



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Develop Indy Awards Grant to City's First Food Industry Incubator *Indy's Kitchen provides commercial kitchen space to entrepreneurs in an effort to launch small businesses*

INDIANAPOLIS (May 4, 2011) - Mayor Greg Ballard and Scott Miller, CEO of Develop Indy, today awarded a \$17,000 grant to Indy's Kitchen and celebrated the graduation of its first client. Indy's Kitchen is the first and only incubator in Indianapolis dedicated to helping launch small food businesses.

Indy's Kitchen, located at 2442 Central Ave., provides a fully equipped, commercially licensed, shared pastry kitchen and catering kitchen for rent by the hour to aspiring entrepreneurs and programming to help them grow their businesses. Founded in 2010, it is owned by Linda Gilkerson, William Powell, Paul Pickett and Tom Abeel.

"We applaud the efforts of Indy's Kitchen to help build small businesses in Indianapolis by providing space, resources, and guidance to a talented and creative class of entrepreneurs," said Mayor Ballard. "Through their efforts, the next generation of food service companies will be launched, creating more job opportunities in our city."

In addition to facility rental, Indy's Kitchen also helps connect companies to potential suppliers, customers and community resources that can provide additional help with financing and insurance, business plan development, and food safety and labeling regulations. The Develop Indy grant will be used to help clients of Indy's Kitchen create business and marketing plans and provide a revolving loan fund for start-up and growth capital.

"Indy's Kitchen offers a unique opportunity for small businesses to get started and to grow with guidance and support," said Miller. "The grant funds from Develop Indy will allow for expanded resources and assistance that will serve as a catalyst to help companies graduate from incubator space to permanent locations."

Currently, 30 small companies utilize the space at Indy's Kitchen to teach cooking classes, hold private event, and prepare a variety of food from tamales to cakes that are then delivered to individuals and businesses for catered events or sold to customers in local shops. Space is available for rent 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We are so excited to offer a shared-use kitchen in Indianapolis so entrepreneurs can start or expand a business. We are working with caterers, bakers and even food truck owners who all share the common goal of wanting to see their businesses grow," said owner Linda Gilkerson. "Our goal is for our customers to reach their business goals."

Today's event also marked the move of Avec Moi, a company that makes meals to go, from rented space at Indy's Kitchen to a permanent home at 701 E. 62nd St. Avec Moi owner Kris Parmelee credits Indy's Kitchen with providing the opportunity to test the market and build a customer base before opening her own shop. "Indy's Kitchen has given me the support I've needed to grow at the right pace," she said. "Its

location in the thriving Fall Creek area has allowed me to connect to a community and build vital relationships with customers."

Avec Moi will open in its new space on May 16.

About Indy's Kitchen

Indy's Kitchen offers a fully equipped, commercially licensed shared-use kitchen for rent by the hour for individuals wanting to start a food business. Utilizing the shared space can help lower the risk and minimize start-up costs entrepreneurs face when launching a new business. The kitchen is available for rent by the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Space is also available for food classes and social events for up to 30 people. For more information, visit www.indyskitchen.com.

About Develop Indy

Develop Indy is Marion County's local economic development organization. Develop Indy is dedicated to attracting new businesses, retaining and expanding existing businesses and serving as a catalyst for capital investment and quality job growth in Indianapolis/Marion County. Formed in 2007, Develop Indy is led by CEO Scott Miller. For more information about Develop Indy, visit www.developindy.com.

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