

Testimonials

HBCAT's Center For Economic Growth



Margarito Gomez

“I was scared to come in, my son Dennis was scared to come in, but we finally did and you were so nice!”

Margarito Gomez, originally from Guatemala, and his son Dennis Gomez, are business partners in Lotus Express Chinese Food. Margarito speaks broken English, and his son often translates for him. Margarito came into the Fort Scott Center for Economic Growth for help. He states, “My business was almost broke!” The team at the Center for Economic Growth helped Margarito and Dennis develop a business plan and extensive cash flow projections.

Margarito states that he received help from Dacia Clark, PSU SBDC, and Rachel Carpenter, The Healthy Bourbon County Action Team, on his inventory; everything from tracking to looking at the cost of each plate he serves. English is a barrier for Margarito, so Rachel Carpenter was able to help type up his business plan.

Margarito and Dennis were also connected to Lindsay Madison, Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce where he soon became a member. He was able to find more savings through local tax services as well as purchase t-shirts through the locally owned small business Shirt Shack instead of driving to Joplin, MO.

Overall, Margarito is very happy with the services provided, the connections to resources he was able to make, and the warm welcome from the team members. He states, “I was scared to come in, my son Dennis was scared to come in, but we finally did, and you were so nice!”

As a result of these services, he has better control over his expenses, buys inventory as he needs to prevent waste, and was awarded an HBCAT Restaurant Grant. With the money from the grant, they plan on purchasing a freeze dryer for food preparation.

Margarito loves Fort Scott and has lived in the Southeast Kansas area for 30 years. He recalls reasons for leaving his home country due to high crime, corruption, and racketing. He calls Fort Scott his “beauty” and gestures towards his heart, very happy to be here.

