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MICROENTRPRISE PROGRAM ANNOUNCES FIRST ROUND OF AWARDS

Four Businesses in Franklin County Awarded Funding Totaling over \$115,000

FRANKLIN COUNTY, N.Y. - The Franklin County Local Development Corporation (FCLDC) announced today the recipients of the 2018-2019 Microenterprise Program. The following businesses were chosen by a review committee to receive the first round of grant awards.

- **Carpe Insectae, Saranac Lake**
Small-scale manufacturing business in downtown Saranac Lake producing all-natural insect repellent.
- **Early Dawn Confections, Saranac Lake**
Baking company established in 2011 preparing a variety of hand-crafted pastries using high quality, fresh, locally sourced ingredients.
- **The Row Boutique, Tupper Lake**
A woman owned boutique specializing in clothing, shoes, jewelry, handbags, outerwear, intimates, and other fashion accessories for women and girls.
- **Spruce and Hemlock, Tupper Lake**
An established online retail business now expanding into the downtown commercial district selling souvenirs, personalized gifts, and wholesale items.

In 2017, Franklin County identified a high priority need to increase resources and opportunities for entrepreneurship. To meet this need, Franklin County sought and was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to institute a Microenterprise Program. The FCLDC was chosen by Franklin County to administer the program. The goal of the program is to provide strategic grants to microenterprise businesses that advance projects that take their business or idea to the next level and directly benefit low to moderate income workers. The program incentivizes business creation and expansion through funding of inventory, machinery, furniture, equipment, working capital and professional training.

Selected projects demonstrated the following criteria to be eligible for funding: Business must be located in Franklin County; have five or fewer employees; must either be owned by a low- to moderate-income person or the project must result in the creation of at least one full-time equivalent position to benefit a low to moderate income person.

Another round of Microenterprise awards are expected to be announced by June or July of 2019.

Randy Cross, President of Carpe Insectae said, “This opportunity is amazing! I appreciate so much what New York State does to encourage businesses to be successful. I am honored to be a part of what Franklin County LDC is doing here locally. This money will go a long way to allowing us to strengthen, establish, and grow.”

S. Jill Zagrobelny, Owner of Early Dawn Confections said, “On behalf of myself, my husband and future Early Dawn Confections staff bakers, I am so grateful for this Microenterprise Grant opportunity! I am looking forward to applying these funds towards kitchen equipment that will assist me in baking what our community is craving and has come to enjoy for many years to come!”

Faith McClelland, Owner of Spruce and Hemlock said, “We are thrilled to have received this reward. We were concerned coming into our 2019 season that we were not going to have the funds needed to purchase inventory after all of the renovations we have done to our new building. The reward could not be coming at a better time as we just opened our doors again and we are now confident that we will be able to fill it up and hit the ground running in our new location.”

Emilee Davis, Owner of The Row said, “The Row is excited to move its boutique location to Park Street in Tupper Lake. Being awarded this grant funding will help cut down on costs associated with relocation. We are grateful for this program and are looking forward to a busy and fashionable summer!”

Russ Kinyon, Director of Economic Development, FCLDC said, “We’re excited to announce the support Franklin County is able to offer these businesses through the CDBG Microenterprise Grant Program. These grants provide much-needed resources for small businesses who struggle to find enough capital in our region. Awardees demonstrated a need for a boost to expand or take advantage of opportunities. From small-scale manufacturing to providing needed amenities and relocating to downtown areas, each of these businesses met priorities for beneficial community and economic impact.”

About Franklin County Local Development Corporation

The Franklin County Local Development Corporation, in partnership with the County of Franklin Industrial Development Agency, exists to improve the quality of life in the Franklin County region by supporting economic growth, employment and community development. The FCLDC/IDA offers a broad range of services to help local businesses expand and succeed. From loans and tax incentives, to technical assistance, to buildings and business parks, we’re here to help grow local business.

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