

# *MEET FLORIDA'S ENTREPRENEURS !!*

*starting in Palm Beach .....*



## **World Famous Restaurant and Catering**

Yvonne Peterman managed a retirement home for 19 years when she decided that it was time to work for herself and indulge in one of her other passions - cooking! With a savings of only \$1500, Yvonne made a deal with a landlord looking for a tenant and in 1993, with the help of daughters Delores, Jenetha, Jaunice, and granddaughter, Rasheia, the 50 seat World Famous Restaurant opened it's doors.

After a UHaul truck ran into the dining room and the city condemned the building, Yvonne went in search of financing to purchase a building in which to reopen World Famous. Her biggest challenge was to find a bank to finance this venture. Yvonne was not successful in accessing credit from any traditional institution and luckily found the Business Loan Fund of the Palm Beaches (BLF). After meeting with John Brown, CEO, and submitting her business plan and financial package prepared by daughter Jenetha, Yvonne received an operating loan from the BLF that allowed her to finish the renovations and reopen the restaurant.

As Yvonne explains, "we do more than just sell food, World Famous is like one big family!" You can find customers from Miami to Ft. Pierce enjoying the friendly atmosphere and house specialties like southern fried chicken, ox tails and collard greens.

*up in the Panhandle.....*

## *Barbara's Collectibles And African Accessories*



Barbara's sells authentic African apparel and accessories as well as Antiques. The African accessories consist of walking canes, hand carved statues, furniture, hand made jewelry, batiks, paintings and soapstone carvings. They sell clothing for men and women. Most of her African pieces are rarely found in a small town. They have been able to purchase some of the fast moving items in large quantities and keep the prices very low.

Barbara has collected depression era glassware for many years. The market for the glassware is very good. Many of the local collectors are purchasing her outstanding

pieces. After visiting the shop, some people are even starting their own collections!

The business opened in June of 2002 and was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for Barbara and her husband Carlton. They collected many beautiful pieces during their years of traveling, in anticipation of starting this business. They spent about \$50,000 renovating a building, in an ideal location, with excellent parking. Barbara and Carlton started their business with the assistance of a Community Equity Investments, Inc. micro loan.

*south to Miami .....*

## **I.Q. CONSTRUCTION**



As professional architects from Colombia, co-owners Claudia and Javier Mendoza came to Miami with their daughter, seeking asylum from the violence in their native country. While Javier found work as a handyman, Claudia spent 7 months studying for the General Contractors' Exam to become a formally licensed contractor in the U.S. After the exam, Claudia enrolled in a training course in microenterprise in hopes that the couple could formalize and expand their business. However, being a new business with no credit history created a barrier to accessing commercial credit. Church World Service, who sponsored the training, referred Claudia to ACCION USA for the working capital she needed to pay for the labor and supplies she would need for her first remodeling job. The couple is now working on three projects in the Miami area and employing 15 subcontractors.

"It was the first step for our business to start with a little job," Claudia recounts. "It's not about the money, it's about trust. At ACCION they say, 'We can help these people.' That is the most important thing, more than the money."

*north to the First Coast .....*

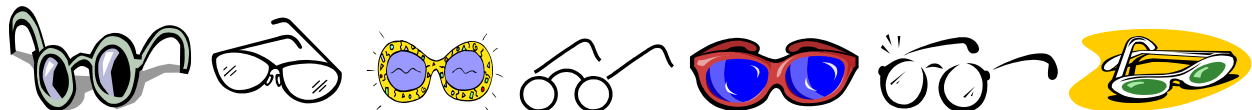
The **Beaver Street Enterprise Center** is a 25,000 square foot core city business incubator in Jacksonville that opened in June 2003. Currently the incubator has 16 tenants. Space is available for an additional 10 early stage businesses that would benefit from the supportive atmosphere and technical assistance provided by a three person on site staff and an 18 member Board of Directors. The center represents an investment of over \$2 million in Federal, City, State and private funds, and has also recently launched a business



development loan fund capitalized with an initial \$150,000 from a federal grant.

Joe Hutchinson, (pictured above) is the owner of a general contracting business, Xeye, Inc., and a tenant of Beaver Street Enterprise Center. Other tenants include Selective Information Services, Keep Customers Coming and No Ordinary Kleaning.

*and take a 'look' west at Tampa .....*



### **Robinson Eye Wear 20/20**

Stacey Forehand has been involved with the Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa, Inc.'s micro loan program since 1999 when she applied to her peer group for her first loan of \$1,000. Stacey's dream was to operate her own optician business. For many years she worked as an apprentice to her doctor to be sure and learn every aspect of operating a successful office. When the doctor decided to retire and was ready to sell his business, Stacey, with the support and assistance of the CDC and her peer group founded Robinson Eye Wear 20/20 in 1999. Because of her dedication and timely repayment, her next loan of \$10,000 for the business and equipment soon followed. Stacey now owns two shops in the Tampa area and employs a total of 6 technicians. **Here's looking at you Stacey!!**