

## **Lakeland Abuelo's Employee Receives Top Award**

*Abuelo's employee, Tomasa Taylor, named 2008 Xtraordinary Employee of the Year at company's annual conference*

LAKELAND, Fla. – Tomasa Taylor, ambassador host of Abuelo's Lakeland restaurant, located at 3700 Lakeside Village Rd., was recently named the company's "2008 Xtraordinary Employee of the Year" at its annual conference held in Grapevine, Texas. This award is given to one deserving non-management, hourly employee companywide who shows outstanding work ethic, is highly respected by coworkers and who regularly goes above and beyond the call of duty to achieve success. Abuelo's currently has approximately 3,000 hourly employees at its 39 locations throughout the nation.

"I am very proud and honored to be a part of what Tomasa brings to our restaurant and company," said Lakeland General Manager Michael Codner. "She is a fantastic ambassador for our company's culture, and a great example of the overall ownership and care all our employees have for the restaurant and brand here in Lakeland."

A grandmother of five and an avid volunteer for various local causes, Taylor is a firm believer in hard work and having passion for what you do.

"I wasn't expecting to win," she said. "I was speechless and I started to cry. It is such an honor to be working here. The management and employees of Abuelo's are wonderful, but the guests are what make this restaurant thrive, and making them happy is what I enjoy most."

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