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Industry News Article

Partnerships Blossom at Ernst and Young's 1999 San Diego Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Banquet

[Business Wire](#)

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Hands were shook. Speeches were made. And deals were struck. Last night's Ernst and Young 1999 San Diego Entrepreneur of the Year awards banquet brought so many overachievers together under one roof it was inevitable that a partnership would blossom.

Amy Vavrunek, president of Accent Presentations, and Taylor Marie Crabtree, an 8-year old small business owner, discussed ways to promote and recognize Taylor's efforts.

Taylor, who was presented last night's Junior Achievement award, launched an enterprise to design and sell custom-made hair ornaments in 1997. The proceeds go toward buying teddy bears for young cancer patients being cared for at such places as Children's Hospital and UCSD Medical Center. Each bear is individually named and decorated with a hospital band collar and a card with a poem and a wish. Vavrunek, a finalist in last night's Young Entrepreneur of the Year category, has owned her graphic design service firm for 7 years. Specializing in designing and producing presentation materials, she offered to help Taylor prepare a presentation package to pitch to Beanie Baby soliciting sponsorship of a Taybear collection. Accent Presentations will donate signage and presentation assistance to help gain more recognition for Taylor's cause.

Founded in 1992, Accent Presentations provides 35mm slides, color overheads, on-screen multimedia shows, PowerPoint presentations, special event signage and posters, trade show booth graphics, conference signs, specialty [MARKETING](#) pieces and press kit support materials. The [COMPANY's](#) client base includes Children's Hospital and UCSD Medical Center as well as other companies in a number of industries, including [REAL ESTATE](#), software, restaurant, biotechnology, manufacturing, publishing, franchise and high technology business.

Vavrunek is also currently the only female member of the San Diego Chapter of the Young Entrepreneurs Organization (YEO). YEO was established in 1987 with the help of Young Presidents' Organization (YPO). YEO is an international non-profit organization of more than 2,400 entrepreneurs in 20 countries worldwide. All the members are under the age of 40 and are the founders/major stockholders of businesses with at least \$1 million in annual revenues.

Utilizing contacts within YEO, Vavrunek has secured a position at an event this summer for Taylor to speak to the organization and promote Taybear. As a young entrepreneur, Taylor will be given an honorary membership for her spirit and dedication to a worthy cause. Vavrunek, having recently taken over as education chairperson for the San Diego chapter is committed to working with Taylor to host a San Diego function to generate recognition and funding to support the Taybear cause. With the generous support of local businesses and donations, Taylor is off to a fantastic start at such an early age.

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year annually presents the Junior Achievement award in order to support and encourage young people to learn about businesses through hands-on activities. Taylor and Vavrunek were two of only three female finalists to participate in the San Diego awards last night. Although Vavrunek was not the winner in her category, she is a winner in making things happen and supporting Entrepreneurs. As a young entrepreneur herself, starting businesses at the age of 10, she recognizes a fellow entrepreneur when she meets one.