

Small Business Center helps take sting out of getting into business



Small Business Center Manager Dave Dona, front left, stands on steps of Center with Paul Henderson, Julie Tewee, Ed Henderson, Wanda Van Pelt and Archie Caldera.

Local small business hopefuls gain knowledge, assistance through Small Business Center

Starting up a business can be frustrating, to say the least. There are forms for taxes, forms for loans, and forms for more forms. There is also the problem of finding adequate space for a business. On top of all these problems is the fact that many Warm Springs community members do not have the business experience necessary to establish a successful enterprise. That's where the Small Business Center comes in. The Center was established earlier this year to help clear the often muddled path to success for fledgling entrepreneurs.

Managing the Small Business office is Dave Dona. He explains that the Small Business Center is involved with a four-phase effort to assist with small business endeavors. The Center coordinates the Greenhouse education program, provides on-going business counseling and technical support, assists individuals in pursuing necessary grants and loans. The Small Business Center also serves as an advocate of small business interests in the area of future building development.

The Center provides assistance in the form of technical, office and resource support. In the area of technical support, services include feasibility studies, business projections, financial analysis, budgeting, money management, payroll and income tax and business counseling.

The office support comes in the form of mail service, answering service telephone, photocopying, computer, facsimile, business software, printing, word processing and secretarial services. The resource support comes through newspapers, magazines, business publications, instructional videos, books and various on-line computer data bases.

Since its opening in June, the Small Business Center has received over 740 contacts from those with questions concerning tax and payroll, loan and financing evaluations, business plan development and review, word processing, computer support and training, loan and grant preparation, contract negotiations, secretarial support and business counseling. The Center has assisted 11 tribal member companies get started, with several other tribal member businesses in the development state. These new businesses have created 23 new job opportunities.

Two local artisans, Wanda Van Pelt and Archie Caldera, both graduates of the 10-week Greenhouse Business Education Program, use the Center as their workplace and place of business. Five other businesses use the Center as their business address and conduct office and clerical work there. As more space becomes available, additional work stations will be added, says Dona.

The Small Business Center holds monthly workshops addressing small business topics, including payroll, money management, income taxes. These topics are selected from tribal member request forms located at the Center. If an individual requests that a certain topic be addressed, he needs only to ask or complete one of the forms.

The Small Business Center has submitted a budget for 1993. In developing the budget, the costs of fully funding the small business services mentioned above were evaluated. If the proposed budget for the Center is approved, the Center will continue to provide the low-cost, one-on-one, high quality services needed in 1993.

Individuals completing the Greenhouse class this spring include Brent Graybael with Graybael Painting, Wanda Van Pelt with Traditional Treasures, Archie Caldera Jewelry, James Redfox with Redfox Janitorial, the Henderson brothers with J.W. Construction, Tom Kalama with Kalama Construction and Trudie Smith with Your Krew Labor Pool. Another 14 community members enrolled in the second Greenhouse session which began October 14.

The Small Business Center, located at 2107 Wasco Street, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Dona says, however, that evening meetings can be arranged with him if necessary. Individuals are encouraged to contact the center for more information. Call 553-3593.



Wanda Van Pelt, who works out of the Small Business Center, shows a beaded checkbook cover she's working on.



Archie Caldera stands with the masterpieces he's created.