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Pressrelease

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEACO HELPS KULIS AUTOMOTIVE ESTABLISH BUSINESS WITH SBA 504 LOAN

MENTOR – Mentor Economic Assistance Corporation's (MEACO) SBA 504 loan program continues to grow Mentor's business base. Lou and Ruth Kulis, owners of Kulis Automotive were able to purchase a building and equipment on East Avenue in Mentor thanks to MEACO.

Said co-owner Ruth Kulis, "We wanted to establish our business in a growing community where there was a good market for automotive repair. After much research, we discovered that Mentor presented the greatest opportunity. A business acquaintance suggested we contact MEACO to find out how to apply for an SBA 504 loan."

Certified by the Small Business Administration (SBA), MEACO can help owners of small businesses purchase real estate or other long-term fixed assets at fixed, below-market rates. "The advantage of financing with MEACO is that a business can obtain a 20-year fixed-rate building loan with only 10% down, or receive a 10-year fixed-rate loan for equipment purchases," explained Martin Gareau, MEACO Loan Program Administrator and Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Mentor.

Martin Gareau and assistant Julie Schiavoni helped the Kulis's apply for an SBA 504 loan, assisted with paperwork, and worked with their bank to streamline the process. Said Lou Kulis, "we were grateful for the support and assistance from Martin and Julie—they made the process easy and kept us informed about the status of our loan." On January 13, 2003, Kulis Automotive opened their doors for business.

For more than 19 years, MEACO has helped new and existing local businesses obtain long-term, low-interest loans for building construction, expansion or new equipment purchases. Working directly with small businesses and their banks to get prompt financing, MEACO also provides valuable assistance to applicants throughout the paperwork process. MEACO has helped finance projects for nearly 60 small and medium-sized businesses, and has resulted in the creation or retention of over 1500 jobs within the City of Mentor.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Martin Gareau, contact Patricia Daly, Marshfield Group's Vice President of Marketing and Design Communications, at 440-974-8448.

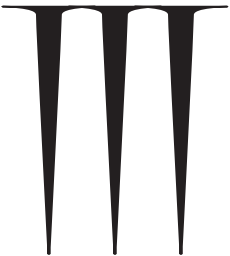
Visit the MEACO website at www.meacoweb.com.

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The owners of Kulis Automotive on East Avenue in Mentor worked with MEACO to successfully obtain an SBA 504 loan.



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