

## The Vision of The Market Place Family

### Executive Summary:

In 2010 we began the journey and vision of “Come Experience the Market Place®”. Our vision included the collaboration of 30,000 square feet of experience, including a naturopathic food store, a specialty bakery, an events center, a health and beauty salon, an Underground Thai restaurant, seventeen fashion boutique, home décor, and maker spaces, as well as an art center, which includes a pottery production room, where artisans can showcase their talents. Over the years this project has not only facilitated a center for entrepreneurs, business people, and artisans to merge and create, however has quickly become known as a point of destination for spectators, consumers, and tourists finding their way to Eastern Oregon.

In 2015 we expanded our vision into an additional 26,000 square foot experience, including a state of the art food destination, which provides our community with a specialty food store, (offering locally made products as well as national brands), a chop shop for produce, (offering a variety of hand made delicacies), a bistro which offers a menu of culinary experiences and seating throughout the facility, as well as a roof top experience, where patrons can enjoy our surrounding mountain range over a glass of wine, or a beer, provided from our food and beverage bar.

Expanding our brand to include “Come Taste the Market Place®”, an events coordinator was added to the family, bringing wine tasting events, a Sunday morning Brunch, and additional opportunities for patrons to enjoy and experience.

Two years ago, an executive chef joined the family as well. With a lifetime of culinary commitment which took him around the world, he has chosen Eastern Oregon as his new home. He has developed a line of frozen specialty / gourmet “Darn Good®” meals, plans to expand into pizza production, and is currently assisting in the build out of a smoked meat and cheese department.

Future plans include the build out an additional production kitchen, where the expanding demands for food production can be met, a classroom where culinary students can expand their knowledge base and grow, and a platform where new menu items can be developed.

### Our Request:

Although a limited work force is a pandemic realized throughout our country, the local impact it has caused to our little community has become paralyzing. As the property owner of the Market Place in La Grande, and the landlord to its many Market Place Family Members, as well as the property owner and landlord of additional food services offered in Joseph, Oregon, I am reaching out to your institution for an invitation in conversation.

Between the local demand for the foods which we create, as well as the demands of the 650,000 tourists that visit Eastern Oregon each year, we quickly need to add additional food service professionals to our family.

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