



Media Contacts:

Kirsten Wynn  
Women Presidents' Organization  
(212) 688-4114  
[Kirsten@womenpresidentsorg.com](mailto:Kirsten@womenpresidentsorg.com)

Alex Della Rocca  
M Booth for American Express OPEN  
(212) 539-3203  
[alex@d@mbooth.com](mailto:alex@d@mbooth.com)

## **FIFTY THRIVING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS RECOGNIZED IN DALLAS FOR THEIR TEXAS-SIZED GROWTH**

### ***Women Presidents' Organization and its sponsor American Express OPEN Name Annual Top 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies***

Dallas, TX (May 2, 2013) – [The Women Presidents' Organization](#) (WPO) today released the sixth ranking of the 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/led companies in North America in its annual program sponsored by [American Express OPEN](#), the small business division of American Express. The Top 50 generated a combined \$3.2 billion in 2012 revenues and collectively employed 24,000 people in 2012.

Happy Family, which offers a complete line of organic meals and snacks for families based in New York, has taken the top spot for 2013. Shazi Visram, founder and chief executive officer saw her 10-year-old company's revenue quadruple in two years from \$13.3 million in 2010 to \$62.3 million in 2012.

Strategic Communications, a Louisville-based provider of technology services, tripled her company's employment within a two year span to take second place this year. Kathy Mills, chief executive officer, has also nearly doubled the company's revenues from \$23.1 million in 2010 to \$41.2 million in 2012.

“This year more than half of the companies in the Top 50 are new to the ranking and this trend illustrates how diverse women-owned and led companies are,” said Marsha Firestone, Ph. D., president and founder of WPO. “We are so pleased to continue our partnership with American Express OPEN in honoring these trailblazing women and their amazing accomplishments.”

Research commissioned by American Express OPEN earlier this year shows that the number of women-owned firms pulling in \$10 million or more in annual sales has jumped by 57% over 10 years.

“American Express OPEN is honored to support this elite group of women who represent the full spectrum of industries and have become leaders within the women business community,” said Randi Schochet, vice president at American Express OPEN. “Entrepreneurship is an exciting option for women, and the honorees we recognize today are excellent role models for women entrepreneurs, focusing on growth and thereby creating jobs and boosting the economy.”

All submitted companies were ranked according to a sales growth formula that combines percentage and absolute growth. From this list, the 50 Fastest were selected. To be qualified for the ranking, businesses are required to be privately held, woman-owned/led companies in the U.S. or Canada and reached annual revenue of at least \$500,000 in 2007 and \$2 million in 2012.

More about the 2013 WPO Top 50:

- The average revenue grew from \$24.9 million in 2008 to \$64.5 million in 2012
- Founded the business: 90%
- Average age: 47
- Average number of projected 2013 employees: 641

In order to help the Top 50 continue to seize even more business opportunities, each of the honored business owners will be offered a \$500 American Express gift card.

All 50 companies will be honored at a special event hosted by American Express OPEN at the 2013 WPO Annual Conference in Dallas, TX on May 2, 2013. The awards reception will take place from 6 – 9PM at the Fairmont Dallas Hotel.

The WPO's 2013 Top 50 Fastest-Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies are:

	<i>Entrepreneur Name</i>	<i>Company Name</i>	<i>City, State/Province</i>
<b>1</b>	Shazi Visram	Happy Family	New York, NY
<b>2</b>	Kathy Mills	Strategic Communications	Louisville, KY
<b>3</b>	Shelly Sun	BrightStar Franchising, LLC	Gurnee, IL
<b>4</b>	Tiffany Crenshaw	Intellect Resources	Greensboro, NC
<b>5</b>	June Ressler	Cenergy International Services, LLC	Houston, TX
<b>6</b>	Sue Bhatia	Rose International, Inc.	Chesterfield, MO
<b>7</b>	Anita Emoff	Boost Technologies	Dayton, OH
<b>8</b>	Kathleen Croddick	Suite K Value Added Services, LLC	South Brunswick, NJ
<b>9</b>	Lani Hay	Lanmark Technology	Vienna, VA
<b>10</b>	Ranjini Poddar	Artech Information Systems, LLC	Cedar Knolls, NJ
<b>11</b>	Tracy Balazs	Federal Staffing Resources, LLC	Annapolis, MD
<b>12</b>	Lori Ann Blaker	TTi Global	Rochester Hills, MI
<b>13</b>	Phyllis W. Newhouse	Xtreme Solutions, Inc.	Atlanta, GA
<b>14</b>	Claudine George	ICONMA LLC	Troy, MI
<b>15</b>	Joy Taylor	TayganPoint Consulting Company	Lambertville, NJ
<b>16</b>	Sarah Valentini	Radius Financial Group, Inc.	Norwell, MA
<b>17</b>	Jacqueline B Wilson	American Fashion Network, LLC	Manlius, NY
<b>18</b>	Elizabeth Elting	TransPerfect	New York, NY
<b>19</b>	Therese Tucker	BlackLine Systems	Los Angeles, CA
<b>20</b>	Terry Lehmann	True Green Enterprises, Inc.	Boca Raton, FL
<b>21</b>	Pamela O'Rourke	ICON Information Consultants LP	Houston, TX
<b>22</b>	Allison McGrath Judge	Transformhealthrx	Statesboro, GA
<b>23</b>	Leslie A. Firtell, Esq.	Tower Legal Solutions	New York, NY

24	Shari Sandifer	Avant Healthcare Professionals	Casselberry, FL
25	Jennifer Smith	Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	Burnsville, MN
26	Kara Trott	Quantum Health	Columbus, OH
27	Valerie Freeman	Anserteam, LLC	Dallas, TX
28	Leonora Valvo	Etouches	Norwalk, CT
29	Keeli Jernigan	Trans-Expedite, Inc.	El Paso, TX
30	Noha Waibsnider	Peeled Snacks	Brooklyn, NY
31	Sonja Hines	H&S Resources Corporation	Columbia, MD
32	Elaine Osgood	Atlas Travel	Milford, MA
33	Annalisa Xioutas	Florida's Finest Industries, Inc.	Fort Myers, FL
34	Rebecca Cenni	Atrium Staffing, LLC	New York, NY
35	Marianne Lancaster	Lancaster Packaging, Inc.	Hudson, MA
36	Anjali Ramakumaran	Ampcus, Inc.	Chantilly, VA
37	Carol Craig	Craig Technologies	Cape Canaveral, FL
38	Barbara Levine	Exam Coordinators Network	Boca Raton, FL
39	Bernadette Milito	CSS Building Services, Inc.	Dayton, NJ
40	Celeste Gudas	24 Seven, Inc.	New York, NY
41	Carrie Kerpen	Likeable Media	New York, NY
42	Nancy McFarlane	MedPro RX, Inc.	Raleigh, NC
43	Marie Seipenko	Preferred Solutions, Inc.	Northville, MI
44	Orit Koren	Trillium FSB Inc.	Concord, ON
45	Lisa David	eCapital Advisors, LLC	Bloomington, MN
46	Suzanne Bachur	Premiere Executive Suites/Atlantic Limited	Halifax, NS
47	Jessica Firestone	Tempest Telecom Solutions, LLC	Santa Barbara, CA
48	Barbara Ross-Denroche	The Refinery Leadership Partners, Inc.	Vancouver, BC
49	Cheryl Y Biron	One Horn Transportation	Wayne, NJ
50	Stephanie Point	Point 2 Point Global Security, Inc.	Addison, TX

### **About the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO)**

The WPO is the premier peer advisory organization connecting women who own multi-million dollar companies. In monthly meetings across four continents (North America, South America, Europe, and Africa) chapters of 20 women presidents – from diverse industries– invest time and energy in themselves and their businesses to drive their corporations to the next level. Local WPO chapters are coordinated by a professional facilitator and meet monthly to share business expertise and experience in a confidential setting. For more information, call 212-688-4114 or visit [www.womenpresidentsorg.com](http://www.womenpresidentsorg.com).

### **About American Express OPEN**

American Express OPEN is the leading payment card issuer for small businesses in the United States and supports business owners and entrepreneurs with products and services to help them run and grow their businesses. This includes business charge and credit cards that deliver purchasing power, flexibility, rewards, savings on business services from an expanded lineup of

partners and online tools and services designed to help improve profitability. Learn more at [www.OPEN.com](http://www.OPEN.com) and connect with us at [openforum.com](http://openforum.com) and [twitter.com/openforum](http://twitter.com/openforum).

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