



GEARHARTS

FINE CHOCOLATES

OUR OWNERS

THE CHOCOLATIER

Timothy Gearhart first moved to Charlottesville, Virginia with his family in 1983. A veteran of the Gulf War, he spent four years of active duty serving in Kuwait, Okinawa, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. After his service, Tim attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, where he received his certificate in Baking and Pastry Arts in 1994.

As a pastry chef, Tim honed his talents with Amberley Castle, West Sussex, England; Blantyre, Lennox, MA; and Zebra's Bistro, Boston, MA. Inspired by his work with quality chocolates and candy making, Tim brought his professional passion back home to Charlottesville's Keswick Hall and Hamiltons' at First & Main.

THE PARTNER

William Hamilton came to Charlottesville, Virginia in 1985 to attend the University of Virginia. In 1996, he and his wife Kate opened their first restaurant, Hamiltons' at First & Main. The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce honored Bill and Kate in 2002 as its "Small Business Persons of the Year" for their contributions from Hamiltons'. Bill also owns a quick-service restaurant company, Sticks Kebob Shop, which now has two locations in Charlottesville and one in Richmond. In the fall of 2001, Bill and Tim formed Gearharts Fine Chocolates, Inc. with Bill serving as financial officer, marketing guy and occasional production assistant.

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