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Competition. The winner: Darn Good Yarn, a small business based in Sebec, Maine. Its founder, Nicole Snow, will receive a \$25,000 grant to invest in and further grow the business.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Jan. 16, 2013

FedEx has announced the winners of its first national Small Business Grant Competition. The winner: Darn Good Yarn, a small business based in Sebec, Maine. Its founder, Nicole Snow, will receive a \$25,000 grant to invest in and further grow the business.

FedEx launched the small business grant competition in September 2012 to award a total of \$50,000 to six deserving U.S. small businesses. In addition to the \$25,000 grant being awarded to Darn Good Yarn, five runner-up prize winners will receive grants of \$5,000 each.

Darn Good Yarn was founded by Snow in 2008. All yarn sold by Darn Good Yarn is made from recycled, Earth-friendly materials and much of it is created from remnants of the production of silk saris. These materials are handspun and dyed by women's groups in Northern India and Nepal, who are provided with a marketplace for their products, as well as much needed wages for their families. All yarns are fairly traded and produced with child-free labor.

"This grant from FedEx will allow me to hire more women in Nepal and India, giving them independence and a means to support their families while also providing Darn Good Yarn with more product to sell," said Nicole Snow, owner and founder of Darn Good Yarn. "FedEx has provided a way for me to further follow my dream of running a successful small business while doing good in the global community."

FedEx also awarded grants of \$5,000 each to the following small businesses:

• Catullo Prime Meats - Youngstown, Ohio - Catullo Prime Meats is a family-owned,

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Hurricane Katrina. This family business that creates usable artwork, home furnishing and design accent pieces from reclaimed vintage wood and building materials.

- Live Breathe Futbol Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Live Breathe Futbol (LBF) is a fast-growing soccer apparel company that was founded by a Nigerian immigrant with a passion for soccer. The design of LBF garments are inspired by the moments of the game.
- Humdinger Foods LLC Hillsboro, Oregon Founded by the daughter of farmers, Humdinger Foods began selling kettle korn in 1998 at farmer's markets and has grown to serving movies sets, large corporate events, school bazaars and more.
- Small businesses, those with fewer than 100 employees, competed for the grants by completing a profile that was voted on by Facebook users. FedEx reviewed the entries and selected the finalists based on their contest profile and the number of votes they received from Facebook users.

More on the small business programs and products from FedEx are available at their Small Business Center at fedex.com/us/small-business.

**Small Business** 

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