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WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR SELF-EMPLOYMENT HONORS
SAN FRANCISCO WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS
Bay Area microenterprise nonprofit celebrates with winners of 2010 competition

San Francisco, CA – Women's Initiative for Self-Employment recently honored the winners of its 2010 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. The Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes women business owners throughout San Francisco who:

- Have been successful despite the barriers that exist for women business owners
- Exemplify how business ownership and leadership is beneficial for women
- Have a positive impact on the local community or the community at large
- Advance their business through innovation

Twelve women were selected as a Woman Entrepreneur of the Year throughout San Francisco. (See below for a full list of winners.) Winners were honored at the Julia Morgan Ballroom in San Francisco on October 12th.

In recognizing these businesses, Women's Initiative celebrates the power of small businesses in transforming communities through job creation and economic revitalization. In fact, recent research from Women's Initiative shows that their graduates created more than 2200 jobs in 2009 alone.

Winners of the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award were given the opportunity to thank those who helped support, motivate and inspire their businesses. Many expressed gratitude for what Women's Initiative is doing today to help support women like themselves. Graduates of Women's Initiative's Simple Steps Business Training promoted their businesses in the Marketplace while guests and sponsors shopped and pledged donations to Women's Initiative.

About Women's Initiative

For more than 22 years, Women's Initiative for Self Employment has been providing low-income, high potential women with the business training, funding and ongoing support to start their own business and becoming financially independent. The women who go through our training significantly increase their income and assets while launching businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy.

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**Women's Initiative 2010 San Francisco Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award
Winners**

San Francisco

Celia Sack
Omnivore Books

Eileen Hassi
Ritual Coffee Roasters

Janine Popick
VerticalResponse

Jennifer Piallat
Zazie Restaurant

Jill Litwin
Peas of Mind

Laura van Galen
Bleu Marketing Solutions, Inc.

Leigh Rawdon & Emily Meyer
Tea

Lisa Nowell & Kristin Jamieson
Recess - urban recreation

Mariam Naficy
Minted.com

Nancy Charraga
Casa Bonampak