

Micro Capital Loan Success Stories 2023

By: Emily Reed

OystHERS Raw Bar and Bubbly:

After the unexpected death of their father, Sadia, and Lauren Crosby began a passion project of starting OystHERS, their own farm-to-table oyster restaurant. They built this project with an emphasis placed on supporting the local community, small and local business owners, women business owners, and hiring local people. They opened their doors with the mindset that every interaction should be treated with love and value.

To make their dream a reality the two sisters worked hard and balanced other work and life priorities. Sadia devoted most of her time to her aquaculture business and selling and delivering her products to local restaurants and businesses, which took up much of her time. Meanwhile, Lauren was in graduate school, and working multiple jobs in Alaska, while facilitating all the paperwork for their new restaurant. They both worked tirelessly to make ends meet, pay the rent at the new restaurant location, and make headway in the renovation.

The micro capital loan came at a time when they really needed it. They were able to easily apply for the loan and receive the funds to help them purchase a few very important pieces of equipment. They used the funds to purchase a glass washer and an ice maker. It was important to the sisters to own their equipment rather than rent it, and the micro capital loan helped make that happen.

After speaking with Lauren, it became clear their endeavor is rooted in legacy and community: giving everyone a place where they feel like they belong; creating an atmosphere where people are greeted with love, and creating a community space that defies societal stigma. The Crosby sisters wanted to give the community of Bath a place to meet the seafood farmers and learn about seafood heritage. The ultimate goal of their business according to Lauren Crosby is “to provide an experience to the community of Bath and those traveling through, to connect them with where their food is coming from and the farmers doing it”. The Crosby sisters are well on their way to accomplishing this goal.

