



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SMALL BUSINESS COUNCIL OF AMERICA HONORS
REV. BECCA STEVENS AT ITS
31ST CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS RECEPTION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 12, 2014) – The Small Business Council of America (SBCA), a national nonprofit organization which represents the interests of more than 20,000 privately-held and family-owned organizations on Federal tax, employee benefit and health care matters, presented its 31st Annual Congressional awards at a reception on Capitol Hill on May 7, 2014.



The SBCA’s Humanitarian of the Year Award was presented to **Rev. Becca Stevens** of Nashville, Tennessee, in recognition of her work as the founder of Thistle Farms and Magdalene. Rev. Stevens founded Magdalene in 1997 as a residential program for women who have survived prostitution, trafficking, addiction and homelessness. Thereafter, Rev. Stevens founded Thistle Farms as the social enterprise run by the women of Magdalene. Thistle Farms employs

the women to produce bath and body products to help them develop marketable career skills and to raise funds to support the Magdalene program.

The award was presented by SBCA CEO, Matt Kadish, and the 2013 SBCA Humanitarian of the Year award winner, Jordan Wagner, of Generosity Water. “Becca Stevens and Thistle Farms inspire us all. The work and housing provided by this successful small business and social enterprise has rescued many human trafficking victims from a return to the life of prostitution, addiction and crime on the streets,” said Matt Kadish, while presenting the award. “She is a hero and guide for all of us, showing us that no matter how hard some people’s lives can be, love and hope can prevail.”

“It’s great that there’s increasing attention being paid to human trafficking, but there needs to be more focus on how to help these women once they’ve been liberated,” said Becca Stevens. “Without housing and job training, they’ll just turn back to the only life they’ve

ever known, back on the streets to a life of exploitation and addiction.” Thanks to the generous contributions of the Chris Carrey Charitable Foundation, SBCA Director, Neil Carrey, and his wife, Karen Carrey, the SBCA and the SBCA’s members, the SBCA was able to present to Rev. Stevens a significant contribution for Thistle Farms and Magdalene. More information on these charities may be found at:

<http://www.thistlefarms.org/index.php/about-thistle-farms>

<http://www.thistlefarms.org/index.php/about-magdalene>

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