



Local Flower Shop Receives Grant

Northwest Indiana –Country Color Floral & Gifts, downtown Francesville, was recently awarded a \$25,000 Elevate Small Business Grant from Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (FHLBI). Alliance Bank worked closely with Country Color owner, Rebecca Ballard, on the application and submitted it on her behalf. Ballard plans on using the grant funds to replace the windows in her historical building, add an awning over the entrance, and updating her point-of-sale computer system.

Local shops and businesses are vital to small communities. Without coffee shops, hair salons, or eclectic shops, FHLBI realized they would lack character and basic necessities for local residents. FHLBi offered the Elevate Small Business Grants to help local small businesses grow and make improvements. Over 121 local business in Indiana and Michigan applied for the grant, with the help of their local banks; there were 21 recipients awarded funding.

“I am so excited, I can barely talk about it without crying”, shared Ballard. “Alliance Bank informed me about the grant and helped me through the application process. All the employees are so supportive and encouraging. They were able to give me advice and suggestions to receive the grant.”

This was the third year Alliance Bank worked with local businesses to apply for the Elevate grant. In 2019, Little Coffee Shop on 231 (Rensselaer) was named a recipient of the award to expand their operations with the purchase of a food truck. Alliance Bank is a locally owned community bank, proudly serving the residents of Francesville, Monon, Monticello, Otterbein, Oxford, Rensselaer, Winamac, and surrounding communities since 1930. Learn more online at myalliancebank.com or call 888-567-2101.



Alliance Bank employees present Country Color Floral with the Elevate Small Business Grant in Francesville at the shop. Adults pictured (left to right): Cathie Williams, Alliance Bank; Rebecca Ballard, Country Color Floral Owner, and Brittney Baker, Alliance Bank.