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Oregon Restaurant Association Announces Governor's Community Service Award Winners

Wilsonville, Ore. - The Oregon Restaurant Association (ORA) today announced the four state winners of the fourth annual Governor's Community Service Award—a program established with SYSCO Food Services of Portland to honor and recognize restaurant industry members who go above and beyond in supporting their communities.

"These are great examples of the philanthropic spirit that is so prevalent in the Oregon restaurant industry, as well as in restaurants nationwide," said Steve McCoid, ORA president and CEO.

"Restaurants have long served as social oasis; as venues for community group meetings and fundraisers, as meal-providers for the hungry and as supporters of youth activities, in addition to serving high quality meals."

The winners of the 2008 Governor's Community Service Award are:

- Small Business Category
 - Mother's Bistro & Bar/Mama Mia Trattoria
 - Bedrock Corporation
- Medium/Large Business Category
 - Martin Hospitality
 - Shari's Restaurants

These finalists will be recognized during the Bite of Oregon, which will take place at Tom McCall Waterfront Park August 8 - 10, 2008. The ceremony will be held on the SYSCO Chef Stage at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, August 9. The finalists will also be recognized before their peers at ORA's annual Leadership Conference in Sunriver, Oregon, September 14 - 16.

"Philanthropy can help tie a community together and nine out of 10 restaurants are involved in some type of charitable activity," said SYSCO Food Services of Portland President, John Nolan. "We are pleased to shine the spotlight on restaurants that go above and beyond in service and giving underscoring that restaurants are truly the cornerstone of local communities. I wholeheartedly congratulate all four winners of the Governor's Community Service Award."

The top nominee in each category will go on to represent Oregon and compete for the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant Neighbor Award, which recognizes outstanding programs in local communities across the country. Winners at the national level will be flown to Washington D.C. to receive national recognition and a \$5,000 donation to the charity of their choice.

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The Oregon Restaurant Association is the leading business association for the restaurant industry in Oregon, which is comprised of over 9,000 restaurant and foodservice outlets, a work force of 120,000 employees and a total economic impact of \$9.7 billion. The Association works to represent, educate, and promote the rapidly growing industry. For more information, visit our Web site at www.ora.org.