world countries. The company was also instrumental in providing medical assistance during the Hurricane Katrina disaster and still has a mobile medical clinic in Bay St. Louis.

The award presentation for J. M. Keckler Medical Company, Inc. will be held on April 22, 2008 at the business location from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. The company is located at 1010 Warnerville Road, Oakdale. For additional information regarding the award presentation please contact Melende Ward at (559) 487-5791.

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