



E-Newsletter

August 2007

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Entrepreneur Highlight

Atlanta Micro Fund's (AMF) client, **Ronnie Wells**, is the production manager of a movie entitled "Losing Ground," which publicly debuted August 16th at Cinefe 8 in Lithonia, Georgia. Ronnie credits AMF with the start of his career as a publisher and author, which began during 1999. "Thanks to the AMF for believing in me by giving me the loan investments. My confidence level literally shot through the roof!" Ronnie is now talking with the Mauldin Brand Agency to discuss future writing and film projects. Congratulations

Thank you for renewing your GMEN membership. This monthly e-mail is one of your many benefits as a member of the statewide microenterprise industry association.

Training & Technical Assistance

Congratulations to The EDGE Connection on getting newspaper coverage in the Atlanta Journal & Constitution for Mechel Glass' sale of her board game product "Beat Debt" to Consumer Credit Counseling Service (nationwide). GMEN held a pilot with the game last April.

Congratulations to Women's Employment Opportunity Project (WEOP) on their move to 250 Georgia Avenue, Suite 206, Atlanta 30312 - phone (404) 681-2497.

Congratulations to The EDGE Connection on being highlighted at the GEDA August monthly membership meeting focused on the role of the Georgia Board of Regents in supporting economic development throughout Georgia.

Access to Capital

Congratulations to Debra Simmons & the Small Business Assistance Corporation (SBAC) on getting newspaper coverage in the "Jeff Davis Ledger," in Hazlehurst for the GMEN Entrepreneur of the Year Cathy Beecher of Cathy's Sweets.

Small Business Committees Pass Legislation to Reauthorize SBA Programs.

The small business committees in both houses of Congress have passed legislation to reauthorize the SBA Microloan Program and PRIME. The reauthorization of the Microloan Program includes some technical changes requested by AEO and microenterprise practitioners. Most of these changes provide more flexibility to Microloan Program Intermediaries or brings legislation in line with current SBA practices. One additional change would include "persons with disabilities" on the list of those who are specifically eligible to receive assistance under the Microloan Program.

The **CDFI Fund Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)** was published in the Federal Register on August 31, 2007. The CDFI Program application deadline is 5:00 pm EST on October 31, 2007. An Applicant seeking financial assistance that is not currently certified as a CDFI must first submit a CDFI certification application by 5:00 pm EST on October 17, 2007.

To view the press release, please [click here](#).

To view the Application, please [click here](#).

Ronnie and AMF.

For more detailed information, please reference the NOFA by [clicking here](#).

Spread the News!

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If so email pcwill@bellsouth.net by the last calendar day of each month.

GMEN's Mission

To create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia.

GMEN Website

P. C. Williams
Executive Director

P: 678-296-1059
F: 404-349-3877
pcwill@bellsouth.net

Entrepreneur Resource - Popular Patriots Loan Program. A recent article on CNNmoney.com announces a new program that aims to support small businesses owned by U.S. veterans. Read the full article - <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/NYW09701082007-1.htm>

Announcing The Advanced C-Level Workshop On Growing Your Company

When: September 18th, 2007 Tuesday, 7- 9am

Location: Buckhead Club
3343 Peachtree Rd, NE Suite 1850
Atlanta, Georgia, 404-262-2262
[For more information click here.](#)

"The Cash Flow Source for Troubled and Growing Companies Including the Self Employed" MSB Financial's loan processing department is searching for additional affiliates and revenue sources to service their growing demand in small start up applications. Contact Robert McBee at 336-219-0105 ext 222 to explore the possibilities.

How to Successfully Raise Investment Capital starts September 12th. The Atlanta Urban League's Economic Empowerment Center is launching an intensive 8-week seminar series. For more information go to <http://www.atlantaeec.com/News/Release.asp?RefItem=190>

Looking to grow a successful tech venture and attract top-notch investors? CapVenture is a comprehensive, practical program that assists a select group of early stage tech companies in development of a feasible and attractive financing strategy. Taught by ATDC's experienced staff and some of the most active dealmakers in town, the goal is to increase your company's preparation for successful equity financing. The program will take place Tuesday evenings beginning October 2nd through mid November in ATDC's 3rd Floor Hodges Room. For more information go to www.atdc.org/capventure/

Public Relations

Congratulations to Atlanta Micro Fund (AMF) and Women's Employment Opportunity Project (WEOP) on being selected as **2007 Hewlett Packard Microenterprise Development Program** grant recipients. The EDGE Connection was a previous HP grant recipient in 2006.

Promoting Microenterprise Development. AEO has recently subscribed to a media service in which they can respond to needs of reporters. When they see something that might be of interest, they will contact members - either individually, by small groups, or to the entire membership. The only catch - you must respond by the deadline given to you. So keep an eye out for these queries, and let's try to get more microenterprise development stories in the news.

Standards & Accreditation Support

Special thanks to Goodwill of North Georgia (GWNG) and Latinos for

Education & Justice (LEJO) for their support of GMEN's "Smarter Technology for a Smarter Business" course pilot. A marketing post card and e-mail notice were sent to all GMEN members prior to the pilot. GMEN members are encouraged to review this product as **a source of earned income**.

All course material can be found at smarterseminars.org (available in English & Spanish). If you would like feedback on the course, contact GWNG, LEJO, or WEOP. WEOP has already made plans to implement the product in their organization. We also want to thank Wayman Smith and Pat Moore for coordination of the pilot. The implementation facilitators for GMEN were: Rhonda Cook (Rhonda@khironbae.com); J.B. Hilliard (jb@jbenterprises-bts.com); and Gwen Smith (gsmith100@bellsouth.net). If you need a model marketing postcard, sample budget, or contract format for facilitators contact pcwill@bellsouth.net.

ARHealthNet Program - Health Insurance for Microenterprise Employees.

AEO member Southern Good Faith Fund is helping its clients obtain affordable health insurance for their employees through ARHealthNet. This new program is a unique partnership between Arkansas, the federal government, employers and families, and is designed to provide basic health coverage for small business employees-particularly those with low-incomes-through a limited package of benefits at an affordable price. To find out more about this program visit http://www.southerngoodfaithfund.org/publications_pp.php

GDEcD's "Entrepreneur Friendly" Program. As of July 2nd 50 Georgia communities are Entrepreneur Friendly! Over the next twelve months there will be many more "EF" celebrations; we have 86 communities who have committed to be designated by the deadline of August 31, 2008! For more information go to <http://www.georgia.org/business/smallbusiness>

Events of Interest

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| September | Southern New Hampshire University's School for Community Economic Development is accepting applications for "Practical Issues in Microfinance," an on-line course scheduled for September 2007! |
| September 5 | CDFI Program Application Workshop Scheduled in HuntsvilleAL |
| September 10-11 | Making Cents International Youth Microenterprise Development Conference in WashingtonDC |
| September 12-14 | Governor's Conference on Tourism in Tifton |
| September 17-19 | National Association of Seed & Venture Funds (NASVF) Annual Conference in Little Rock, Ark |
| September 25 | Disability Asset Development Meeting @ DCA, for more information contact Natalie Wilkins at natalie@credit-able.org |
| September 25 | Fayette County Business Expo & Entrepreneur Extravaganza |
| October 23 | Life Sciences & Healthcare Venture Summit in NYC |

Oct 29-Nov 1	GDEcD Global Outreach - Mission Trip to Mexico City, for more information email globaloutreach@georgia.org
November 8-9	Serbian Buyers Snack Food Mission, contact Beth Miller at bmiller@agr.state.ga.us - registration deadline Oct 26
October 30-Nov 1	NBIA's Fall Training Institute in Nashville
December 4	Georgia Economic Outlook 2008 in Atlanta (706) 425-3051
December 5-7 <u>2008</u>	Georgia Workforce Conference in Savannah
January 4	Georgia Economic Outlook 2008 in Augusta (706) 425-3051
January 16	Georgia Economic Outlook 2008 in Savannah (706) 425-3051
January 30	Georgia Economic Outlook 2008 in Albany (706) 425-3051
March 5	Georgia Economic Outlook 2008 in Athens (706) 425-3051
March 9-11	Social Enterprise Summit in Boston
September 11-13	Assets Learning Conference in WashingtonDC

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