

ENTREPRENEUR SPOTLIGHT

Project Outcomes:

(June 2, 2003 thru May 31, 2006)

- ◆ Total Clients Assisted: **289**
- ◆ Businesses Started: **23**
- ◆ Businesses Expanded: **7**
- ◆ Jobs Created: **73**
- ◆ Businesses Retained: **4**
- ◆ Jobs Retained: **13**
- ◆ Tune-Ups of Existing Businesses: **29**

For more information about Enterprise Facilitation, contact:

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Lifelong Dream Leads to Fresh Gallery

Northeast Kansas Enterprise Facilitation helped Julie realize a lifelong dream with the May opening of Fresh. Art is Julie's passion, and she had been thinking of launching a combination gallery and studio since moving her family to Atchison from the Kansas City area in 2002. But, passion and desire are only two necessary components to owning and operating a business and Julie knew she needed help getting hers off the drawing board and onto the launch pad. She was referred to Enterprise Facilitation by the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce, and credits Facilitator Janet Griesel with providing information on business classes offered in the area, reading and providing comments on her business plan, answering



Julie Lieb, left, owner of Fresh gallery-shop-studio discusses a piece of jewelry with a customer.

questions, and acting as a sounding board. "After talking with Janet, my dream starting looking more like reality," says Julie. Fresh features works of all kinds by nearly 40 artists from the U.S. and Canada. Some of the artists are locals. The business is located at 721 Commercial

in a newly renovated building. The space itself is wide, open and colorful with a fresh feeling. With the gallery in place, Julie is now working on the accompanying studio. She plans to offer a variety of classes to adults and children who want to experience art in a fun, relaxed, creative setting.

Northeast Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Initiative

Northeast Kansas Enterprise Facilitation is a five-county effort to help people transform their dreams and talents into viable business ventures. Facilitator, Janet Griesel, provides free, confidential business management coaching

to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, and Nemaha counties. She is assisted by an approximately 50 member community resource board. Resource board members are dedicated

volunteers who help Janet locate resources for individual clients. Board members volunteer their networks, knowledge, business experience, skills, and time to assist area entrepreneurs.