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## **Owner inducted into Arkansas Small Business Hall of Fame**

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Kimberly Hodous of Rockwood Jewelry Co. in Fayetteville was one of 12 small-business owners inducted into the second Arkansas Small Business Hall of Fame.

Rockwood Jewelry Co. is a supplier to fundraising distributors across the country. As a supplier to some of the country's largest retailers and buying groups, Rockwood Jewelry fulfills a large portion of the cheer and dance jewelry industry, the fitness industry, the Christian and faith-based retail market, and the fundraising wholesale market.

Hodous began Rockwood Jewelry in 2001 as a hobby, something enjoyable she could do with her two daughters at her kitchen table. Now, the company has a corporate office in Fayetteville, a distribution center on each coast, and employs eight people: five full time and three part time.

All of Hodous' family and staff attended the Induction ceremony with her on Oct. 30 in Fort Smith.

"I was so thrilled to have my entire family and the Rockwood Jewelry staff there to celebrate with me," Hodous said. "It's been the support of my husband and the encouragement of my kids that have kept me going when times got tough. It's fun to come through it all and see success."

The Arkansas Small Business Development Center's Fayetteville office at the Sam M. Walton College of Business has worked with Hodous since the beginning of 2006. She worked with both the business consulting and training sectors while completing the startup phase of her company.

"Kim is the perfect example of an entrepreneur," said Larry Brian, center director. "She has the passion, determination and focus necessary to make her company succeed."

"It's great when you get recognized for just getting up and doing what you love every day," Hodous said. "Life is good."

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