



Press Release

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SBA NAMES 2003 NORTH CAROLINA SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Charlotte, NC – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has named Greg Fornelli, of Stock Car Steel and Aluminum, the *North Carolina Small Business Person of the Year* for 2003.

“It is a great pleasure to honor the Small Business Person of the Year and salute the contributions of North Carolina’s small businesses,” said SBA’s North Carolina District Director Lee Cornelison.

Fornelli will receive his award at the Charlotte Chamber’s Business Growth Network meeting, Tuesday April 29, 2003. Karyn Lindsey, Vice-President of the Small Business Council at the Chamber nominated Fornelli for the award.

In November 1996, Stock Car Steel & Aluminum, Inc. (SCSA) officially opened its doors for business with a small line of credit, a pickup truck and Greg Fornelli as the sole employee.

The company now operates with 17 employees in two locations, including a 20,000 sq. ft warehouse in Mooresville, NC. SCSA supplies the specialty steel used in building the cars of NASCAR and enjoys nearly 100% market share. Greg has expanded inventory from raw materials to include supplies that support the racing teams. In the first five years of business the sales volume grew from \$249,000 to \$4.5 million, a growth of 1800%.

SCSA serves customers ranging from the smallest of “Saturday night” racers to large multi-million dollar racing teams such as Joe Gibbs Racing, Penske Racing, Roush Racing and Childress Racing.

Greg Fornelli is very active in the business community, a recipient of the Charlotte Chamber’s 2002 Entrepreneur Award and was elected to the chamber’s board of advisors. He was appointed by the Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory to The Winston Committee to assist in economic development and promote NASCAR in the community.

The committee is dedicated to improving the economic development of the area by continuing to promote Charlotte as the Headquarters of NASCAR.

Fornelli battled cancer while completing a business plan to start SCSA, a steel supply company that supplies NASCAR racing teams.

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While in Atlanta on business, Greg received a phone call from his doctor who told him that a mass found in his jaw had proven to be cancerous. The cancer turned out to be mesenchymal condrosarcoma, an extremely rare and deadly form of bone cancer. He underwent surgery and spent a month and a half in the hospital. While he endured eight months of chemotherapy, Greg typed away at an old laptop computer. When the treatment was finished he had developed the winning plan for Stock Car Steel & Aluminum. It was this life changing event that inspired and motivated him to no longer let life happen to him, but take the leadership role in a course that he steers himself.

Prior to starting SCSA, Greg worked in the steel service center business for nine years. Shortly after graduating from the University of Kansas, Greg began his career at Ryerson Steel Company in Kansas City. While there, he earned an MBA from Baker University along with invaluable training and key relationships with major suppliers and manufacturers.

Fornelli will compete with the other state award winners in September 2003 for the National Small Business Person of the Year award. The Small Business Person of the Year is based on a number of criteria, including: staying power, growth, number of employees, increase in sales, and response to adversity.

For more information about all of SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640. Also visit the SBA's extensive Web site at www.sba.gov.

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