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Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air is SBA's 2009 Family-Owned Business of the Year

Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air is the 2009 Small Business Administration (SBA) Jeffrey Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year for both South Carolina *and* the eight-state southeast region. The SBA will honor the company at an awards ceremony as part of the state's sixth annual Salute to Small Business on Wednesday, April 29, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air spans three generations and more than five decades. Ralph Mathis started the business in 1952 out of his garage with a single truck. Today, Ralph's sons, Jimmy and Wayne Mathis, own and operate the business, which continues to evolve. From a husband and wife team and one truck, the company has grown to 39 employees, a fleet of "rolling warehouses" -- large panel trucks that carry up over 2,000 parts -- and a multitude of both residential and commercial services. In addition to Jimmy and Wayne, their sister Jean Ann and their two respective sons are keeping the Mathis family in Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air.

In 2005, the former Ralph Mathis Plumbing Co. acquired another family-owned business, Benjamin's Heating and Cooling, and soon changed its name to Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air. The company has also expanded into the industrial market with HVAC installation and repair services and industrial plumbing.

Despite its growth, the Mathis family business's focus remains customer satisfaction... and it shows. Even in the economic downturn, Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air continues to maintain consistent increases in sales and profits.

In addition to numerous community and charity efforts outside of the business sphere, Mathis Plumbing, Heating and Air is involved in "Partnership Alliance," Greenwood's economic development arm, and is a 25-year member of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce. Mathis was nominated by Jeffrey Smith of the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce.