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Waterford (WTNH) _ It's the American dream come true. Waterford's little business that could growing by leaps and bounds in just a few years. Because Seconn Fabrication has been able to stay strong in what many call a weak economy, it's now up for 'small business of the year.'

Just five years ago Seconn Fabrication started out with four employees in a 5,000 square foot sheet metal shop. It's also grown to 77 workers. Rich Sweet is one of the original employees. "I think we only ended up going maybe four to six weeks without a pay," Sweet said.

This was a sacrifice and gamble which really paid off. "Moved into a nicer neighborhood and things are going well," Sweet noted.

So, how did this small business which started out on a hope and a prayer – end up thriving in a struggling economy? Robert Marelli Jr., of Seconn Fabrication, said, "From we start a job and until we finish – is eight days."

The shop offers quick service and one stop shopping for a number of metal made products like a circuit box. It's a niche which has brought in more customers and allowed Seconn to re-invest its money in new laser technology. In turn, this has made the shop run a lot more efficiently.

Another thing Marelli has done is really diversified his business. In any given month, he has 1,400 jobs go on here so he's not dependent on just one big client. This is a strategy which has positioned him well with the rising costs of running a business.

Another way Marelli plans for the future is that he looks at what industries are doing well now. If housing and the auto industry are struggling - he looks into tap into pharmaceuticals and agriculture for new customers.