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Unique Settings Rentals™ Receives National Recognition as American Small Business Champion from SCORE and Sam's Club

Knoxville, TN— Local business Unique Settings Rentals™ has been chosen as a winner of The 2017 American Small Business Championship hosted by <u>SCORE</u>, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, and generously supported by Sam's Club, a leading U.S. membership club serving small businesses since 1983. The Championship awarded this title to 102 entrepreneurs for their dedication to the success of their small businesses. The American Small Business Champions will each receive a \$1,000 Sam's Club gift card, an all-expense-paid trip to a training and networking event, SCORE mentoring and publicity throughout the year.

Unique Settings Rentals™ earned the title of American Small Business Champion by submitting an online application describing the most unique aspect of their small business that has contributed to their success, their positive impact on the community, and their plans to use the prizes to grow their business. Nominations which garnered at least 100 votes were then presented to a judging panel of small business experts that determined 102 winners including Unique Settings Rentals™.

Unique Settings Rentals™ provides vintage mismatched china plates, multi-colored estate glassware, tabletop design pieces and backdrops for weddings and special events. When Colleen Munyan first started this business, the design concept of mismatched china had not yet been fully introduced into the Knoxville wedding market. In order to breakthrough and gain visibility, the company had to network, provide superior customer services and build relationships with vendors in the area. Today, the business is prospering, offering collections in total of more than 2,000+ pieces for rent to the Knoxville and surrounding areas and creating tabletop design never before seen in the Knoxville wedding industry.

"We are so grateful to receive this recognition for the obstacles we have overcome as a small business. Thank you to our wonderful wedding industry and wedding vendor community both locally and online for supporting us and helping us succeed. This would not have been possible without you." Says Colleen Munyan, owner of Unique Settings Rentals™.

"SCORE is very pleased to honor the hard work and accomplishments of these 102 small business owners. They come from all across the United States, and provide diverse products and services for their clients, but all share in their dedication to making their dreams a reality," said SCORE CEO Ken Yancey. "It is our pleasure to provide the mentoring, tools and resources that will help them continue to grow their businesses and enhance the communities they serve."

"At Sam's Club, we proudly support and celebrate the unique experience of the small business owner," said Tracey D. Brown, senior vice president of operations and chief experience officer at Sam's Club. "We are inspired daily by their ability to navigate challenges and triumphs on the road to success. And now, hopefully, the rest of the nation will be, too, as they get to know some of the nation's most promising small business owners."

Unique Settings Rentals™ is also eligible to win one of three additional \$25,000 grand prizes by being named Grand Champion. A judging panel of small business experts will select three Grand Champion from the group of Small Business Champions this summer. Selection is based on how effectively Champions utilize the Sam's Club gift card and the SCORE regional training events to grow business revenue, as well as how effectively the winners promoted the Championship in the media and social media.

To learn more about The American Small Business Championship and to view the complete list of Champions, visit www.championship.score.org.

About SCORE

Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 10 million aspiring entrepreneurs. Each year, SCORE's 10,000+ volunteer business experts provide more than 350,000 free small business mentoring sessions, workshops and educational services to clients in 300 chapters nationwide. In 2016, SCORE mentors volunteered 2.2 million hours to help create more than 130,000 jobs and 54,000 small businesses. For more information about starting or operating a small business, call 1-800-634-0245 for the SCORE chapter nearest you, or visit www.score.org. Follow @SCOREMentors on Facebook and Twitter for news and updates on the small business landscape.

About Sam's Club

Sam's Club, the nation's eighth largest retailer and a leading U.S. membership club, offers savings and surprises to millions of members in 655 U.S. club locations and at SamsClub.com. The Sam's Club Giving Program, established by the Walmart Foundation in 2008, is dedicated to micro- and small business prosperity. Sam's Club and The Sam's Club Giving Program have invested more than \$28 million since 2011 in national and local programs dedicated to improved training, education and increased access to capital for small business owners. For more information on national or local giving by Sam's Club or The Sam's Club Giving Program, visit www.SamsClub.com/giving.

About Unique Settings Rentals™- Knoxville

Unique Settings Rentals™- Knoxville is a boutique rental company offering the wedding and event industry's most unique, on-trend items; mismatched china plates, estate glassware, vintage teacup sets, dream catchers, macramé backdrops and more. Started in Knoxville, and now growing to three locations, Unique Settings Rentals™ offers franchises in several states. Visit UniqueSettingsRentals.com/locations to learn more. Follow Unique Settings Rentals™ on Facebook and Instagram for updates on collections, weddings, special events and more.