

ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Project Outcomes:

(June 2, 2003 to July 1, 2007)

- ◆ Total Clients Assisted: **378**
- ◆ 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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Board Chair
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How is the help provided by Enterprise Facilitation free to entrepreneurs?

This is one of the most common questions Facilitator Janet Griesel and EF board members are asked when discussing Enterprise Facilitation with community members. The answer, it turns out, is somewhat complicated. Funds come from a variety of sources including city, county, and state governments as well as other organizations.

Initial funding for the project was obtained in 2002 from the Kansas Department of Commerce in the form of a \$200,000 grant. To obtain the grant, the state required matching funds from the area to demonstrate local support for Enterprise Facilitation. Accordingly, a number of local governments and organizations pledged funds annually for a 3-year period.

Over time, state funding for the project has dwindled, but the board is proud that most local entities originally providing funding for the project have continued to do so. "This shows great vision and commitment on the part of our local leaders," Board Chair Jim McAnerney said.



Sue & Con Olson, owners of Absolute Home Health Care in Holton, are congratulated in September 2005 on their recent opening by Facilitator Janet Griesel. Two years later, Sue & Con have opened a second location in Seneca and now employ more than 25 people.

"They clearly realize that starting and growing businesses locally is important to our economic success as a region."

Current and past funding entities include: the Atchison Chamber of Commerce; City of Hiawatha; Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development (HFED); City of Horton; Doniphan County; Jackson County; Jackson County Development Corporation (JCDC); Nemaha County; City of Sabetha; City of Seneca;

Northeast Kansas Coalition for Regional Economic Development (NEKCRED); Bank of Atchison; Bank Midwest; Exchange National Bank; Gold Bank; Holton National Bank; RHS, Inc.; and Schuetz Tool & Die.

"Without the continued support of our funders, we could not have accomplished what we have," said Facilitator Janet Griesel. "Truly, our success is their success."

Thanks again to those providing financial support!

Upcoming Events:

August 2, 2007

- 6:00 pm - Executive Committee Meeting at Highland Community College Wellness Center.
- 6:30 pm - Board Meeting at Highland Community College Wellness Center.