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Olive Hill Couple Opens New Athletic Facility

OLIVE HILL, KY – Every small town deserves a place like The Cosmic Center to give its young people a place to learn, express themselves and compete in a safe environment. That's the belief that inspired Amy and Jason Greene to open the multi-sport facility in Olive Hill. The fact that it's their hometown is a bonus.

The Carter County couple has spent the past 30 years developing their own skills and individual talents. Now, they're ready to share that expertise with the region's young people and give back to the community they love.

The Cosmic Center opened for business over the summer and is already serving nearly 200 athletes with classes in tumbling, all-star cheer, dance, basketball, soccer, archery and more. See their website: www.thecosmiccenter.com for more information about hours and classes.

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They held their open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 1.

The Cosmic Center is a dream come true for the Carter County natives, Amy said.

“Being able to offer this facility and service to people of Carter and surrounding counties means the world to me. Cosmic is like my second family. I have always wanted to open a place where kids could go and feel safe while being nurtured at the same time,” she explained. “I have made it my ultimate goal to hire the best coaches who are not only experts in their skill but love kids and go above and beyond to make sure every athlete that enters through our doors receives the same treatment as the one before.”

The Greenes had the experience and expertise to open and operate their own athletic facility; they just needed lenders who believed in them and their vision to put their goals to work for them.

They found that in Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKED) and First National Bank of Grayson. SKED is a non-profit lender that serves Carter and 44 other counties in Southeast Kentucky. The Greenes worked with their local bank to build the new facility, and SKED provided funding for the building’s sport court flooring, with a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Micro Loan. As part of SKED’s micro loan, the Greenes have been given free business technical assistance to develop their startup operation.

The Greenes first heard about SKED when they enrolled in and completed its entrepreneurial social media training course: SMARTS 2.0. Since then, they’ve received information on everything from website design to social media trends and more.

The small business owners have much to say about working with SKED.

“Working with SKED has been truly an amazing experience,” Amy said. I am still in awe of the personal touch I have received from the staff. Chris (Coldiron) has driven to meet Jason and me in person and taken time out of his busy schedule just to stop by and see our facility. That meant the world to me. Kyle (Smith) has been my hero from the beginning when he took on our website and turned it in to a first-class product making it very colorful and user friendly for the public.”

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But while this entrepreneurial power couple is busy building their business, they both still work full time. Amy is an 8th Grade reading teacher at West Carter Middle School. She is former owner/operator of Tumblecheer, Winter Haven, Fla. Jason recently retired from the Kentucky State Police and is now attending law school.

Once retired, Amy plans to devote her full time and efforts to the facility. They have a staff of eight other part-time employees.

SKED Director of Lending Chris Coldiron says working with the Greenes has been gratifying to him.

“I love seeing folks put their successes to work for them in their hometown,” he said. “The Greenes have a passion for this, and it comes through in all areas. I am pleased to have played a small role in seeing their dream come true. I believe The Cosmic Center will make a difference in many young Carter County lives for years to come.”

If you know a small business owner in need of working capital or funds to purchase equipment or building improvements, contact SKED at (606) 677-6100 or email at chris.coldiron@centertech.com.

SKED is a nonprofit economic development organization and has been designated a CDC by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The organization was formed 32 years ago by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers to create jobs in Southeast Kentucky.

Its corporate office is based in Somerset and serves a 45-county service region. A staff of nine professionals works with business owners, small and large, to identify financing solutions to fund their location, expansion and working capital needs, and provide them the technical assistance and training they need to succeed.

For more information about SKED, visit our website: www.southeastkentucky.com.