

# ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

## Project Outcomes:

(June 2, 2003 to August 1, 2007)

- ◆ Total Clients Assisted: **384**
- ◆ Businesses Started: **29**
- ◆ Businesses Expanded: **11**
- ◆ Jobs Created: **106**
- ◆ Businesses Retained: **5**
- ◆ Jobs Retained: **27**
- ◆ Tune-Ups of Existing Businesses: **45**

For more information about Enterprise Facilitation, contact:

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## Laurie Beth's Bakery & Deli Expands Again

When Laurie Neeman opened the doors of Laurie Beth's Bakery & Deli in December 2001, she had no idea that only six years later she would be in the midst of her second relocation and expansion. The first in December 2004 moved the business from downtown Hiawatha, KS to a building on Highway 73. The latest relocated the business to the new Hiawatha Lodge, formerly the Hiawatha Inn, at the junction of Highways 36 and 73. This move included a slight name change to Laurie Beth's Restaurant & Bakery.

"It's unbelievable that we've outgrown two locations," said Laurie. "This space is considerably larger and will seat at least 144 so we plan to be here a long time." The added space includes two meeting rooms and will allow Laurie to expand her menu and focus more on catering and cake decorating.

The space, formerly occupied by the Heartland Restaurant, has been completely redecorated. The result is a homey, family-type atmosphere. This complements the remodeling of the hotel itself which is being renovated to



Laurie Neeman taking part in the NE Kansas Enterprise Facilitation display at the 2006 KNZA Home, Garden, & Sports Expo.

create a lodge feel. Hotel owners, Jerry & Pat Sullivan, indicate that the restaurant will only enhance their guests' experience.

Laurie opened in the new location on August 22nd. She will serve breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday from 5:30 am to 2 pm and Sunday brunch from 8 am to 2 pm. She plans to add a Mexican night and other evening specials as time goes on.

Laurie strongly believes in the power of asking questions and seeking help from others. "Though I've been in business for several years, there are still problems and issues that

come up," said Laurie. "Janet and the Enterprise Facilitation board have been a great source of help when I needed it. The knowledge within the group itself and the contacts they've provided me have been terrific."

Another source of help is the 12 person staff she's assembled. "They are an experienced group and will do a great job," Laurie predicted.

She also credits husband Mike for his help and support. "Mike is a wonderful partner, and I couldn't have done it without him," Laurie said. "He's exactly the kind of partner every small business owner should have."

## Upcoming Events:

September 6, 2007

6:30 pm - Board Meeting in Holton, KS. Exact location TBA.