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GENEVA CHAMBER CO-HOSTS MEMBER MILESTONE CELEBRATION FOR CREATOR'S TOUCH BARBERSHOP



Photo by Neil Sjoblom

An enthusiastic crowd gathered for the official ribbon cutting celebration that was co-hosted by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce at Creator's Touch Barbershop at 446 Exchange St. in Geneva on Friday, February 8. A record crowd including Chamber staff, board members, ambassadors and local dignitaries gathered to show their support at the event, which included a ceremonial ribbon cutting presentation and photo op under the Chamber's popular Member Milestone Celebration Program. The program was introduced in 2016 as a benefit for members of the Chamber, with the purpose of providing awareness and exposure for the accomplishments and milestones of many businesses and organizations that the Chamber represents.

Originally from Rochester, Fuentes opened his business in Geneva in 2005. What sets Creator's Touch apart is the family-friendly atmosphere, along with the quality of his staff, Fuentes said. Fuentes has helped nearly 20 barbers receive their master barber licenses, including several who work at Creator's Touch.

Fuentes also fought adversity throughout his life and overcame obstacles to get to where he is today. He thanked his family, friends, staff and ministry for helping with the success of Creator's Touch.

The Chamber partnered with the city and Business Improvement District on the Creator's Touch Barbershop milestone.

Dignitaries in attendance that assisted in the event included Assistant City Manager Adam Blowers who congratulated Fuentes on his expansion and said Creator's Touch Barbershop – with its longevity and success - can serve as an inspiration for businesses that are just starting out.

"It's great to have a long-standing business here that can show others they can do it," Blowers said. "It feels like a community in here."

"Thank you to Raul and his team for inviting us in to do what we do best – help to tell the story of our members," added Chamber President Miranda Odell, who noted the Chamber has continued to see growth in its membership numbers, program support and event attendance over the last four years. "We are so proud to be here today to be both welcoming, and honoring, another new member to our growing organization."

Included in photo: (left to right, along with Creator's Touch family, friends and staff): Chamber staff Tara Johnson and Andrea Deckert; Makis Hodge, owner of Tradition Chevrolet Buick; Chamber President Miranda Odell; City Councilor Jason Hagerman; Chamber Ambassador Karen Dean with Reliant Community Credit Union; City Councilor Mark Gramling; Creator's Touch owners Raul and Mary Fuentes; Pastor Harry Gramling; Assistant City Manager Adam Blowers; Chamber Ambassador Bridget FitzGerald with Lyons National Bank; Geneva Town Board member and Chamber ex-officio board member Robert McCarthy; Chamber Board member and past chairman Josh Miller with Lyons National Bank, and Mark Palmieri, Geneva BID executive director

As a key benefit of Chamber membership, the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce offers assistance to and promotion of members' Milestone Celebrations. The co-hosted promotional events offer exposure and awareness for member businesses along with the people, products, and services that each provides.



Milestone Celebrations can include Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, Anniversary Celebrations, Grand Openings, Re-Openings, or Relocation-based Open Houses.

For more information on this program, visit the Chamber's website at www.genevany.com or call (315) 789-1776. To see additional photos from the Community Proud Apparel Member Milestone Celebration, visit the Chamber's Facebook page, @GenevaAreaChamber.

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