

# The Good News from Northwest Missouri Entrepreneurs

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2009



## Project Outcomes:

(November '07  
to January 09)

- Total Clients Assisted: 87
- Businesses Started: 5
- Businesses Expanded: 1
- Jobs Created: 27
- Estimated Sales: **\$793,000**

## Upcoming Events:

February 19, 2009  
Board Meeting  
6:30 P.M.  
Savannah, MO

Upcoming Grand Opening  
in Holt Co.  
Duck Inn Café  
Craig MO  
February 24, 2009  
11:00 AM

For more information  
about Northwest  
Missouri Enterprise  
Facilitation, contact:  
Facilitator  
Annette Weeks  
816-262-5158 or  
facilitator@nwmeff.com



*Mindy Hunziger receives a congratulatory certificate from Jim Jacoby, NWMEF Board Chairman.*

and her stylists performed 55 half-priced haircuts as part of an Open House on Sunday, November 2, with all proceeds going to the Abrielle Neff Foundation. Hunziger and her stylists raised more than \$530 for the organization which focuses on children.

“I am still on cloud nine, that all our stylists came together to help such a good cause,” Hunziger said.

Members of the NWMEF board were on hand for the open house and presented Hunziger with a certificate in celebration of a successful business.

“I am thankful to NWMEF that they helped me to understand the business side of being an entrepreneur,” Hunziger said. “I enjoy being a stylist, that’s what I know best, but understanding the details of working for myself was a bit more challenging.”

Hunziger considers Guy’s and Dolls a full hair care studio for the entire family also providing manicures, pedicures and facial waxing.

## Thank you, David Waltemath!

David Waltemath has served as NWMEF leader since our beginning, both on the original steering committee, and then since our incorporation as a nonprofit organization. Thank you, David, for your commitment as Chairman and for your ongoing support as a member of the Board. Thanks also to our past officers Vice Chairman Wayne Voltmer, Treasurer Doug Evenson and Secretary Ginger Geeding.



*David accepts a CCHD grant for NWMEF in 2006.*

## Pay it Forward

**MARYVILLE, Mo.** – Pay it forward, that’s the mentality of one new business owner assisted by Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (NWMEF).

On the first anniversary of being in business, Mindy Hunziger, owner of Guy’s and Dolls Hair Studio in Maryville, celebrates by helping the community that has helped her. As part of Customer Appreciation Week, Hunziger

## Catchy Nickname Transforms into Tasty Business

**SAVANNAH, Mo.** – The concept of Goochy Goo BBQ started in high school for Michael Ventucci. Growing up he was known as “Gooch” and of course with any fine barbeque restaurant, you have to have the sauce, so that is where the “Goo” comes in. Ventucci always thought of barbecuing as a hobby, but after some encouragement from family and friends, his past-time has gone up in smoke, literally. Michael along with his wife and children own and operate Goochy Goo BBQ in Savannah.



*Michael and wife Dee (left), proudly share their successful story at their business's grand opening.*

Ventucci was open just on weekends for the first three months, before going full-time. The public's positive response to his barbeque has been one of his greatest joys since becoming an entrepreneur along with meeting new people, but it did not come without a few struggles along the way.

“I found effective marketing to be one of my biggest struggles, making sure people know about me,” said Ventucci.

Northwest Missouri Enterprise Facilitation (NWMEF) facilitator Annette Weeks helped him establish a marketing and financial plan and put him in touch with an accountant.

“Annette was very helpful with putting me in contact with people who were good resources for decision making.”

Ventucci has some encouragement to offer other individuals who would like to open their own businesses. “Keep fighting and follow your dream, it is very easy to want to quit when roadblocks appear, but you have to fight through them.”

Follow your dream!  
**Follow your dream!**

To inquire about joining the  
Northwest Missouri Facilitation Board  
Contact  
Board Development Chair, Kathleen Reichert, OSF  
816-324-3179