



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOLA'S DELI AWARDED GENZ FUND AWARD

HANOVER, ILLINOIS - Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has announced the presentation of the organization's seventh Genz Fund Award to LOLA'S DELI in Elizabeth, Illinois. The check for \$10,000 from the Genz Small Business Development Fund was issued to Owners Susan Hanley and Carrie Clark of Elizabeth, Illinois the evening of July 31, 2024. It's the fund's largest award to date.

According to Hanley and Clark, the money was used to turn a storage room into an evening lounge space with a new custom-built bar, six gaming machines, television, tables and décor. It leverages Lola's new dinner menu of entrees and appetizers and offers beer, wine, plus signature drinks including their 'Elizabeth Sky' cocktail. On hand to congratulate Hanley and Clark was a group of friends and family, along with the NWILED Board, Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce, and Elizabeth's Mayor Thomasson.

"This was Lola's Deli second Genz Fund award," said David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director. "We first assisted Susan and Carrie back in 2020 and 2021 when they wanted to turn the old Welcome Inn into Lola's Deli. The Village of Elizabeth, Jo Daviess County, and NWILED came together to help make that happen. Now three years later we are excited to see Lola's take their next big step. The lounge has a fantastic feel to it, and I encourage people to check it out."

Lola's Deli is the vision of two longtime friends who discovered they shared the same dream to open a place to showcase their passion for all things fresh and tasty. Whether you're looking for items on your weekly shopping list, something fun for a weekend getaway or a quick bite to-go or eat-in, Lola's has what you need. Their vision is to provide their community with fresh food options and keep people coming back again and again. Lola stands for "Laugh Often, Love Always," The business is open daily 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM except on Wednesdays when they are closed. Interested people with questions can email info@lolas-deli.com. Lola's Deli is located at 102 N Main St, in downtown Elizabeth, IL 61028. Their website is www.Lolas-Deli.com and their phone number is (815) 858-6026. They also have an active Facebook page.

ABOUT THE GENZ FUND AWARD

Established in 2020, the Genz Small Business Development Fund was formed by the late John "Jack" Genz of Galena to help retailers, small manufacturers, wholesalers and hospitality industry genres, along with farmers and food processors and can be used to help fund capital projects, to purchase an existing business or for startup and pilot projects. The fund is administered by Illinois Bank & Trust. Since first awarded in 2020 a total of \$53,302 has now been dispersed through the fund.

ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was formed in 2008 by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors whose main goals were to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. The Board's focus was to form a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses in determining their needs for growth with cooperation of government and business partners. NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employ all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.