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The Spicy Olive Named SCORE Client of the Year

The Spicy Olive, the tasting emporium for extra virgin oils and balsamic vinegars, was named a SCORE Client of the Year at its annual awards luncheon.

SCORE is the volunteer arm of the Small Business Administration. Its volunteer small business mentors provide free marketing, finance and operations counseling and no-cost and low-cost seminars for existing business owners and new entrepreneurs.

The Spicy Olive is owned by foodie Melanie Cedargren of Liberty Township. The Spicy Olive is three years old has retail stores in West Chester, Hyde Park and Miamisburg.

“I want the store to be an experience and an education for people,” said Cedargren. “There is \$6 billion spent on olive oil in the U.S. each year. More people are trying to eat healthy at every meal; you get the most benefit when olive oil is fresh. At the Spicy Olive, we invite the customer to taste the difference fresh makes.”

Spicy Olive was a 2012 Bad Girl Ventures microloan finalist in the spring of 2012, when SCORE counselor Jim Stahly of West Chester was assigned to it as business

coach. Stahly helped the partners write a business plan, analyze potential locations, negotiate a lease, and referred them to an attorney, sign company and credit card processing company.

“Jim has been such a wonderful help,” said Cedargren. “We’ve become great friends. He can help me focus when I’m caught up in the swirl of everyday business. He is a great sounding board and always points me in the right direction.”

Cedargren and two partners opened the West Chester store in 2012 and achieved profitability within four months. The Hyde Park store opened nine months later. Cedargren bought out her partners in 2014, and opened the Austin Landing store in Miamisburg in June of this year.

Today Spicy Olive stores sell more than 20 varieties of fresh, extra virgin olive oil from around the world and 20-plus varieties of balsamic vinegars. Cedargren holds frequent cooking demonstrations at all the stores led by Cedargren and well-known local chefs who use Spicy Olive products as they prepare food.

The West Chester store is located at 7671 Cox Lane; the Hyde Park store is located at 2736 Erie Ave. in Hyde Park Square; and the Miamisburg store is located in Austin Landing at 3650 Rigby Road. For more information about Spicy Olive, go to www.thespicyolive.com.

For more information about SCORE, its small business counseling services and seminars, go to www.scoreworks.org or call (513) 684-2812.

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