



# MORE THAN A CELEBRATION

*“I am extremely thankful for all the help I received from the SBDC and am beyond happy for being able to finally own my own party venue.”*

– Olga Guajardo, Owner

Olga Guajardo loved to plan and manage small events for her large, extended family gatherings. Everyone always loved her food and complemented her on her festive and beautiful decor. After years of joyfully making people’s dream events possible, she recognized the business potential and decided to open her own business, Guajardo’s Banquets, LLC.

## SBDC SUPPORT

Mrs. Guajardo first connected with the **Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** in Eagle Pass in 2008 and received assistance with obtaining her licenses and permits. As the business grew, Mrs. Guajardo started to hire family members to help manage the flourishing business. Her dreams continued to blossom when she had the opportunity to purchase an event hall, which would allow her to provide exclusive catering services to her clients. She again approached the SBDC for assistance.

For the next three years, Senior Business Advisor Cynthia Gomez helped the Guajardo’s get their finances in order through a series of advising sessions to make their financial proposal more viable for a commercial bank loan. By 2019, the Guajardo’s had three complete and up-to-date financial documents for the business. Cynthia then assisted the owners with the preparation of their loan proposal to Uvalde State Bank, which funded the loan. Over the next few months, Cynthia assisted the owners with completing loan applications, financial statements, appraisals, and insurance requirements to meet all of the lender’s requirements. In May 2019, the Guajardo’s closed on the loan and are ecstatic to now have a party venue space to call their own. ■



## BUSINESS IMPACT

- Business Start & Expansion
- Owner Investment \$152K+
- Commercial Loan \$320K+
- Jobs Created - 2
- Jobs Retained - 4