Emily Mahler, Owner The Wellness Community 112 N. Rosina Avenue Somerset, PA Somerset County



Small Business Development Center Saint Francis University

St. Francis University SBDC P.O. Box 600 Loretto, PA 15940 814.472.3200 sbdc@francis.edu francis.edu/sbdc Industry: Wellness Service

The Wellness Community (Established)

Year Founded: 2022

Consultant: Annette Chunko

Special Interest Group:

Rural Development Underserved Communities Accelerators + Incubators Export Millennials/Gen-Z Tech Development Covid-19 Response Disaster Recovery Veterans <u>Women-Owned</u> Special Populations **SBDC Assistance:** Business plan, Financial projections, Funding, Grand Opening

Additional Partners: Somerset County Entrepreneurial Coach, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, Start Up Alleghenies

Client Impact Stat: 2 jobs created

Quote From Client:

"Thank you, wouldn't have been able to do it without your assistance"

-Emily Mahler, Owner



Wellness for Generations Expands Into The Wellness Community of Somerset

Emily Mahler has been involved in wellness for a number of years selling essential oils, teaching classes, hosting women wellness events and networking with many in the community surrounding wellness. She has created and influenced a community around wellness, even setting up an online wellness directory, Wellness for Generations. Emily's passion and experience in health and wellness led her to the realization that the Somerset Community needed a retail- and service-based wellness business. Emily decided she wanted to open her own shop and incorporate her experience and knowledge as well.

Emily approached a bank for financing and they put her in touch with the SBDC for assistance in developing a business proposal. Emily realized that her credit and collateral were probably going to be an issue but wanted to continue with the idea and assess the overall feasibility of The Wellness Community. She needed to assess whether the Somerset Community was interested in a space to connect around wellness.

Mrs. Mahler contacted the SBDC and started the journey of assessing and developing the business proposal. The vision was to create a space where customers can shop, spend time in the meditation room, schedule frequency sessions, attend workshops and additional services taking on the holistic approach. Emily met with an SBDC consultant to assist her in the evaluation and feasibility of her dream. She had the knowledge and experience of operating a business but needed to look at the business proposal. The business proposal and projections started to take shape, along with the marketing and services with assistance from the Center.

The business proposal was completed, and Emily contacted the banks and was denied, but friends and family were willing to assist with the funding to make the business a reality. The funds needed were for minor renovations, equipment, supplies, inventory and promotional materials.

On February 22, 2022, The Wellness Community held its Grand Opening. The Wellness Community is a space for the Somerset community to connect around wellness. All the products and services meet a need for the wellness of the community, for those looking for alternatives to mainstream and wanting to take control of their own health. The Somerset Community has welcomed the business to the area.