

Randy Fletcher of The Kreole Kid

December 5th, 2008



Randy Fletcher, a native of Louisiana, recently opened an [On-Site Catering](#) business in Peru that specializes in Southern Style BBQ & Cajun Cuisine. The business is optimally named, [The Kreole Kid](#), and serves Miami, Cass, Fulton, Wabash, and Howard County. In addition, beginning in the spring of 2009 The Kreole Kid plans to serve their uniquely southern menu during festivals throughout much of the State of Indiana.

Authentic Southern Style BBQ, Cajun Cuisine, Specialty Sandwiches, Tenderloins, Po-Boys, Pork Burgers and Custom Hog Roasts are just a few of the wonderful items on their menu.

Randy began considering starting his own business while visiting his nephew in Louisiana. As usual, they were grilling and talking about sweet times and Randy was telling his nephew about the lack of true “Southern Style” BBQ in his new home state of [Indiana](#) and perhaps he could start his own business providing that much missed and relished food. You see.....Randy loves to cook and has packed his backyard regularly with friends and family throughout the years for some of his special cookouts. The cookouts have always been a success and everyone always left all fat and happy!

There were two challenges that stood in his way of opening his own business. The first challenge was deciding on whether or not he truly believed he could start a business from scratch, and secondly tackling the daunting task of writing a business plan. Randy sought advice from the [SBDC](#) (Indiana Small Business Development Center) regarding the business plan and fortunately, for him, he met a great source for encouragement in his local SBDC representative, Monty Henderson. “Mr. Henderson was not only helpful in letting me know what information the bank would need, but he had the insight into my dream and encouraged me throughout the entire process”, says Randy.



[The Kreole Kid](#) is an LLC, and has several members that were more than happy to invest in the company and the man behind the name, but the greatest accomplishment was obtaining financing for the company. Randy met with [Craig Langley](#) at [First Farmer's Bank & Trust](#) to discuss the business plan and ultimately received a wonderful response! Mr. Langley loved the idea as well as the concept of the business and expressed excitement about the business plan, so much so that he immediately left the office and brought in [Ken Perkins](#), who is in Commercial Lending to introduce us. Well...needless to say, [First Farmer's Bank & Trust](#) extended the company its first commercial loan. To date, The Kreole Kid has received their custom-built [27' Mobile Commercial Kitchen](#) and has been busy securing catering projects.

The first step Randy took was to enroll in a [Business Start-up Workshop](#) sponsored by the [SBDC](#) and Purdue University and held at the [Miami County Chamber of Commerce](#). Randy has many good things to say about the SBDC and Monty Henderson in particular, which he found extremely knowledgeable about small business in Indiana. The overall encouragement for small business owners struck him the most profoundly. "I won't make any major decisions in regards to future business ventures without first speaking to the SBDC," says Randy.

It is one thing to talk about taking the first step and deciding to go into business for yourself, and another to actually do it. There are indeed resources and individuals throughout our region that have made it their job and/or mission to provide the necessary tools and knowledge in order to take those fantastic ideas of yours from paper and apply it in the real world. The SBDC is certainly a recommended place to start and it is free. You have absolutely nothing to lose!

The Kreole Kid is actively pursuing their goals, which include franchising the On-Site Catering/[Concessions Operation](#), opening a full service restaurant, producing and nationally distributing their brand of unique BBQ Rubs and Cajun Seasonings.

[Main Street & Broadway](#) will keep its readers posted on news with [The Kreole Kid](#), as it is obvious that this company is going places and we are proud to claim that this is where it all started, right here in Miami County, Indiana.

We inquired of Randy of how he thought the city of Peru could be more competitive and this is what he had to say: “I have heard all of the rhetoric about Peru; old money controlling everything, etc. I am not sure I buy that. I do think that the economic development group needs to think “outside the box.” For a long time the local economy was driven by the base and manufacturing. Well, let me let you in on something... that is gone! I am a 26-year veteran of the auto industry and I can tell you firsthand, it is a done deal. I am now in my fourth plant having relocated almost 900 miles from my home. Peru and Miami County needs to create something from within and by all means, they should be looking for ways to develop economic growth through the completion of the Hoosier Heartland Corridor. Peru and Miami County are in the perfect position to place jobs within our community through this project.”

Well said Randy!

The Kreole Kid will be hosting an **Open House in March 2009**. In addition, The Kreole Kid has been invited to participate in the Food Expo at the Honeywell Center on February 28th!

In the meantime, keep in mind that [The Kreole Kid](#) can provide On-Site Catering for **all of your special events!**

Contact Randy at The Kreole Kid by calling **1-800-845-7422**.

Be sure to check out The Kreole Kid's website at: www.TheKreoleKid.com