

GMEN Entrepreneur of the Year History

2003

Evelyn Tucker

Sister Nina's Kitchen

MDO: Goodwill of North Georgia/BusinessNow

Sister Nina's Kitchen is a catering business created by Evelyn Tucker in 1999 out of a necessity to make extra money. Evelyn entered the BusinessNOW program in 2001 where she learned to market her business and sharpen her skills as an entrepreneur. As a result, Evelyn's business began to expand. In addition to her catering, she now offers personal chef services to five regular clients and several occasional customers. Sister Nina's Kitchen is flourishing into a fast-growing homebased business that has become the primary source of income for this business owner.



2004

Jason Smith

Mr. Everything Super Deli

MDO: Atlanta Micro Fund

Mr. Everything Super Deli is a delicatessen located in the Atlanta University Center community. The business primarily serves students in the Atlanta University Center. Prior to learning about the Atlanta Micro Fund Jason lacked access to traditional business funding sources, which slowed his ability to improve the deli shop. Since working with the AMF staff, Jason has received three micro business loans which allowed him to replace old equipment, purchase new equipment, and move to a new location with a sit-down eating area. His next goal is to expand the business with another location.



2005

Lisa Davies

Happy Home Cleaning Service

MDO: Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs

After working for other business owners, Lisa Davies had a dream of her own and sought help from ACE to start a residential house cleaning business. "Without support from ACE, I would not be successful." In 2004, Lisa won ACE's Entrepreneur of the Year award for moving from self-employment to a small business.



2006

Pamela Reynolds
Exclusively You Shoe Design
MDO: Goodwill of North
Georgia/BusinessNow



Exclusively You was created in 1992 as a wedding consultant service. Pamela expressed her dream to expand and include designer shoes as a part of the business plan that she prepared with the BusinessNOW staff. The IDA program would fund this line expansion. For several months, Pamela sold shoes from the trunk of her car, offered personal shopping services and sold shoes from an empty lot near her desired outlet location. On November 15, 2003, Pamela opened "Exclusively You Shoe Design," a storefront in Fayetteville, GA. "A dream became reality."

2007

Cathy Beecher
Cathy's Sweets, Inc.
MDO: Small Business Assistance Corporation

Cathy Beecher, a single mother living in rural Hazlehurst, GA, has been making "Lit'l Buddy" peanut butter candy for about 13 years. After graduating from SBAC's Micro Enterprise Training Program in 2003, Cathy advanced her business by adding three new products to her line and increasing her distribution by 12%. In addition to "Lit'l Buddy" she produces: "Lite Buddy" – peanut butter candy with less sugar; "Mud Buddy" - Lit'l Buddy dipped in chocolate; and "Lit'l Sweetie" - divinity. Her products can be found in Appling, Bibb, Jeff Davis, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs and Wheeler counties.



2008

Nanette Duffey
Organized Instincts
MDO: The EDGE Connection

Nanette Duffey, founder of Organized Instincts, LLC, is a financial and personal organizer, speaker, blogger, and author. A native of the Metropolitan Detroit area Nanette once dreamed of becoming a food package designer, but her love of people and places pulled her out of the lab and into the world. She earned a B.S. in Corporate Finance from Clemson University which she put to good use working for nearly a dozen years at General Electric. While her primary role was as a finance manager her experience also included roles in project management, quality, and event coordination. By wearing all these hats, she polished her skills in analytic, time management, and efficiency skills and began her business in 2005. www.organizedinstincts.com



2009

Bernadette Frazier
Total Billing Management LLC
MDO: Goodwill of North Georgia/BusinessNow



Bernadette Frazier started Total Billing Management LLC (TBM) in 2004. She came to BusinessNOW to work on her business plan for medical billing. She started to see growth in 2005 with gross sales of \$2,000/month. Since 2004, TBM has grown to ten employees and grossed \$1.2 million in sales in 2008. The company has 450 contracts serving 8 states and provides classes for people interested in starting their own medical billing companies. Bernadette's intense entrepreneurial expertise led her to start a 2nd company in 2007 called People of Promise Behavioral Health Service. They provide a one-stop shop for Behavioral health clients (serving metro Atlanta). They have 9 contractors which include LPC, LMFT, LCSW. As a result of this success she has been able to employ her husband and daughter making this a family business. Bernadette has the perseverance and the will to help others in the community. She has mentored 13 other small business owners who have started their own medical billing companies. She has shown that if you put your mind to it, starting and maintaining a business can be an achievable goal. The Latin community awarded her for providing services in their community. She has the largest Spanish speaking practitioners of Behavioral Health center in Rockdale County. www.totalbillingmanagement.com

2010

Mica Byrd
Micah Byrd Bookkeeping & Tax Service
MDO: Center for Black Women's Wellness/WESSP



Mica Byrd is President and owner of MICAH BYRD Bookkeeping & Tax Service. The company provides services and packages in accounting, bookkeeping, tax preparation and customer service. Its main focus is providing service to budding entrepreneurs, small businesses and non-profit organizations. Mica successfully completed the "Women's Economic Self-Sufficiency Program" in December 2001, where she received comprehensive business development training. She is an active member of the alumni networking group and actively supports other program participants by providing accounting services, workshops/seminars. MICAH BYRD Bookkeeping and Tax Service has grown from a home-based business to an office location. The business has 10 solid active bookkeeping clients, and over 20 seasonal business clients. The business employs two part-time staff that assists with bookkeeping. Mica Byrd is an active participant in community expos and seminars. She educates and provides important professional accounting tips. In addition, Mica produces her own bi-monthly newsletter. Her tenacity and staying abreast of current trends and policy in her area are the qualities most admired about Mica. She is a self starter and great role model. Mica often shares her resources and information to the micro-enterprise program without seeking monetary gain. www.mbbts.com