

MISSISSIPPI SBDC

WEEKLY STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

"Transforming Mississippi One Small Business at a Time"

September 19, 2012

As part of our commitment to provide you with information that may enhance the effectiveness of your important leadership efforts, we are pleased to deliver this report about our activities on behalf of Mississippi Small Business.

MSBDC Economic Impact Involvement

Since October 1, 2011

Counseled Clients	1975
- Businesses Started	170
--- Jobs Created	529
--- Jobs Retained	772
--- Loans Submitted	89
--- Loans Obtained	97

Total Capital Formation
\$43,692,395

Initial Client Satisfaction



Data compiled since October 1, 2011 Initial

Small Business Spotlight

Partyology



Pictured: James Carden (left, Counselor) Charlotte Dicus (center, Owner) Chris Dicus (right, Owner).

Partyology LLC

Owners: Charlotte & Chris Dicus

111 Heritage Drive, Oxford MS 38655

662-234-4799

Charlotte and Chris Dicus were assisted with the start-up phase of their business by James Carden, Director of the UM MSBDC. Together, they worked on a variety of topics, including the legal structure of the business and marketing research. Charlotte and Chris also attended workshops hosted by the UM MSBDC focusing on developing a business plan and general start-up issues.

Below, Charlotte and Chris share a few comments to let us know what Partyology is all about.

"Partyology is celebrating its first full year in business at 111 Heritage Drive, behind Applebee's Restaurant in Oxford. We thank all our customers in the Oxford/Lafayette and University community for their

**Rating for the Year:
Since October 1, 2011**

89.26% Excellent
9.30% Very Good
1.44% Good
0.00% Fair
0.00% Poor

This week's client Evaluation of Services report includes data from **23 MSBDC Counseling Evaluation Forms with 13 comments by First Time Clients** after their initial counseling session.

**Mississippi Client
Evaluation of
Services**

To help the MSBDC improve our services and to better meet the needs of our clients, we ask them to complete the following questionnaire. These are the results of the questionnaires received between the dates of September 5-11.

Questionnaire Summary

Were you in business when you came to the MSBDC?

04 Yes
19 No

If yes, how long?

02 0 - 11.9 months
00 1 - 3 years
01 4 - 7 years
01 8 - 15 years
00 15+ years

Was your request for an appointment given prompt attention?

23 Yes
00 No

How long did you have to wait?

19 0 days
03 1 day
00 2 days
00 3 days
01 4 - 7 days
00 8+ days

continued support and say a special thank you to the counselors at the UM SBDC. We are a husband and wife team of proud Ole Miss Graduates. We are locally owned and operated and members of the local Chamber of Commerce. We provide party supplies for birthday, showers, retirements, weddings and your other special events. We also have gag gifts, party favors, decorations, balloons, ribbons, gift wrapping supplies, candles and lots of other party paraphernalia. We have just doubled the size of our showroom floor so that we can add costumes, wigs and theatre supplies, grove supplies, religious merchandize and much more. "

--- Charlotte Dicus

MSBDC wishes Charlotte and Chris Dicus, Owners of Partology LLC best of luck and much success over the coming years. The MSBDC will continue to be a resource and a helping hand for your business as needed.



Visit the MSBDC Facebook [Page](#)!



See MSBDC [training videos](#) on YouTube!

**Our Clients want our Stakeholders to
know...**

**All comments are direct quotes from first time clients.*

GC MSBDC

Did your counselor give you specific recommendations?

23 Yes

00 No

Did your counselor have the skills needed to advise you or did the counselor make an appropriate referral?

23 Yes

00 No

Did the counselor give you enough time to express your business concerns?

23 Yes

00 No

Would you use the SBDC program again?

23 Yes

00 No

Would you recommend the SBDC services to others?

23 Yes

00 No

Who recommended our services?

01 Bank

02 SBDC Client

01 Legislator

01 Chamber

18 Other

Please rate the business assistance services you received:

23 Excellent

00 Very Good

01 Good

00 Fair

00 Poor

[Find Training Events in your Area!](#)

[Find your local MSBDC counselor!](#)
[International Trade Questions?](#)
[Inventor Assistance Help](#)

We would like to recognize our host institutions!

[Copiah-Lincoln Community College](#)

My experience here today was very beneficial for my desire to start my own business. Mrs. Connie Whitt was extremely helpful and gave me excellent advice.

--- **Cortney C. Harrison Co.**

Mitch was very helpful and informative on the many questions I needed answered. Very helpful!

---**Star F. Harrison Co.**

UM MSBDC

All info was helpful. His information tied together everything I need to look at and consider before going into business. Gave me direction and invaluable education/insights.

---**Susan G., Lafayette Co.**

After sitting with Counselor Charles Killebrew I learned very valuable information. I have all the skills I need to start a business and also to complete a business plan.

--- **Stephanie G., Lee Co.**

James Carden enlightened me on many ways to revise current business practices and establish new business practices in order to move forward with a strong set of best practices and strategies.

---**Melissa H., Lafayette Co.**

I learned so much just by my first meeting, can't wait until next session.

--- **Richard W., Tunica Co.**

How to narrow down promotional items was very helpful.

--- **Shamonica W.,Panola Co.**

Awesome.

--- **Mark H., Yalobusha Co.**

HCC MSBDC

Very helpful and informative.

--- **Jason M., Yazoo Co.**

Mr. Harper will help me write my plan he does as super job. I look forward to working with him.

--- **Garrett L., Hinds Co.**

Mr. Bennett was very helpful today I feel like this meeting will help me moving forward and deciding exactly what I want to do.

--- **Toni R., Madison Co.**

JSU MSBDC

I feel very positive about the business assistance I have requested (received thus far), and I feel confident that the outcomes will be successful.

[East Central Community College](#)
[Hinds Community College](#)
[Jackson State University](#)
[Jones County Junior College](#)
[Mississippi State University](#)
[The University of Mississippi](#)

The Mississippi Small Business Development Center Program (MSBDC) provides free one-on-one, confidential counseling and training to Existing, Start-Up, and Pre-Venture small businesses. Extensive reports, comprehensive training resources, and valuable videos designed to help individuals pursue their entrepreneurial dreams are available to all Mississippians through the [MSBDC website](#).

Contact a local counselor or register for a workshop via the MSBDC website www.mssbdc.org or call our toll free number (MS only. Area codes 662 601 and 228) 1-800-725-7232.

--- Diedra A., Hinds Co.

The staff was very courteous not push at all it was a very relaxed experience. Mr. Brown was very knowledgeable on areas of business I looked to pursue.

--- Divinity G., Hinds Co.

This was a wonderful experience. The Counselor was very knowledgeable, and helpful. The guidance given was more than I anticipated. Great job!

--- Daisy C., Hinds Co.

SBJA MSBDC

Sheen Andrews was very professional. Met me with a stern hand shake and was able to address all of my concerns. Looking forward to our next appointment.

--- Margaret L., Covington Co.

The SBDC rep was very knowledgeable and experienced we will definitely utilize the service again.

--- Youth Engagement Solutions., Forrest Co.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.



Mississippi Small Business Development Center's Weekly Stakeholder Update

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 1848
122 Jeanette Phillips Drive
University, MS 38677

Our telephone:
(662) 915-5001

Copyright (C) 2011 Mississippi Small Business Development Center. All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

Need a new client password? Please [click here](#) and we will email it to you.

This email was sent from %SENDEMAIL%. You have received this email because you have previously received counseling or attended one of our workshops. If you do not want to receive promotional email from us any further, please [click here to unsubscribe](#).