

## Graduation of New Businesses in Phoenixville

Phoenixville, PA – Six entrepreneurs graduated from the Business Skills for Success classes at a ceremony held at the Phoenixville Library in December. The classes were held by the Kutztown Small Business Development Center and were sponsored by Barry Cassidy, manager, Phoenixville Main Street and the Chester County Economic Development Council. They are: Kathy Bestwick, Maria Matthews, Dan Langan, Julie Fisher, Kenneth Freindt and Heidi Collazo.

Carol Rubley, State Representative 157<sup>th</sup> District, was among other dignitaries at the event where new business leaders described their new business concepts. Some of the concepts include an art center, photography studio, gift basket maker, document storage business, an old time candy store, and a pet food and transportation service.

Kathy Bestwick, discussed her business, the Phoenix Village Art Center located in Phoenixville, PA. She opened her business in June 2003 and it is a centerpiece of the Borough's revitalization effort. Visit [www.phxsg.org](http://www.phxsg.org) for more information on the Phoenix Village Art Center.

Maria Matthews, also a recent grad and owner of Portrait Elegance located in Gilbertsville, PA, discussed her creative photography business started in 2002. Portrait Elegance specializes in preserving the emotions of weddings and the personalities of portraits. Visit

[www.portraitelegance.net](http://www.portraitelegance.net) for more information on Matthews' business.

Keystone Records and Information Management's president, Dan Langan, graduated from the 10-week program and credits it with offering him a profound insight into the future direction of his document stage business located in Phoenixville, PA. As a result of working through the comprehensive course work, he's more confident than ever about the future of his company. Visit Langan's business at [www.KeystoneRIM.com](http://www.KeystoneRIM.com).

Julie Fisher, owner of Julie's Baskets, focuses on upscale, made-to-order gift baskets. She plans to start her business on-line at [www.juliesbaskets.com](http://www.juliesbaskets.com).

The Kandy Bar, an old-fashioned candy store, is the vision of Kenneth Feindt who hopes to open soon in the downtown Phoenixville business district.

Heidi Collazo plans to start a pet food delivery and transportation services business called Pet Needs & Kneads. This business also offers a pet massage service which she can provide in the client's home.

The Business Skills for Success program will start a second series of workshops early in March 2005. If you are interested in starting a business or you want to refresh your business skills, call Barry Cassidy at 610-415-1480 to register for the spring session.