

COVID-19 Impact

CSBDF Client Stories



Cafe Frutta Fresca

YEAR FOUNDED	2017
INDUSTRY	Food Service
LOCATION	Sneads Ferry Onslow County

THEIR STORY: After being decimated from physical damage caused Hurricane Florence, Frutta Fresca was scheduled to open on March 28th. COVID-19 has post-poned that opening indefinitely. Frutta Fresca is a food supplier for Camp Lejeune, but the Department of Defense's quality inspection process to restart that supplier relationship is now also delayed.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: Carolina Small Business provided Frutta Fresca with \$155,000 in affordable capital in 2015. We're committed to helping the owner succeed and are deferring her payments during this difficult time.

“ Usually, I make about \$1500-\$2000 monthly, and I haven't made \$50 in two weeks. My business is decorating events. No one is hosting events. I appreciate everything Carolina Small Business is doing to help not only my business but also my family. ”

– Owner of Lisandra's Creative

To support these and other small businesses affected by COVID-19, please consider contributing to CSBDF by visiting www.carolinasmallbusiness.org/give



FP Crossroads

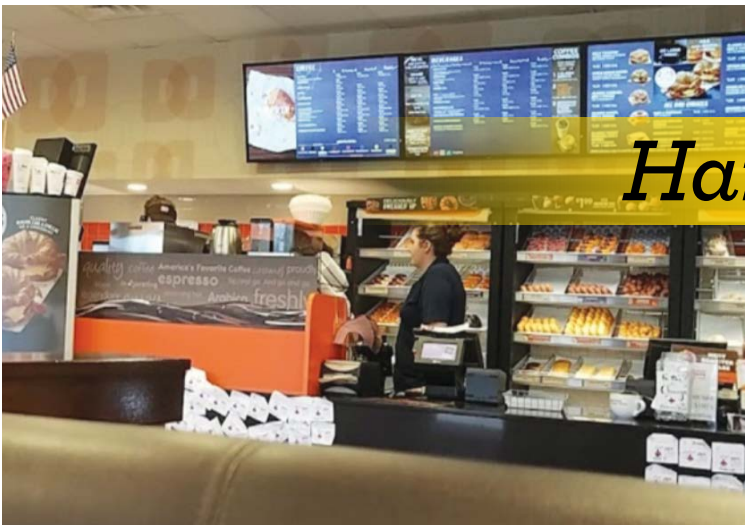
YEAR FOUNDED 2014

INDUSTRY Construction

LOCATION Charlotte
Mecklenburg

THEIR STORY: To stay in business, owner Fredi Pacheco knows it's important to diversify services. FP Crossroads is involved in a variety of areas including commercial construction fireproofing and residential household cleaning. COVID-19 has essentially shutdown the residential side of the business, which is causing FP Crossroads substantial cashflow challenges.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: CSBDF has been proud to partner with FP Crossroads as they've grown and expanded, including a \$9,000 loan in 2016 and a \$20,500 loan in 2017. The business has an application for a third loan pending with us.



Hampstead Donuts

YEAR FOUNDED 2013

INDUSTRY Food Service

LOCATION Hampstead
Pender County

THEIR STORY: In the era of social distancing, even quick service restaurants are seeing a steep drop in customers. Owner Jody Anglin, who also operates three other franchises in North Carolina, is seeing a 20% decline in customer traffic. She estimates that, unless things change soon, she will have to lay off workers to reduce costs.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: Over the years we've extended \$450,000 in capital to support these restaurants. Our disaster resiliency staff are keeping in touch with Jody to make sure she has access to all the resources she needs and help prevent layoffs.



Latino Party Rentals

YEAR FOUNDED	2007
INDUSTRY	Party Rentals
LOCATION	Raleigh Wake County

THEIR STORY: Latino Party Rentals provides party rental equipment to the triangle area. The business survived the Great Recession, but COVID-19 is proving to be an even more difficult challenge. Owner Manual Ramos reports almost all events have been canceled by clients for March/April.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: Carolina Small Business provided Mr. Ramos with a business loan of \$31,250 in 2016. We're restructuring that loan to lessen his financial burden during this time. Our staff are also working with him to gain access to the SBA's disaster relief programs.



JB Media Institute

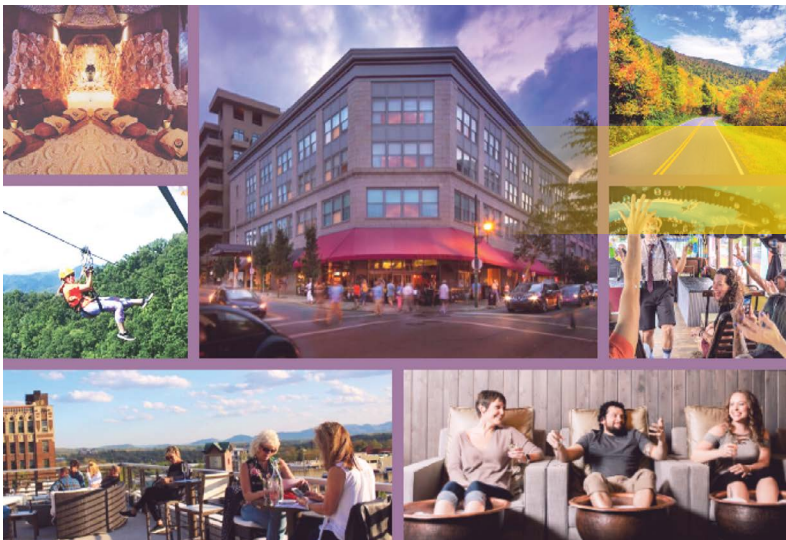
YEAR FOUNDED	2011
INDUSTRY	Agency
LOCATION	West Asheville Buncombe County

THEIR STORY: JB Media Group is a digital marketing agency that supports mission-driven companies, social enterprises, and nonprofits. Due to COVID-19, JB Media Group's advertising customers are seeing major impacts and are requesting to pause or cancel their advertising. Right now the business is operating at a loss and only has enough cash and credit to last us a few months before they run out of resources.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: In 2018, CSBDF gave JB Media Group \$42,500 in operating capital to support their costs in marketing, and equipment. During COVID-19, we're also offering loan payment deferral and interest only payments during the next few months to support them and alleviate the expenses incurred.

“Carolina Small Business Development fund is a fantastic institution. They gave me a chance when no one else would and granted me a great opportunity. Thank you for your process, follow-through, and help throughout.”

– Owner of Mama’s Mini-Mart



RA Media, LLC

YEAR FOUNDED 2003

INDUSTRY Tourism

LOCATION Asheville
Buncombe County

THEIR STORY: RA Media, LLC is a tourism travel guide for Western North Carolina. 100 percent of their revenue comes from tourism businesses such as hotels, restaurants, wedding venues, spas, etc. Due to COVID-19, all of their advertising customers are seeing major impacts and are asking us to pause or cancel their advertising. RA MEDIA is offering all their customers 2 months free to get through this crisis but this is costing them \$60,000 in lost revenue. They anticipate losing customers who can no longer afford the advertising unless there is major financial support directly to these affected businesses to help them afford to advertise during the recovery.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: During COVID-19, CSBDF is offering loan payment deferral and interest only payments during the next few months to support their business and alleviate the expenses incurred by the crisis.

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Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours

YEAR FOUNDED	2018
INDUSTRY	Tourism
LOCATION	Asheville Buncombe County

THEIR STORY: Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours is a tour company that combines Asheville's history and scenic beauty, historic landmarks, and rooftop bars, into one guided tour. Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours is currently dealing with major tour cancellations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their employee's hours are cut to zero for the foreseeable future. Since travel bans are in place, Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours is closed and they are refunding money for tours already into May. This comes at an even more critical time, as they are coming out of our slower tourism season in winter where their budgets are already stretched very thin.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: Asheville Rooftop Bar Tours opened in July 2018 with a loan from CSBDF and coaching and technical assistance from the Western Women's Business Center. To help during this crisis, CSBDF is offering loan payment deferral and interest only payments during the next few months.



Main Street Grill

YEAR FOUNDED	2016
INDUSTRY	Food Service
LOCATION	Weaverville Buncombe County

THEIR STORY: Main Street Grill is a husband-wife owned restaurant with a solid local customer base. Since opening their business 4 years ago, they've seen exponential growth with 34% increase in sales. Since COVID-19, their restaurant has ceased dine-in services and has been operating by offering takeout only. They've had to let go 6 out of 8 of their employees and have seen 60-75% decline in sales.

HOW WE'RE HELPING: The Western Women's Business Center is proud to partner with Main Street Grill to help them with technical assistance as needed during the COVID-19 crisis.