



12th Annual Business Awards Luncheon

November 2, 2006

Silver Lake Country Club, Orland Park

Economic Development Council
for the Southwest Suburbs

Training Excellence Award

Sharon Vetsch

The QuickBooks Queen



When Sharon Vetsch's father passed away in 1992, he left her a small billing and collections business. That same year, she suffered additional personal loss when a fire destroyed most of her material possessions. Sharon struggled to make ends meet with the collections business for a few years before deciding she needed another job to stay afloat. She began working part time in a small office in a position she relished. The one drawback was that she needed to master the new Intuit QuickBooks software package the company had purchased to handle their bookkeeping functions.

Sharon strived to learn the ins-and-outs of QuickBooks and discovered that even with the company's tech support, the program was challenging. She spent hours of her own time becoming an expert on QuickBooks. Soon, family members and friends purchased this software and came to Sharon for help. For almost two years, Sharon dispensed free advice until her sister and husband convinced her she should begin charging people for her assistance.

That was nearly 11 years ago. She remained at her regular job, but taught individuals and businesses how to use QuickBooks on the side. Through word-of-mouth, her business kept growing. In fact, her "side job" soon was taking so much of her time that approximately three years ago she decided to focus completely on her consulting and training business, The QuickBooks Queen.

Since then, Sharon has helped businesses of all sizes install and learn the functions of QuickBooks. She listens to customers' needs and works with them to find solutions. The personal attention she gives to each person she trains has been central to her success. She works with clients as diverse as the Homer Township Fire Protection District to Palermo's Restaurant to RSM McGladrey. She conducts training sessions for individuals and instructs large groups in a classroom-type setting. Sharon also serves on Intuit's Accountant and Advisor Customer Council and Speaker's Bureau.

Sharon has donated her time helping set up bookkeeping systems for the Oak Lawn and Orland Park Area chambers of commerce and the Muldowney Foundation.

Aurora Zwick, coordinator of Business Solutions at Moraine Valley Community College, nominated Sharon. The QuickBooks Queen is located at 4420 W. 111th St., Oak Lawn, (708) 268-7363, thequickbooksqueen.com.