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Introducing Super Soup Store

By Sasha Stern

I recently sat down with new local business owner Xue Hou to learn about her Super Soup Store on Main Street, which opened only a month ago. Here's what she said.

What is the Super Soup Store?

We are a specialty store that sells homemade soups and stews as well as crackers and breads. Our business is mainly takeout, but we do have a few tables for those who want to eat in the store.

How did you come up with the idea of specializing in soup?

I was working as a nurse for a pediatrician, so I was in contact with a lot of sick kids. To try and avoid catching colds, I made chicken soup for myself and brought it to work. I was soon bringing soup for my colleagues, too. Many of them said it reminded them of soup they loved as children and encouraged me to start my own business. I decided to test the waters at a weekend farmers market—and my soups sold out every time.

What is the secret to your success?

The store has received a lot of good press recently. We have been featured in area newspapers and several food magazines, and food bloggers and critics have been very supportive. Also, I have been fortunate to get help from an accountant, my friend Piotr Walczak, who evaluated my business plan and decided to invest in the store. We were able to lease a storefront, and Piotr worked closely with the health inspector's office to make sure we were in compliance with all standards.

What does the future hold for the Super Soup Store?

My original idea was to eventually expand the menu and have a full-service restaurant. But now that we see how successful the store is, we have decided to adjust our plan. We are looking at buildings in Stone Beach and would like to open a second location there in time for the summer tourist season. We are also looking into catering--but we need to take one step at a time.