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CASE STUDY – Funky Hand

The Business

Funky Hand was the creation of UCan2 client Anice McNamee. Anice specialises in hand made cards and design of craft backing papers. The business was first started in July 2006 but really took off and became a full time business for her November 2007.

Where did you go for business advice to start your idea?

I decided that I wanted to start my own business designing craft backing papers but had no idea how to do that. I contacted my local Job Centre, as I was on incapacity benefit and didn't want to be for too long. They introduced me to David Ireland at TEDCO.

How did you decide which line of business to enter?

I started my business as a reaction to being diagnosed with MS and no longer being able to work. I was off sick for a number of months before deciding to leave. During that time I started to make handmade cards as something to occupy my time. When I was considering my future work options combining working from home and doing something I really enjoyed doing seemed a perfect solution.

What help and advice did you receive?

When I first started the business David helped me to write an initial business plan so I had a clearer idea of what I was actually going to do. He then helped me to open a business bank account and apply for a grant to buy essential equipment. David has been a great support and sounding board about new ideas I have had. He has never been afraid to tell me if he doesn't agree with a direction that I am taking and offers support when something hasn't worked out. Sometimes it can be difficult to see past an issue when you are so close to it, having outside advice you can trust has been invaluable.

What advice would you give to anyone starting out?

My advice to anyone starting their own business is be very clear about what you want to do. Contact somewhere like TEDCO and get as much advice and help as possible to get you started out on the right foot. Be flexible and open to listening to other peoples opinions and don't think that starting your own business is an easy option. You will never go back to working for someone else!

TEDCO

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