

Living your DREAM



Experience firsthand what it is like to run your own business with this "behind-the-scenes" program. Learn more about the operational components of a particular industry and decide if this business is really the one for you!

If you are really serious about pursuing your lifelong dream of starting a business, then the Small Business Center Network's *Living Your Dream*, LYD, program can help.

LYD began as a grant funded program to expose entrepreneurs to real work practices, principles, and problems of established businesses. The LYD program provides holistic experience to potential entrepreneurs as they shadow the model business owner in the day-to-day tasks of operating the business. In addition, the LYD program helps to stimulate growth and income in North Carolina's local economies as potential business owners travel to various model businesses throughout the state.

LYD business models are selected based on a formalized credentialing process. Applicants for the program are screened to ensure they are committed to pursuing a career in one of the available business models within the hospitality/tourism/trade industries. Current LYD business models include a 3-day intensive work study program at one of the following sites:

- Big Mill Bed and Breakfast, Williamston, NC
- Courthouse Café, Jacksonville, NC
- Jollay Design Center, High Point, NC
- Vinnie's Neighborhood Italian, Asheville, NC

Browse the websites below and call now to discuss details of LYD with your local Small Business Center director at your nearest community college. To locate a Small Business Center near you, please visit the following site: www.sbcn.nc.gov.

2009 LYD Participant

The LYD program gave me a "private personal tour" to operating a B&B. The Shady Glen was already in the process of being a reality but to experience first-hand the day to day process from taking eye-catching photos, confirming reservations, making delicious breakfast, meeting the guests, to cleaning rooms for a B&B was so affirming that I was going into the "right" business for me! My mind never stopped after leaving Chloe and the Big Mill.

Terry Harris

Registration Program Fee: \$550



Figure 1 www.bigmill.com



Figure 2 www.vinniesitalian.com



Figure 3 www.jollaydesign.com



Figure 4 www.courthousecaffe.com