New Grocery Store Owner Solves Small Town’s Big Problem

A grocery store consisting with two tractor trailers behind it for storage and street parking only in Riggins, Idaho—population 406—was built in 1961. In modern-day, however, both the locals and tourist whitewater rafters found the setup to be unfriendly from a customer service perspective and staff disliked having to leave the building during an Idaho winter to restock shelves. These factors, among others, led to an underperforming business. However, in 2015 the business was purchased by John Llewellyn, a hands-on owner who took control of the store’s day-to-day operations and forged partnerships to increase sales. To fulfill his vision of making the store a one-stop shop for locals, many of whom had been leaving Riggins to buy groceries, Llewellyn utilized SBA 504 financing to construct a 12,000 square-foot store across the street from its previous location. The relocation allowed for sufficient storage space as well as on-property customer parking. The new Riggins Whitewater Market has shown amazing revenue growth and brought 12 new jobs to the rural town of Riggins.

2 Jobs Created/Retained $724K Loan

Capital Matrix, Inc

CDCs That Serve ID

Business Lending Solutions
Capital Matrix, Inc.
Evergreen Business Capital
Eastern Idaho Dev. Corp.
Mountain West Small Bus. Fin.
Northwest Bus. Dev. Association
Panhandle Area Council
The Development Company

504 loans have added 21,558 jobs to the Idaho economy

$836 million in financing to help Idaho small businesses

2,026 entrepreneurs in Idaho have benefited from program

A Sample of ID 504 Borrowers

PKG, Inc.
Dance Factory Dance Studio
Foothills Cabinet Co.
Eastern Idaho Spine Center

Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

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VETERINARIAN BRINGS VITAL SERVICES MUCH CLOSER TO HOME WITH SBA 504

Dr. Porter, the only certified canine rehabilitation and certified equine rehabilitation practitioner in the Northern Idaho area, began Springwater Veterinary Services to provide rehabilitation, chiropractic, and integrative medicine support to pets and animal athletes.

However, he knew that with a too-small, leased space that required him to administer many services on a more limited, mobile basis, his customers would benefit from his purchase of a large facility and new types of equipment allowing for more comprehensive services.

Thankfully, an SBA 504 loan made this possible. Dr. Porter purchased a larger commercial property as well as hydrotherapy equipment, the only of its kind within 300 miles of the local market. In addition to keeping the animals in peak performance, comprehensive rehabilitation services are offered following injury or surgery and assisting older furry friends to maintain a high quality of life.