



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Pair of Small Business Owners Benefit from The Center For Entrepreneurial Success**

Canton, OHIO - The saying goes “two heads are better than one,” and for Wanda Perrin and Martin Thompkins that saying has proven true with a little help from the Center for Entrepreneurial Success.

A little over a year ago, Wanda Perrin, registered nurse and founder of WilBDone Home Health Care Services, decided to enroll in the Center for Entrepreneurial Success. Working full time as a nurse, Perrin was an expert in the medical field, but needed some help fine tuning her business skills.

Before classes began, Perrin referred long time family friend Martin Thompkins to the Center, as she knew he was looking to start up a similar business after having been laid off from a large manufacturing company in the area. Thompkins signed on and together, he and Perrin completed the 12-week course offered by the Center. “I looked at the class as an opportunity to think through what I was getting into,” said Thompkins. “My biggest take-away from the Center was the idea of networking and connecting with others in the community to get things done.”

And that’s just what these business owners have done. After 12 weeks of learning about the ins and outs of owning and operating a small business and a few more months of planning, the two decided to collaborate.

Perrin had rented out an office building with more space than she needed, so she offered Thompkins the option to move in and split the cost. “We’re not going to survive if we don’t help each other,” said Perrin.

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The collaboration has since morphed into more than just saving on rent. The Shephard's Hand (Thompkins) and WilBDone (Perrin) have been able to join forces to create the best services possible for their clients. Currently, both businesses service adults with development disabilities, offering similar services such as non-medical transportation, homemaker/personal care, and leisure activities. Separately, the Shepherd's Hand also offers adult day support, vocational habilitation, and supported employment services while Perrin's goal is to open a group home.

Whatever the future holds for these two entrepreneurs one thing is certain, the Center for Entrepreneurial Success gave them the tools they need to be successful. "The Center truly helps you to get focused," said Perrin. "It covers everything!"

For more information on the Center or to register for the spring session, please contact Marcie Bragg, Director, at 330-445-1059 or visit [www.defineyoursuccess.org](http://www.defineyoursuccess.org). The spring session will be held on Thursday evenings for seven weeks beginning March 24, 2011.

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