

# SFBJ2009 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

WINNER, 401+ EMPLOYEES: **ABB CONCISE OPTICAL N.A.**



MARK FREERKS

The recognition ABB Concise Optical N.A. receives, CEO Angel Alvarez says, is an acknowledgment 'that working hard and giving to those in need can make a difference.'

**A**ngel Alvarez believes several key attributes help businesses thrive in good and tough economic times. One is communication throughout the company. Another is the empowerment of employees to be accountable and responsible with "the ability to affect their own future and the success of the entire organization." It's the respect the executive team has for its workforce, the culture of camaraderie and the impact attitude and dedication can have across the company.

In short, a Business of the Year becomes so because of its "ability to succeed in spite of very difficult circumstances," says Alvarez, founder and CEO of ABB Concise

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Optical N.A., an optical and contact lens distribution company that recently awarded its highest bonus to its maintenance supervisor.

"His can-do attitude and dedication to excellence made him an easy choice to be the recipient of the bonus," Alvarez says.

Beyond barbecues, birthday celebrations, company picnics, referral bonuses, employee recognition awards and other internal reward programs, ABB Concise has been recognized by area media and national trade

groups for its performance and contributions to the industry. Bausch & Lomb has lauded the company in each of the last 10 years for outstanding performance – twice naming it Distributor of the Year.

The company contributes time and money to area charities and philanthropies, including Boys and Girls Club, American Cancer Society, Teen Dream Camp and Toys for Tots. Alvarez is a board member of the United Way of Broward County and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship.

Awards and recognition "acknowledge to the employees of our organization that caring matters, that what one does every day truly matters, that working hard and giving to those in need can make a difference," he says.