

Melissa was the most interesting person that I got the opportunity to meet. She is very religious there were book cases, a piano top, and desktops full of bible books, song hymns, and Seven Day Adventist paraphernalia surround me. As Jan had told me I saw for myself that she was indeed a purist. She was very open about her life style the only thing she consumes that comes from an animal is eggs.

DeAngela Venable: What exactly do you do you sell?

Melissa Vo: I sell grains, nuts, flours, spices, vitamins um organic and natural food

DV: How long have you had your business?

MV: 8 years

DV: Has business changed here for you?

MV: For the local area here it's been picking up more people are wanting the healthier side of the foods the whole grain so there is a little bit of a change in that direction here. (So when you first got here was it tough?) It tough at first I took the business from \$800 a month and now I do about 2,500 a month.

DV: What it like being a small business in Lakeview?

MV: Here in Lakeview I started out with a health food store and 4 months later closed it's easier to do it out of our home then owning or renting a place cause summers are great but when winter comes around everything shuts down it seems like

DV: What do you like about running a business in Lakeview?

MV: For one I get to help people if they have help questions. Just getting to know people, getting a foot in the door to make new friends.

DV: What challenges do you face?

MV: Would probably be making sure the prices stay down. Getting your name out there can be a challenge cause you can put an add in the news paper and people still wont know who you are. This is a heavy meat place so I am trying to teach people there's another side of health than meat. The hardest thing now that I think about is teaching people how to order only once a month. I only order once a month because it only comes through that often. It's just a whole new life style. To that you can't just go into a store and say I want this and go get it you have to plan ahead.

DV: What support do you need to continued doing this in the future?

MV: Just support of people getting the word out telling them that your here and what your doing that it's not people organic you gone over board but it's just a healthier lifestyle and it does make changes in their lives here but the support is people caring and contributing to orders.

DV: What opportunity do you see for your business here in the future?

MV: There is a lot of opportunity this area slowly growing and there a lot of potential.

DV: Who do you serve?

MV: Have people that own business who will buy from me farmers just anybody local (Nancy: Are they buying the their businesses?) No they get it for themselves.

DV: What do people most commonly order?

MV: Whole grain, their flowers, their nuts, and herbal cosmetics.

DV: Can you explain how your business operates and what exactly you sell in more detail?

MV: It's a food co-op and I order from Dufur, Oregon and I have a license that I buy wholesale and so people get the catalog price and I charge 10% over that for bring it in sorting it and packing it in boxes. So I make roughly 15-20% on my business. But again it your organic meats, breads, spices, nuts, grains, and vitamins. (Dufur, Oregon is that were all the organic food is harvest) Yes.

DV: How is the business going?

MV: It's gone from about \$800 to averaging \$1,500-2,500.

DV: How do you feel this business is important to the community?

MV: It brings in healthier foods it just a healthier lifestyle for people's health.