

Certified public accounting firm celebrates 35 years helping neighbors make sense of numbers

Serving clients and meeting their financial needs is a family affair at Sannerud, Savarese and Associates, P.A.

Back in 1974, Al Sannerud began sharing his accounting expertise with the public when he opened Lake Accounting out of his home in Ham Lake.

Sannerud's daughter, Susan Savarese, joined her father's firm in 1983, (then called AM Sannerud and Assoc.) he added her name to the company title and it became Sannerud, Savarese, and Assoc. in 2003.

Soon afterward, the firm moved from the family home to a new building on Constance Boulevard in Ham Lake.

This year marks the 35th year the certified public accountants have advised and served clients – most of whom came to Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. by word of mouth.

"We have 350 business clients and 800 personal clients and 95 percent of our business comes from referrals," Savarese said. "That means we're doing something right. Our clients are served well and they tell others about it."

Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. specializes in helping closely held and family-owned businesses with their accounting and tax needs.

"We tailor our service to meet the needs of the client. We also educate them to be better managers of their company," Savarese said.

"What distinguishes us from other firms is that we customize our service," Savarese said. "Whether that means a range from full service accounting to bookkeeping or providing education, we'll provide the support to make our client the best manager of their business," she added.

Literature distributed by the firm further describes the

services provided by Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc.

Areas of service provided by Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. include accounting, income tax, record keeping, financial statements, tax planning, payroll services, employee benefit plans, pensions, estate taxes, bookkeeping, job costing, estimated quarterly taxes, and notary.

"We do the parts they (business owners) don't want to do," said Savarese.

"As companies grow, they need help in learning how to balance things so that it is best managed," Sannerud said.

"Showing a genuine interest in each client is the hallmark of our business," he added.

Endeavors to educate the public have Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. offering free seminars out of their Ham Lake office. Recent seminars have focused on a variety of investment topics.

To keep ahead of the game, Savarese assures that each of the CPAs working for Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. completes 40 credits of continuing education each year.

"There are very complicated issues going on, making life more difficult especially for those clients in contracting or real estate. We stay on top and keep ahead of it all," said Savarese.

"We do have a real longevity with our clients," Savarese said.



Sannerud, Savarese & Associates, P.A. is located in Ham Lake on Constance Boulevard.

"We've seen them start, we've seen them retire and they've been with us all the way."

Even continuing education takes on a familiar feel when Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. staff share a meal each week, catching up on new laws, more efficient strategies, and best practices to best serve clients.

"We really appreciate our staff," said Savarese. "We work together. We work as a team. Without that, we'd be nowhere," she said.

And, with the 35th chapter of Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc.'s family story opening, it's a sure thing the family has made its mark.

To learn more about Sannerud, Savarese and Assoc. call the firm at 763-434-5929, visit their website www.sannerudsavarese.com or stop by their office at 1207 Constance Blvd., Ham Lake.



"Showing a genuine interest in each client is the hallmark of our business," said Al Sannerud, founder of Sannerud, Savarese & Associates, P.A. posing here with staff members inside the firm's Ham Lake office.

Sannerud, Savarese & Associates, P.A.

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Giving back

His heart filled with gratitude and overflowing with generosity, Al employs his energies giving back to the community.

"The community got the company where we are today and this is one way for me to give back to the community," Al said.

He shares his accounting expertise beyond the Sannerud, Savarese & Associates clientele as he serves as co-founder and treasurer for Free2B! providing car care to enable independence for Anoka County families in need.

Free2B! operates a Car Care Program repairing, replacing or providing initial transportation for individuals in need.

Two Car Care Saturdays are offered each month when volunteers repair the vehicles and Free2B! pays for the parts.

On July 19, 2008, Free2B! reached a milestone when it donated its 600th car to families in need, and as of Dec. 31, 2008, Free2B! has repaired 2,304 vehicles free of charge for those in need.

To learn more about Free2B! tune in to Channel 2 at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 5, to watch "Restoring Hope One Car At A Time," a documentary produced collaboratively by the McKnight Foundation, Minnesota Public Television and Free to Be, Inc. freetobeinc.org

