

2008 Small Business Awards

Home-Based Business Champion of the Year

“It feels like meeting up with long-lost relatives.”

SBA’s 2008 Home-Based Business Champion of the Year, Dolores “Laling” M. Pangelinan, is a woman of reverence.

Her story is one of sacrifice, tragedy, and ultimately, triumphs. The eldest daughter of 12, Laling understood early on the value of family and that through love and support, you can overcome anything. Upon learning that her son was stricken with cerebral palsy, Laling decided that she would retire from her full-time job to be able to care for and spend the last years of his life with her.

In 1986, to supplement her family’s income, Laling decided to start a business that would keep her close to home. With a skill for baking and experience with party planning, Laling obtained her business license and started “Special Events by Les Papillon”. She has since turned her passion into a profitable home-based business enterprise and has expanded her service to include cake decorating, floral arrangement, event planning, and special function organization and prop background setting.

Running a home-based business afforded her the flexibility to be the main caregiver for her son, and although he has since passed on, she somberly recalls the days of rushing home after setting up a party to ensure that someone was always home to care for him. These days, her toughest challenge is ensuring she is there to care for her grandchildren. She often plans and works her schedule around her baby-sitting hours.

Yet, she still finds time to help others who are aspiring to own and operate a home-based business. She continues to inspire others at church fundraising functions where she volunteers her time, effort and resources. In addition, she continues to share her experience with others on what it takes to be a home-based business owner.

With a thriving business, retirement is not in the game plan any time soon. Since she taught her children and even her grandchildren much of what she does, she feels confident that any one of them could follow in her footsteps any time they wanted. And now Laling is sharing her skills with others outside of her family, by teaching a cake decorating class at her local community center. Her future plans are to renovate her home to expand her baking area and to build a training center so she can offer classes to up and coming local, home-based entrepreneurs.

With over 20 years of experience, she prides herself in referrals and return business. She is overjoyed in providing services to customers who have gone through her before stating, “It feels like meeting up with long-lost relatives.” Demonstrating that success can be achieved through dedication, hard work and maintaining the value of family. In the end, the spirit of her son lives on through the success of the business – a fact she will never forget.



Dolores M. Pangelinan
Owner/Buyer
Special Events by Les Papillon