



C.J. Hueston's Corporate Dimensions, named best employment placement service.

JOHNS FISHER

and a dedicated concierge service. When it's time to play, the beach, watersports and pool beckon. And when it's time to relax, start with the spa and end with the fine linens and featherbeds.

### Business caterer

#### **Rene's Custom Catering (Fort Myers)**

Finalists: Blue Pepper (Fort Myers), Matthews and Gardner (Naples)

Rene Turgeon can thank the Cape Coral Bridge for his catering business. Construction on the bridge in the late '80s often blocked the entrance to his small soup, salad and sandwich shop at McGregor Boulevard and College Parkway. Businesspeople craving Rene's placed orders for delivery, and that evolved into a catering company. Such clients as Aubuchon Homes, John Scanlon Automotive Group and Fifth Third Bank, Florida now count on its food and approach to create a memorable experience.

"The day of a flat buffet with a beat-up tray and a table skirt is over," Turgeon says. "Every job has a

unique look."

### Employment placement service

#### **Corporate Dimensions (Naples)**

Finalists: Kelly Services (Naples, Fort Myers), AAA Employment (Naples)

Formerly a teacher and later leader of a division of the Barron Collier Cos., C. J. Hueston started Corporate Dimensions, an executive recruitment and professional placement firm, in 1998. Working with clients all over the country, she fills positions from executive assistant to chief executive officer. "We focus on a long-term relationship with clients, not just a short-term hit," she says. "That's what makes us successful."

### Courier service

#### **Coastal Courier Messenger Service (Marco Island)**

Finalists: Rush Messenger (Bonita Springs), FedEx

Coastal Courier ran off with this one. Owners Tim and Devra Buckalew have built their business from a one-vehicle mom-and-pop op to 18 radio-dispatched

cars and trucks serving all of Collier and Lee counties. They can guarantee delivery time of as little as one hour, despite seasonal traffic troubles. "There's always an accident or road construction somewhere, but we just deal with it," says Tim.

### Printer

#### **Direct Impressions (Cape Coral)**

Finalists: Allegra Print and Imaging of North Fort Myers, Sir Speedy (Naples and Fort Myers)

A good printer gets it in black and white, on time and at a competitive price. That's why Direct Impressions makes such an impression on our readers. The 10-year-old company's investment in high-quality Heidelberg presses puts it in the same league as bigger rivals from Miami, Tampa and Jacksonville, according to president Steve Delaney, who notes that "in printing, everybody wants it yesterday."

### Dry cleaner

#### **Platinum Coast Dry Cleaners (Naples)**

Finalists: 60 Minute (Fort Myers), Green Tree Cleaners (Naples)

Let's face it—appearance counts. Joe and Sandy Waite have worked for 14 years to make their customers look their best. With two locations in Naples, Platinum Coast invests in the latest equipment, has concierges for its personal pick-up and delivery customers, and offers free minor repairs including button replacement—making small fixes even when the customer doesn't notice. "In our business, it's consistently improving what we're doing," says Joe.

### Tailor

#### **Hector Von Daher, Daher's Tailor Shop (Fort Myers)**

Finalists: 60 Minute (Fort Myers), Naples Alterations

For more than 25 years, sharp dressers, including politicians such as U.S. Rep. Porter Goss, have counted on Von Daher for their seamless look. Von Daher's small workroom is tucked away in the Courtyard Shops on downtown's Hendry Street. He has no phone and does no advertising, but his fast and faultless service has won him a loyal following. Or as he puts it, "Nobody comes in and complains."

### Business gadget

#### **BlackBerry**

Finalists: Cell phone/PDA combos, laptop

Executives can connect to their offices 24-7 with gadgets like the BlackBerry, a wireless e-mail device. Need your e-mail, your calendar and access to your office network? Whether in a meeting or in your car, it's all at your fingertips. According to the *Boston Globe*, there are 403,000 BlackBerry addicts, and the numbers are rising.

### Local business Web site

**(Tie) [www.collierappraiser.com](http://www.collierappraiser.com), [www.propertyappraiser.lee.fl.us](http://www.propertyappraiser.lee.fl.us)**

Finalists: [www.chamber-swfl.org](http://www.chamber-swfl.org) (The Chamber of Southwest Florida), [www.find-what.com](http://www.find-what.com)

Bookmark these! The Web sites for the property appraiser's offices in Lee and Collier counties provide important GIS maps, valuable and up-to-date property data as well as crucial tax forms and information.