



GROWING RESILIENT ECONOMIES

G.D. Ritzay's

RITZAY'S

STEAK

CONEYS



CHANGE IS AN OPPORTUNITY

NEW LEADERSHIP WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE

The year of 2019 was a bittersweet for Unlimited Future as we said goodbye to our long-term Executive Director, Gail Patton. We wish Gail the best health and happiness as she begins a new chapter in life. The change in leadership marks a new milestone for Unlimited Future, welcoming our first African American Executive Director, Ursulette Huntley.

INTRODUCING URSULETTE

I was born in Logan County, WV, and moved to Huntington in 1993. I found my way to Unlimited Future because I wanted to help someone start a business. While I was sitting in the Planning for Profit Class the realization hit me, I wanted to start a business. In 2007, I launched Fresh Horizons, a company created to empower women to achieve their goals. As part of my business, I created a training and personal development program called Blossom to equip women with the tools necessary to transform their lives financially, mentally, and emotionally. This program activated hope and provided a checklist to build a better life.

Unlimited Future was my partner, helping me with the support, resources, and mentorship I needed to succeed in my business. I began trading volunteer work for a space in the Incubator. Then I was hired as the receptionist for a few years. Balancing my role as the receptionist, running my business, and raising three children lead to a busy life. My efforts paid off when Gail presented me with the opportunity to merge my business aspirations into a full-time position as Training Director. As time passed, I acquired more responsibilities and was promoted again to Deputy Director and finally to Executive Director. This new role is a great honor and privilege, I want to thank Gail Patton for the opportunity to develop my skills in this new role. Gail's leadership inspired me to believe in myself and my abilities. Her leadership taught me to never allow my feelings to get in the way of the mission!

My children grew up during my time at Unlimited Future and they are the reason I have always strived to achieve more. They are young adults now and are finding their way in life. My son graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan and has started a family of his own. My oldest daughter attends Fairmont State University, and my youngest daughter attends Marshall University. One of the proudest titles I carry is mom!

My experience at Unlimited Future and involvement with the Fairfield Community has deepened my desire to uplift the voices of the voiceless. I feel it is my calling to ensure everyone has a seat at the table no matter their economic status, race, or educational background. As Executive Director of Unlimited Future, I plan to bring a focus on developing the human resources of our community. Our programing has taken a fresh look at the client's pathway to success and building the skills to achieve their vision of success.

One of my goals for the Unlimited Future is to be the first place that people in our community turn to when they need resources or support. I have created a community closet to make sure that we are meeting our clients and community where they are with professional attire, food pantry items, and the connections to social support. There are many changes on the horizons for the programing at Unlimited Future.

I hope my time as Executive Director helps to change the definition of economic development and show the impact that each entrepreneur has on the economy. When one rises, we all rise! I am looking forward to what we can accomplish together!



SOUTHSIDE SLIDERS

Southside Sliders is the passion project of Jason Webb who named the business after the neighborhood where he grew up the Southside in Huntington, West Virginia. Southside Sliders is a food truck that features tasty burger sliders, sandwiches, and tater tots. Since 2005, Jason has grown his business being adaptive, like offering food truck catering. Success does not happen overnight, it takes hard work and flexibility.

Jason grew up with an entrepreneurial father and spent many years working in the pharmaceutical industry. He was ready for a change when he was laid off in the early 2000s. Jason discovered Unlimited Future's eight-week course, Planning for Profit, which kick-started his business launch. Jason worked with Ursulette Huntley throughout the course and shared his experience, "It is hard to find people that passionate about teaching others, Unlimited Future is a good resource for people getting started and if they do not know the answer they will point you in the right direction."

Jason opened One Stop Rental shortly after completing the Planning for Profit course. OneStopRental is an advertising business that simplifies the rental process. However, Jason's passion for food led him to start a second business Southside Sliders a mobile food truck. Jason quickly gained a customer base with good food that appealed to a wide audience and grew the business into a Huntington destination. In 2019, Jason purchased a G.D. Ritz restaurant on Hal Greer Boulevard an icon of nostalgia in Huntington. He made sure to keep the menu and 1950s-themed restaurant to honor the history of the establishment.

Jason gives this advice to people looking to start their own business. "Find your passion. Your passion will never seem like work... You do not mind the hard work or figuring out stuff you have never done before." Unlimited Future enabled Jason to start a new career path as an entrepreneur.

GOSHENTHREE



Clifton Smith heard about Unlimited Future and signed up for the Planning for Profit course right away. The course walks through everything a prospective business owner will need to know when starting a business. Clifton said that Unlimited Future, "provided instruction and training in business acumen, hands-on coaching by providing key points for business success."

In August of 2019, Clifton started his business, GoshenThree to address the lack of affordable, quality housing in Huntington, WV. The Land of Goshen is a biblical place known for comfort and plenty. GoshenThree invests in real estate projects and manages rental units with integrity to improve quality housing available to all in the community. Clifton ensures quality housing for the benefit of the tenants, buyers, community, and the company partners. GoshenThree hopes to assist first-time homebuyers to realize their dream of ownership and find their place of comfort.

INITIATIVES

- 1 Training for Individuals** Unlimited Future provides the education and skills new entrepreneurs need to be successful in business.
- 2 Cluster Development** Unlimited Future builds networks around entrepreneurs to enable success in new sectors and create a nexus of economic opportunities that grow together.
- 3 Community Development** Unlimited Future knows that strong economies are linked to strong communities so we work to strengthen individuals and networks that improve livability for members in our community.

60%
Women-owned
Businesses

300
Hours Invested
in Community
Development 2019

SWIFT LEVEL FINE MEATS



Jennifer Jones has a life long experience in the cattle business. Jennifer started her business more than 18 years ago by selling locally off the farm and at the farmer's markets. In January 2017, she opened Swift Level Fine Meats, a market offering a wide range of high-quality meats, cheese, eggs, homemade bread, honey, and more sourced from over 50 WV producers in Lewisburg, West Virginia. Swift Level is set apart by their artisan cured and smoked hams, bacon, house sausages hand-cased and tied, and she has begun a line of salt/dry-cured products all made from regional pork, beef, lamb, rabbit, and poultry.

Jennifer connected with Unlimited Future while serving as a panel presenter at a conference. A partnership grew from that first meeting to coach and develop new business owners in the local food and farm sector to build the sector. "Unlimited Future has given me many opportunities to collaborate and participate in food system business growth," said Jennifer Jones.

In October of 2019, Jennifer was a speaker for the Local by Local Food & Farm Expo a regional conference for farmers and food entrepreneurs. The big takeaway from the conference style Local by Local for is "A smaller, more intimate group, regionally-based fortifies the front of support and acknowledgment of how each person plays a unique role in the whole picture. We all need each other." Unlimited Future builds the local economy by connecting small businesses.

SINCE
1991



320+
Businesses
Currently Operating



71+
Jobs
Created

UNLIMITED FUTURE... POWERING SMALL BUSINESSES FORWARD.

THE FUTURE CELEBRATES HERITAGE

Through the support of a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant, a team of collaborators is actively gathering community input to shape the vision for the Central City District over the next 25 years. Unlimited Future coordinated the local stakeholders and a team of expert consultants through the process.

The goal of the economic diversification plan is as follows; "We want a district where people will stop, spend time, contribute ideas and resources, and weave West Huntington's threads of brilliance into a robust cultural cloth." The project will publish an area-wide plan that combines the streetscape, programming, and use, marketing, and brand, as well as the organizational framework needed to execute the plan. The outcome will be more businesses and less vacancy on 14th Street West in Huntington, WV.



CORBIN CREEK

Corbin Creek Log Homes, a Tri-State Area General Contractor business, has worked on many types of residential, commercial, and industrial projects. Since the beginning, William Klaiber, owner, strived for exceptional workmanship. Corbin Creek Log Homes was voted "Best Home Builder in the Tri-State." Klaiber has learned that building homes can be a successful business when quality comes first.



Klaiber started building homes in 1981 and credits early success from learning first-hand from his father, who was also a builder. Klaiber enjoyed the work and learned new skills from every project. He built his first home after graduating high school and found success working for general contractors.

A few years ago, Klaiber suffered from a back injury that put him out of work and on disability. While disability helped, it was not enough to make a living, and Klaiber was determined to get back to work. He needed long-term physical therapy care post back surgery. Klaiber found relief in a therapy pool, so he built a therapy pool at his home. After a year, the nerves in his back healed allowing him to return to work. With his medical history, Klaiber could not get hired despite his recovery.

In 2019, Klaiber came to Unlimited Future and worked on his business plan with Ursulette Huntley. He soon graduated from the Planning for Profit Course and was able to start his business in the fall of 2019. Now Klaiber has kept expanding his services and finding a variety of projects in high demand for each season. For Klaiber, leading the team to treat each job as a challenge to do it differently and make it stand apart from the competition is the reward for his journey to ownership.



10,160+
Hours of
Business Coaching



57
Incubator
Tenants

AND STILL
GROWING

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Member

Bruce Felder
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