



Peace, Love and Noodles

Noodle Nirvana Madison County, Kentucky

Longtime Berea resident Mae Suramek was working in nonprofit management, and has continuously been civically engaged. But recently, she was ready to make an impact in a different way. So, with her mother's recipes as inspiration, an idea for a socially-conscious noodle restaurant was born.

Noodle Nirvana opened in 2016 in Berea with a mission in mind: prepare delicious noodle dishes with the most local ingredients possible, and help support local nonprofits in the process. Each year, Noodle Nirvana will adopt a different local nonprofit. Noodle Nirvana will promote the nonprofit, host a fundraiser for it, and donate a percentage of its profits one day each month directly to the adopted nonprofit.

Suramek's vision for Noodle Nirvana was boundless; but, her funding to open the doors wasn't necessarily so. That's why she approached MACED for help with start-up capital, building renovations, and technical assistance. She says MACED's support has been invaluable.

"If you're lucky, every so often you'll have a worthy idea fueled by both passion and purpose. Without the tools and support to breathe life into such ideas, they often get filed away and never acted upon," Suramek said. "MACED helped breathe life into Noodle Nirvana's idea to create a different kind of business model. They helped to make our passion and purpose a reality."

MACED works with people in eastern Kentucky and Central Appalachia to create economic opportunity, strengthen democracy and support the sustainable use of natural resources.

Development Impacts

5 jobs created or retained

New business

Local ownership supported

Female ownership supported

Minority ownership supported

Local foods supported



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