

## Alphabet Soup Childcare II



In 2001, Deborah and Richard Mohelnitzky started Alphabet Soup Child Care to fill a need in Wausau, WI and was housed in a rented building with two classrooms. In 2007, Debbie and Richard obtained a loan from SBA to purchase a new building. With the newer larger building, Alphabet Soup increased the number of children they could accommodate from 20 to 70. They also increased their workforce from four employees to sixteen and were able to expand their hours to cover evening shifts.

This year, Debbie and Richard are starting another business, a Boer goat farm called Sandy Hill Acres and once again, turned to the SBA for assistance. In April of 2009, they got another SBA loan to refurbish an old barn for the farm to allow them to have indoor facilities for goats and better birthing areas. According to Debbie, Boer goats are one of the fastest growing farm commodities in the state of Wisconsin. The Boer goat was developed in South Africa in the early 1900s for meat production. The goats were selected for their meat rather than milk production. Due to selective breeding and improvement, the Boer goat has a fast growth rate and excellent carcass qualities, making it one of the most popular breeds of meat goat in the world. Deborah and Richard's hope is to eventually sell off their childcare business and retire as goat farmers.

Debbie and Alphabet Soup recently launched a "Pay It Forward" campaign and offered free child-care during the week of March 16, 2009. Parents needed to sign up, be unemployed and agree to do a kind act for someone else in 2009. Those that signed up received four hours of free child-care so they could seek employment and not have to worry about their child being cared for nor pay for that child-care. Needless to say, this turned out to be a big success in helping people in these hard economic times.

"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."