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Blooming Roses, LLC

Blooming Roses, LLC was formed in August, 2005 as a new joint venture between First Step Home, Inc. and Cincinnati Concessions and Catering. Created initially more than a year earlier to help women in recovery return to work, Blooming Roses brings a non-profit women's treatment organization in partnership with a family-owned company as a unique solution to providing job opportunities and training for women graduating from residential treatment.

The new company offers a broad range of gifts and promotional products, including chocolates, roasted nuts, flowers and jewelry, as well as catering for corporate and private events, and institutional food services. The online store can be found at bloomingrosesstore.com and showcases all the company has to offer with seasonal items available for the holidays. As the company grows, more women will be employed as order processors, shippers, bakers, marketing reps and candy makers. They will be trained in computer and other skills required for their growth and success on the job.

Working from the company's location on Ethan Avenue, Blooming Roses utilizes the knowledge and talents of Cincinnati Catering and the Beal family to bring women back into the workforce and generate funds to support the operations of First Step Home. This unique joint venture has produced full-time and part-time positions since its inception. As the company grows, this number will continue to increase.

Employment for Women in Recovery

Women with substance abuse issues experience extreme difficulties in re-entering the work force. A job is often the final step to help break the cycle of addiction; however, past histories can create roadblocks to achieving fully-productive lives, increasing the chance of relapse and, in some cases, reintroduction to the justice system. In fact, drug recovery research demonstrates an 80% chance for relapse when the person in recovery re-enters the community without a job. Blooming Roses offers an opportunity to be self-sufficient in a safe environment, surrounded by a drug-free peer group as support. In addition to job opportunities, Blooming Roses profits are used to financially benefit the First Step Home mission.

Key Spokespeople

- Margo Spence, *executive director, First Step Home*
- Tom Beal, *president, Cincinnati Catering*
- Angela Brown, *Blooming Roses*

Headquarters

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