



Carving Out a Good Life

TG Designs Powell County, Kentucky

Gene and Tina King come from a long line of woodworkers. Tina's father was a furniture maker, and Gene's family was in the logging business. Gene took up woodworking as a hobby to relax from his stressful military career. He was a natural, so he and his father decided to open a woodworking business. The business eventually became TG Designs, which now makes a variety of wooden products, including kitchen items, picture frames and walking sticks. The Kings also regularly experiment with new items and ideas. Gene's skills have been recognized by woodworkers across the country, and he is often asked to provide online demonstrations.

TG Designs started in Pikeville, even though the Kings lived in Stanton. In 2015, MACED was able to provide them with a loan to build a workshop in Stanton. Not only has their quality of life improved by having the business close to home, but they've been able to expand. They now have more space to pack and ship their items, and they plan to create a retail area that will include the work of other local artists. Gene also plans to hire an apprentice woodworker, and he and Tina will use a newly-built classroom space at their shop for woodworking classes. They also hope to open the classroom up to other local artisans so they can teach classes there, too.

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

Distressed county business supported

Growth of business supported

Local ownership supported

Artists supported



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