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Chandler woman garners national achievement award

By Marjon Rostami
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Carolyn Brown tells her clients they never have to see a bill again.

As founder and CEO of The Accountant's Office, Brown says she has changed bookkeeping from big black binders to a virtual, paperless system.

"They didn't think it was possible," she said. "But I said, 'Watch me.'"

On June 18, the Chandler woman was named Business Owner of the Year, the only achievement award from the Phoenix metro chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners. The organization provides mentoring, support and resources to female entrepreneurs from all industries.

This is the second year Brown has been nominated.

"The other gals that were nominated have all won chamber or better-business awards," she said. "After I won I thought I should really enter in more of these."

The award was presented to her based on creativity, originality, over-

coming obstacles, business growth and service.

The Accountant's Office offers services to individuals and small businesses called Your Virtual Accounting Office. Client's bills are sent directly to a post office box where Brown and her team of seven "gals" work from home to get the job done. Clientele range from single nurses to multimillionaires who don't have the time to worry about their bills, she says.

Brown describes her business as providing clients with freedom and peace of mind.

"I've found, over the years, that caring and creative people are often not good with money," she said. "They tell me, 'Make sure this is done, and make it go away.'"

Over the past three years, The Accountant's Office has grown by more than 35 percent each year, Brown says. She attributes the growth in part to the declining economy.

"Business owners can work on their business or they can work in their business," Brown said. "Especially in this



MARJON ROSTAMI/THE REPUBLIC

Carolyn Brown and her team of seven "gals" work from home to offer services to individuals and small businesses called Your Virtual Accounting Office.

economy, running a lean and mean business is what you need to do to make it through tough economic times."

Brown started the business in 2001 during another economic slump. "I was very happy being retired until the stock market took a dive," she said. "I thought, 'I need to contribute again.'"

What started as an attempt to help

out the family's monetary situation turned into a major money-saving business for her clients, Brown says. After one year of using The Accountant's Office, Kristen Brubaker, co-owner of Trouvé Antiques, says she saved more than \$25,000.

"Our bookkeeping became just much more cost effective," Brubaker said.