

2014 SUCCESS STORY

MINOT



NORTH DAKOTA
SMALL BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

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GATHERING GROUNDS

Kenmare, ND -- Cassie Golde wanted to open the perfect business to support her family, while both making her dreams of being an entrepreneur a reality, and helping her community grow. While visiting with her local bank and community leaders, she was referred to the Minot Regional SBDC office for help pulling her ideas together.

Just before the doors opened, Cassie told the Kenmare News,

“For a long time, even before being married, I dreamed of opening a coffee shop... a bistro type place.”

Challenge/ Solution

Cassie began work with Mary Beth Votava, creating a business plan and drafting budgets. In addition to building her menu and sourcing food products, Cassie needed to get equipment and attend professional training to make the perfect cup of coffee and all of the specialty drink options. Lots of research and plenty of decisions



had to be made before they could put together a loan package. Golde credits Mary Beth for helping to make her dream come true one step at a time.

Through that hard work, Cassie can now say that Gathering Grounds is a quaint small town coffee shop located in Kenmare, ND. The shop features a full espresso coffee bar as well as breakfast and lunch menus, fresh baked items and so much more! Gathering Grounds also showcases a wide variety of handcrafted consignment items such as jewelry and unique interior décor for purchase. With five-star customer reviews praising their consistent quality home-made meals, gourmet coffees and the “always friendly” staff, this small business really is extraordinaire!

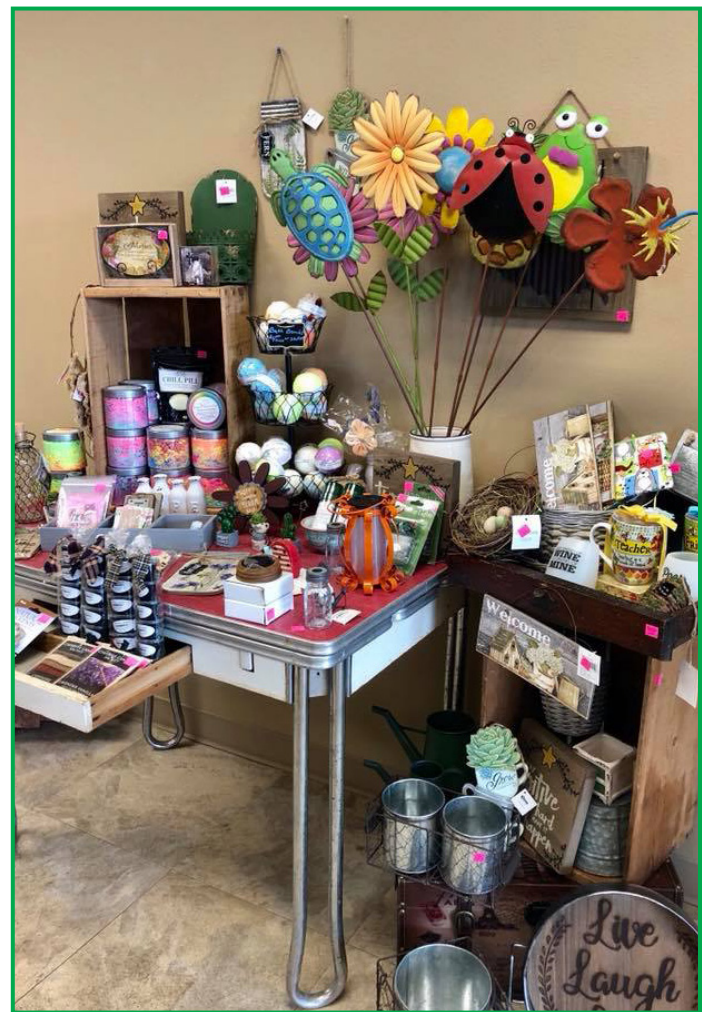
Impact

Gathering Grounds opened October 20, 2014 and Cassie says she has learned a lot of life lessons these past few years. Things like asking for help, separating home



life from work life, realizing every day is different when running a business, and to treat each day as a journey to be enjoyed. Cassie stated that she learns the most from her wonderful customers and her employees. Their positive encouragement and support helps her to grow as a person and as business owner.

She credits her success and her ability to sustain business growth, all to those that support her. Cassie and Gathering Grounds recently celebrated the 4th anniversary of the business. She is confident that



there will be continued growth and that they can evolve with the changing times. She also knows that as her business needs change, she is able to lean on the SBDC for services to help shape her future and stay on course.

The Minot SBDC is fortunate to work with individuals that grow their dreams, support their Main Streets, and give back as much as they receive from their communities.

Cassie Golde and her dream business, Gathering Grounds has been chosen to receive the Minot SBDC Regional 2018 Business of the Year award. Congrats Cassie!