



Intuit is proud to announce its Power to Get More Done Stimulus Grant Winners



Rebecca Bambarger, EA - (Chino Hills, Calif.)

Rebecca Bambarger, EA, launched her tax and representation services out of her home in May 2008. Concentrating in equine business taxes, Bambarger's clientele consists of horse trainers, race horse owners, jockeys and veterinarian personnel. Her business goals for the next tax year include moving into professional offices, hiring two employees and growing her client list significantly.

Bambarger will use the grant money to help fund the expense of her new office space, market and advertise her expertise to the equine industry and help hire one administrative assistant in January 2010 in preparation for the new tax season.



Robert Beninger - [B&J Business Solutions, Inc.](#) (Cocoa, Fla.)

Robert Beninger started B&J Business Solutions, Inc. last February. As sole proprietor, Beninger is building an accounting and bookkeeping business that serves small business owners in Florida's Brevard County. In addition to accounting and bookkeeping, Beninger offers payroll services, taxes, consultation and QuickBooks training.

Beninger is building his business around the concept of providing his services safely and securely online. By providing online accounting services, Beninger is able to keep his fees more affordable so small businesses can hire him for his services year-round. Providing online services also means Beninger can hire remote employees. In doing so, Beninger would like to hire single parents whom he believes with some training can experience new job opportunities that could improve their financial futures.

Beninger plans to use the grant money toward his business's start-up costs, offering workshops and free consultations to potential clients and hiring up to 5 new employees.



**Aliyah T. Bonaparte, CQA – [Pyramid Accounting Solutions, Inc.](#)
(Philadelphia, Pa.)**

Aliyah Bonaparte started her firm 17 years ago with the mission to provide small business owners the tools and resources they need to survive and thrive. Between herself, one part-time employee and one virtual assistant, Bonaparte provides small businesses with a range of payroll, accounts payable and receivable, tax, QuickBooks, ledger and general accounting services.

Bonaparte's goal now is to provide free and low-cost Basic QuickBooks seminars to 10,000 small business owners. Bonaparte believes that increasing an owner's ability to understand and implement accurate accounting policies and procedures will result in the creation of a more financially-sound, thriving business. The intent is that small business owners attending her seminar will also become her clients, resulting in significant client growth.

With the Intuit Stimulus Grant, Bonaparte will begin marketing her seminars to small businesses within her area. She will purchase technology upgrades and expand her staffing to include one full-time professional and one additional part-time assistant.



John W. Davis, CPA, CFP, PFS, CVA - [Davis & Hodgdon Associates, CPAs](#) (Williston, Vt.)

Founded in 1990, Davis & Hodgdon Associates, CPAs offers a range of services, including tax and auditing services, management consulting, forensic accounting, business valuations, QuickBooks training and support, controllership services and purchase and sales consultations. With two partners, John W. Davis and Bret L. Hodgdon, seven professional staff and three administrative assistants, Davis & Hodgdon Associates serves small businesses and large corporations throughout the state of Vermont.

Davis & Hodgdon Associates plans to put the grant funds toward improving the financial situation of some of its small business clients. The company will provide additional QuickBooks training and support so small business owners can realize the full benefits of the product. The firm also plans to help its small business clients by subsidizing the costs of upgrading their QuickBooks products and some of the add-on small business services.



Gerri Harrison, CFP, EA - Gerri Harrison Financial Services (Johnson City, N.Y.)

With the desire to become the “go-to” financial advisor in all matters related to personal finance, Gerri Harrison provides tax preparation services and small business consulting. With several part-time employees, Harrison has grown her business by offering educational seminars and workshops on a range of topics from credit and debt management to financial coaching and planning for college and long-term health care.

Harrison now wants to develop and host workshops and seminars for pre-teens and teens that focus on promoting financial literacy and responsibility. With the grant, Harrison plans to create at least new three workshops that provide insight into investing, saving, basic fiscal responsibility and business ownership.



Reynaldo Lozano - Superior Tax Service (Greeley, Colo.)

Superior Tax Service, co-owned by Reynaldo and Jamie Lozano, offers individual and small business income tax preparation services. The company has two tax preparers and one office manager. The company’s goal is to make Superior Tax Service the premier tax preparation service for the Hispanic community. Reynaldo Lozano states that the Hispanic community in Greeley, Colo. has grown approximately 34 percent in the last seven years. According to Reynaldo Lozano, this growing Hispanic community is grossly underserved because of the lack of qualified bilingual tax professionals.

Reynaldo Lozano wants to grow his business by 160 percent over the next year. He plans to use the grant money for training and testing fees to help his employees become enrolled agents. In addition, he will use the grant funds to hire three tax preparers. He also plans to implement targeted marketing campaigns to the Hispanic community and purchase equipment and technology to meet the needs of his growing staff.



Randall Kelly – Randy Kelly Accounting (Lewis, Kans.)

Kelly has owned his tax and accounting business with his wife, Anne, since 1978. However, on May 4, 2007, all that changed when a tornado destroyed the town of Greensburg, Kans. where Randy Kelly Accounting was located. Since then, Randy Kelly has operated his business in his home's basement. Construction costs have prohibited him from rebuilding or relocating back into Greensburg. At the same time, Kelly's business has grown significantly because no other accountants stayed in or near the town after the tornado.

With the grant, Kelly will move his business back into town, which not only will help Kelly grow his business but also grow and draw people back into Greensburg as it continues to recover from the tornado's devastation. Kelly also will use the funds to help purchase new office equipment and hire an additional employee.



Amy Mezo, CPA - (Jonesboro, Ill.)

Amy Mezo opened Amy Mezo CPA Accounting Firm in May 2006. Mezo's business offers income tax preparation to individuals, small businesses and large corporations. Services include year-round bookkeeping and payroll services, financial statement compilation and IRS representation. In addition to her business expansion goals, Mezo wants to offer internships to students attending Shawnee Community College. Located in southern Illinois, Mezo explains the current state of the economy has significantly impacted people in her area. Therefore, she wants to give back by providing job opportunities within her community.

Mezo plans to use the grant money to evolve her part-time assistant position to full-time. She also will expand her internship program with Shawnee Community College from one to two internships per year. In addition, Mezo will purchase much needed computer and office equipment from local retailers struggling in this economy.



Susan Schutz - Apis Business Solutions, LLC (Glendale, Colo.)

Apis Business Solutions, LLC, co-owned by Susan Schutz, Nancy Barnett and Christie Rumley, provides business owners with individualized accounting, bookkeeping and office support services vital for business success. Via its partner, ERMA Institute, Apis Business Solutions also provides QuickBooks training, business plan development or revision, marketing and sales training, customer service, time management training and business coaching. Apis Business Solutions consists of six employees and one administrative assistant.

The goal of Apis Business Solutions is to become the “go-to” resource for small business owners to launch and grow their businesses. Apis Business Solutions also plans to help their local economy by offering employment opportunities. Apis Business Solutions plans to grow its workforce through the training and mentoring of displaced workers, physically challenged individuals and mothers with children. By providing these individuals with the opportunity to learn new skills, Apis Business Solutions then will leverage them as contractors of specialized services within their own company or help them launch their own businesses.

Apis Business Solutions plans to use its grant money to implement marketing strategies that not only increase the awareness of its company’s services but also advertises their training and mentoring programs to add needed contractors in specific fields of interest.



Marybea Varvel, EA - House of Numbers (Camino, Calif.)

Marybea Varvel, sole proprietor, started House of Numbers in 1989 and offers a range of tax, QuickBooks and accounting services in the Sacramento area. Varvel’s clients are both individuals and small businesses. Varvel’s business goal is to expand her ability to offer affordable business and personal finance advice and techniques to help people emerge from pending financial disaster.

With the grant, Varvel plans to add and train staff so they can help put clients on the road to financial stability not only with sound business and personal financial advice but with tax preparation services as well. She also intends to acquire the necessary technology to increase her business’s efficiencies and become a mobile firm, resulting in her ability to better meet the needs of her clients by traveling to a location that is convenient for them.