



Coming Attractions

"Merry Christmas" from the Cass County EDC

DECEMBER 2009

Board Members

Jim Tertin
Dave Holk
Howard Prushek
Skip Duchesneau, Jr.
Jay Cline
Terry Freeman
Laura Hansen
Mike Myers
Bill Palmer
Neil Smith
Cy Struss

Ex Officio's

Bob Kangas
Bob Yochum
Jeff Peterson
(alternate)

Advisory Board

Dave Johnson
John Wetrosky
John Grimley
John Weins

Staff

Gail Leverson
Rachel Krumwiede

Ringler finds a future in business.

Cedarwood Floral located on Cedar Avenue in Pillager opened for business December 1 offering fresh and silk flowers, green plants, gift bags, greeting cards, candles, plant rooters and more.



Business owner and entrepreneur Amy Ringler was in search for local business opportunities after the company she worked for decided to relocate resulting in a permanent layoff for

Ringler. She had two possible employment opportunities but neither was able to confirm a start date. Rather than relying on others to determine her future, Ringler took charge of the situation and started brainstorming about what services Pillager doesn't offer that she could turn into a possible business opportunity. She found her answer in floral design and sales.

Ringler has hired a floral designer with 30 years of experience to work five days per week. Cedarwood Floral is open Monday through Saturday providing floral services to Pillager and

the surrounding area. When discussing her new business venture Ringler said it is "exciting to go to work every day". Ringler sought EDC assistance in obtaining an assumed name and federal ID number, estimating profit, determining product cost and cash flow projections. With a capital investment of \$30,000 Ringler will employ two. Financing was through Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union.

"The EDC was great to work with and I appreciate their knowledge and support."
Amy Ringler

Child Care Center to open in Pike Bay Township

A new family daycare will be opening in Pike Bay township near Cass Lake. Birdie's Nest owners Roberta and Leland Lord plan to open their daycare in a newly built facility after the first of the year. They will offer full-time child care to toddlers and

pre-school children.

The EDC provided 19 business counseling sessions to the Lords over a one year time period. They assisted the Lords in securing a bank loan and structuring their pricing and business plan. Financing for the

construction of their new building was through Western Bank of Cass Lake. The Lords will employ three with total project costs of \$150,000.

"The EDC was very helpful. We couldn't have done it without them."
Roberta Lord

Welcome New EDC Members

- Laura Hansen
- Leer Title
- Gail & Jerry Leverson
- Marie Rose
- Mike & Kathy Wetzel



CASS COUNTY EDC MISSION STATEMENT

"To improve the business environment of Cass County by encouraging a strong, diverse and sustainable economy and to build better relationships between businesses, government agencies and local communities"

The Cass County EDC is an Equal Opportunity Provider



Note from the Executive Director

Think Global and Shop Local

We can spend our Christmas funds locally to support our piece of the global economy. How could my spending locally help the global economy?

My first job was at a local coffee shop/sports store in Alexandria. I am glad this local business was prosperous enough to hire another 16 year old. I recall learning a lot about the world by waiting on the patrons.

This business helped the global economy by starting at home. They hired friends and neighbors, like me, who spent their paychecks locally. As much as 75% of a purchase at a locally owned store stays in that community, according to some. The employees and business owners have children in local schools and pay taxes to re-circulate the resources around our community.

As a buyer, I know I experience better service and closer parking by shopping locally. This saves me time and money. The friendly greeting local business owners provide during the holiday season cannot be measured. It helps my spirits knowing that my purchase made a difference to help my local community outlast the down economy.

Note to EDC Members

We changed our method of billing at the beginning of our fiscal year to an "Anniversary Date" membership. As of November 1, 2009 memberships are now valid for a 12 month period from the date the membership was paid.



This will make it easier for those who want to join at any time of the year.

MN to set record for new business filings in 2009

2007	55,782 filings
2008	55,137 filings
2009	Projected to top 63,000 filings

Partnership Support Essential

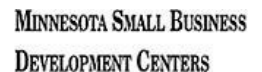
We would like to thank our partners; Cass County, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), USDA, Blandin Foundation and Initiative Foundation for their continued commitment to economic development in Cass County. These partners allow us to offer specialized, non-member services to Cass County residents and business owners.

Since 2004, Cass County has provided financial support, office space and overhead to ensure county-wide access to economic development.

The SBDC first partnered with the EDC in 2005. This partnership allows the EDC to provide professional business counseling to pre-venture, start-up and established businesses with no cost to the client.

The USDA partnership began in 2005 allowing the EDC to offer counseling to businesses located in distressed communities.

The Blandin Foundation and Initiative Foundation allow us to offer specific assistance on specialized projects.



A COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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