



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR APPROVAL

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Building Bridges for Business and Its Partners Making Life Easier for Pittsburgh Small Business Owners

PITTSBURGH – Founded in November 2010, [Building Bridges for Business](#) – a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering small business owners by providing one-stop access to resources, information and partnerships – has already begin to achieve its organizational mission of providing small business owners with unprecedented connections to local agencies, contacts and other necessary business resources.

“Our team has certainly worked hard to push the organization forward and improve visibility among small business owners,” said Linda Handley, founder, Building Bridges for Business. “But we have also been very fortunate to have the support from a host of pivotal partnerships, particularly the offices of [Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl](#) and [Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald](#).”

In addition, Building Bridges for Business has partnered with local universities, such as the [Center for Women’s Entrepreneurship at Chatham University](#) and the [Small Business Development Center at Duquesne University](#).

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“Thanks to the support of our sponsors, donors and partners, we are reaching our goals and achieving our vision,” Handley said. “The contributions and support from so many organizations and individuals has made starting a business and sustaining success in Pittsburgh simpler, and our local economy will continue to benefit as a result.”

In May, Building Bridges for Business hosted its fourth sold-out event, Small Business Works, at the Kingsley Association in Pittsburgh’s East End. At the event, over 200 local small business owners listened to a message from Sue Malone, founder, Strategies for Small Business, and every business who asked received assistance with funding, a formal business plan or free marketing collateral, such as logos and press kits.

Other live events – all of which have sold out – include fall 2011’s Welcome to Oz, featuring guest speakers [Dr. Winslow Sargeant](#), chief council for advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration and Luke Ravenstahl, mayor, City of Pittsburgh at the Fairmont Hotel. Last summer, Google’s Pittsburgh headquarters opened its doors to local business owners and the organization held a Young Entrepreneurs event.

Aside from live events, Building Bridges for Business also launched Pittsburgh’s first-ever monthly TweetChat in September 2011, using the hashtag [#SmallBizPgh](#) and featuring small business experts, entrepreneurs and government officials from across the United States. At these events, local business owners can pose questions to the featured guests via Twitter.

This summer, the organization kicked off its [Coffee With...SM video series](#), available on YouTube and the organization’s website. Geared towards small business owners, the videos feature guests – including Dr. Sargeant, city council members and successful small business owners – discussing current issues facing small business and sharing tips to help business owners succeed.

“The past year has been an exciting time for our organization,” Handley said. “With the continued support of our partners, sponsors and donors, we are confident that wonderful new opportunities will continue to blossom in the future, not just for our

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organization, but, more importantly, for the small business owners we support. We look forward to continuing to improve the lives of these individuals and organizations by connecting them with the partners, people and information they need to help make their dreams come true.”

For more information, visit Building Bridges for Business' homepage at www.buildingbridgesforbusiness.org, follow Building Bridges for Business ([@bridges4biz](https://twitter.com/bridges4biz)) on Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or contact Building Bridges for Business by e-mailing info@buildingbridgesforbusiness.org.

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