

# WHETSTONE VALLEY ASSISTS ENTREPRENEURS

**OUTLINE OF NEED:** *Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities was searching for funding opportunities so they could provide free confidential technical assistance to small businesses in Day, Grant and Roberts Counties. Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities applied for a rural business enterprise grant in 2003 and 2007. Both applications were successfully funded for them to support small business development.*

**HOW RURAL DEVELOPMENT HELPED:** *The assistance has been a tremendous asset to Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities. The funding has allowed them the ability to write business and marketing plans, network with funding agencies, and provide technical assistance to existing and emerging businesses. “Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities greatly appreciates the generous funding from USDA Rural Development,” said Faye Frerichs, Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities Community Facilitator. She continued, “We enjoy assisting our clients develop or retain a successful business. Local communities also benefit from the products and services provided from these entrepreneurs. Local banks, Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporation (NESDEC) and the Small Business Development Centers at Watertown and Aberdeen are all essential to the success of these entrepreneurs.”*

**THE RESULTS:** *With the grant funds, Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities has been able to assist 55 entrepreneurs. Since May 2005, these entrepreneurs have created 26 jobs and retained 80 jobs for a total of 106 jobs. Whetstone Valley Business Opportunities networks entrepreneurs with the Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporation (NESDEC), Small Business Development Center and local banks.*

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