



District 4 Statistics
The Honorable Jim Jordan (R)

Success Story
Sorrento Ristorante & Pizzeria

230 Jobs Created/Retained

31 Businesses Started

\$10,834,819 Capital Infused

2,498 Hours Counseled

603 Clients Counseled

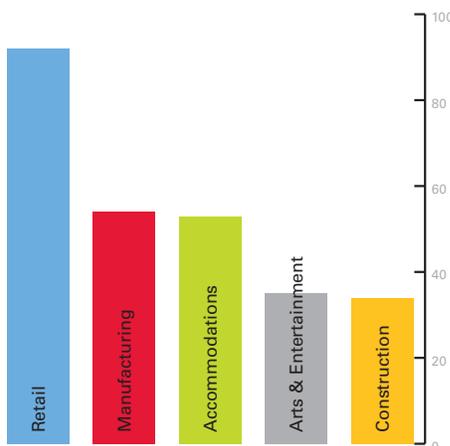
When Ron Pierre and Felice Maiorca met, their shared Italian heritage and love of the wonderful foods of Italy produced an instant connection for them. Maiorca had started his successful Italian restaurant, called Sorrento's Ristorante, more than 20 years earlier, and Pierre came from several generations of restaurateurs. Sorrento's had a loyal customer base, and had outgrown its original location, so the two men focused their efforts on searching for a larger and more visible venue. When they found an excellent prospect, they came to the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Elyria to discuss the move.

In Pierre's meetings with SBDC advisors Glen Wilson and Jim Gray, they discussed the feasibility of the move and reached out to the people in the community who could help facilitate this process. Pierre and Maiorca's meetings with the SBDC helped them to both outline the financial options that were available and develop a structured plan. When it was time to bid on the property, Gray gave advice about what the process entailed and how to move forward.

Pierre and Maiorca purchased the building and reopened Sorrento Ristorante & Pizzeria in September of 2012. With the space it needed and the exposure it deserved, Sorrento has grown from 15 employees to 60 and has seen a 400 percent increase in sales. Pierre, Maiorca and Sorrento's dedicated staff will continue to serve authentic Italian cuisine from their kitchen for years to come.

"Any time you plan on starting or expanding a business, you want to discover what local help potential and resources are available to you," Pierre said.

Top 5 Businesses Started and Existing



Small Business Development Centers

John R. Kasich, Governor
David Goodman, Director
 Development Services Agency



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