

Alphabet Soup Childcare II



In 2001, Deborah and Richard Mohelnitzky started Alphabet Soup Child Care to fill a need in Wausau, WI. The business was housed in two rented classrooms. With their lease contract up for negotiations, they set out to purchase a building of their own. In 2007, Debbie and Richard obtained a loan from SBA to purchase a new building and started Alphabet Soup Child Care II. With the newer larger building, they increased the number of children they could accommodate from 20 to 70. They also increased their workforce from six employees to nineteen and were able to expand their hours until midnight, covering families working the evening shifts.

Deborah started in the childcare field in 1974 and has taught all ages from newborn to 12 years. She was instrumental in starting the first “company sponsored” child care center in Madison, WI. From teacher to director and program specialist of centers in Middleton, Madison, Eau Claire and Wausau, Wisconsin, she has seen the development of the childcare field over the last 35 years. She has started many centers from the ground up and now owns her own. Her life has been dedicated to the children she has touched during her career.

Richard started in the sewer, water and heavy highway construction industry. In 1984, he took a position with the Wausau Department of Public Works. For the last 16 years, he has been a Supervisor of Public Works. Born and raised in the city of Wausau, he has a true commitment to the people of his community.

Richard and Debbie met in 2001 and were married in 2003. Sharing their dream of a farm, they began Sandy Hill Acres, a Boer goat operation. The Boer goat was developed in South Africa in the early 1900s. Due to selective breeding and improvement, the Boer goat has a fast growth rate making it one of the most popular breeds of meat goat in the world. Trying to birth babies in garden sheds and keeping their water from freezing in the winter became very challenging and the need for a full barn became very apparent.

This year, Deborah and Richard, once gain turned to the SBA for assistance. In April of 2009, they received another SBA loan to build a new barn for the farm to allow them to have indoor facilities for the goats. The barn features automatic waters that will reduce their electric bills for heating water in the winter, from approximately \$80.00 per month to approximately \$10.00.

The SBA has allowed Richard and Deborah to not only fulfill their dream; they have created jobs, provided childcare for families in their community and have secured one more family farm.

“This SBA loan is allowing us to build our retirement,” said Deborah. “If it wasn’t for the SBA and these loans, I would be working an hourly shift somewhere in town. Instead, I own my own business, create my own hours and do what I love while employing others.”