



A Regional Growth Corporation

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SKED Micro Loan Helps Corbin Caterer Expand to Full-Service Restaurant

CORBIN, KY - Becky Warner has taken her mother and grandmother's family recipes; her father's work ethic combined the two and built a business around them.

The Whitley County native opened Dinners Made Simple, LLC in 1,000 square feet of space in the Forest Hills Shopping Center on U.S. Highway 25W in 2006.

For the past three and a half years, the mother of three has worked 12 and 14 hour days cooking, preparing and selling her homemade meals from the store front. She has literally been a one-woman shop sending weary business men and women home with home cooked meals after a hard day's work.

Her "Take & Bake" meals of Meatloaf, Chicken 'n' Dumplings, Farmhouse Chicken and Chicken and Shredded Potatoes, among others, have fed many hungry families over the past years. All meals are packaged in disposable containers, which go directly from freezer or refrigerator to oven. It's possible to feed a family of four for under \$20 at Dinners Made Simple, according to Warner.

"We strive to change meal time at home by providing home cooked, nutritious meals," said Warner. "We do all the planning, shopping, preparing and packaging for easy cleanup. Time spent in the kitchen is drastically reduced allowing families to spend more quality time together. We provide the highest quality ingredients for all of our recipes."

Buying 80 pounds of ground beef and making and cooking 40 meatloaves is an average week's work for Warner. "Meatloaf is our staple," she said. "People love my meatloaf and come in for it all the time."

What she doesn't sell in a day, she freezes. Customers can buy fresh or frozen.



Whitley County native Becky Warner proudly displays one of her most popular homemade pies at Dinners Made Simple.

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Three days before Thanksgiving and Warner is busy preparing cakes, pies and entrees, taking an order for a full Thanksgiving meal, all the while trying to serve walk-in customers lunch. Were it not for the help of some dear high school friends as volunteers, Warner would have never met the demand.

But like any successful business owner, Warner takes the hustle and bustle with stride realizing her business is growing right before her eyes.

The success of her business and the need for extra help to meet the demand led her to expand the catering business to a full-service restaurant in November. To do that, she needed a bigger freezer, tables, chairs and booths and working capital to hire employees.

Warner heard about the Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation's (SKED) micro-loan program and was encouraged by friends and family to apply. SKED partnered with Kentucky Highlands Development Corporation (KHIC) to provide her with the funding she needed and put her on the road to growing her business.

“SKED is pleased to have played a role in helping Dinners Made Simple expand to a full-service restaurant,” said Michael Bush, SKED director lending. “We believe Warner has a unique concept that has been working for the past three years and is worthy of our investment in the project.”

The newly expanded Dinners Made Simple Cafe & Catering is currently open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., but plans are to expand to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information about the business, visit:

www.yourdinnermadesimple.com.

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SKED is a nonprofit economic development organization formed by Congressman Hal Rogers in 1986 to create jobs in a 42-county service area in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. It accomplishes this mission by recruiting new businesses, making direct loans, offering small business technical assistance and providing community/economic development services to local communities. For more information about SKED, visit: www.southeastkentucky.com.