Smoke Berkeley—Berkeley, CA

First-time Entrepreneur Realizes Dream: Texas BBQ in California

In 2008, Tina Ferguson–Riffe lost her job as an executive chef. Three years and a lot of hard work later, Tina opened her own BBQ place, Smoke Berkley. The restaurant was a hit from the beginning. When she needed financing to expand the business, traditional lenders denied her a loan. So Tina turned to Opportunity Fund, a California-based CDFI. Two Opportunity Fund loans helped the entrepreneur finance new kitchen equipment and expansion efforts for the award-winning gourmet Texas-style barbecue joint.

(Story published: 2013)

“Opportunity Fund helped me realize my dream when no one else would give me a chance.”

Tina Ferguson-Riffe
Owner, Smoke Berkeley

Impact

• With support from Opportunity Fund, Smoke Berkeley created 12 jobs in the California Bay Area

OpportunityFund.org

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