Scrappy Owl Quilt Shop

Keelyn Fawcett has been a passionate quilter for decades. When she realized there had not been a quilt shop in Miles City for years, she seized the opportunity to fill the gap and pursue her dream. However, turning that vision into a viable business proved more challenging than she anticipated. After discussing her idea with friends, Fawcett learned about the local Small Business Development Center at Miles Community College and reached out for expert guidance.

With the SBDC's support, Fawcett created a detailed Excel spreadsheet for budgeting her business. Seeing her startup costs clearly organized helped her grasp the full scope of her expenditures. Thanks to Regional Director Elizabeth Smith's assistance, Fawcett also developed realistic financial projections. The counseling she received not only enabled her to open The Scrappy Owl Quilt Shop in July 2025, but gave her the confidence and expertise to run a thriving business.

Currently, The Scrappy Owl Quilt Shop is the only dedicated quilt store in Miles City. Fawcett's shop has revived the connection between quilt fabric vendors in eastern Montana, strengthening a community of avid quilters and creatives. The presence of her business has generated fresh cash flow for rural Montana, attracting plenty of curious shoppers eager to discover the shop's inventory and exclusive product lines. The outpouring of local support is reassuring to Fawcett, who hopes The Scrappy Owl will remain a beloved fixture in the community for years to come.

Smith shared, "Working with Keelyn was inspiring! Her knowledge of quilting and her vision for the store make me confident The Scrappy Owl will succeed. The store is a truly delightful space where quilters and fabric artists can seek inspiration, share ideas and find solutions."

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- **Business Start**
- **Rural Entrepreneurship**

MILES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Elizabeth Smith
Regional Director



"I've never started a retail business before and had no idea where to begin or what options to consider. The local SBDC helped me put together an initial budget and prioritize things to open and run a successful business."

Keelyn Fawcett, owner of **Scrappy Owl Quilt Shop**