

Miller's Market Returns to Clarkdale

After several years without a general store or market two local Clarkdale residents, Rachel Jackson, Tribal Member and Laura Jones, have brought back the general store to the Clarkdale community. Modeled on an old-time country store, Miller's Market aims to bring a broad array of essential needs; with everything from milk, juice, and eggs, to deli sandwiches, breakfast burritos, chips and pop, along with fresh baked goods; there's something for everyone!

"Not only do we want to make sure that people have everything that they need on a day-to-day basis, but we wanted to provide quality goods: Which is why we only carry Boar's Head meats and cheeses, local artisan bread from Orion Bread Company, and bake fresh pastries and goods daily", says Rachel.

Maria "Jessie" Jackson, Clarkdale resident, and Rachel's mom, known for her fabulous home-cooking, has become the master-baker for Miller's Market and word of her chorizo/egg/potato burritos is spreading like wildfire. Maria says, "It's so much fun for me to be here at the store, seeing people from my neighborhood and meeting new people from our community. I'm seeing kids that went to school with my kids, and

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I'm also seeing people from the reservation, which makes me happy to be providing a need for the residents. It's also great to be a part of Rachel's and Laura's dream of owning their own business."

It's really been a Jackson-family affair: Sonny has been there on weekends, doing everything from plumbing and assembly, to taking photos and running errands. Nick has been providing window-cleaning services, and Lisa Sandoval, Rachel's sister, has had her kids in everyday for old-fashioned candy and is quickly becoming their best customer.

Laura Jones, Rachel's business partner, first came to the Verde Valley fifteen years ago to work for the Nation with the Johnson O'Malley program. Since then she's been coming back on vacation and has formed many friendships with community members. Laura says, "Since deciding to move to Clarkdale two years ago, it was my dream of becoming involved in the community and Miller's Market has become



RACHEL JACKSON, pictured with business partner Laura Jones and mother Maria Jackson, in Miller's Market located at 915 Main Street in Clarkdale. Photo courtesy of Verde Valley Newspapers.

that connection. It's been great working with Rachel; from us talking about a fun idea, to seeing it become a reality."

Rachel received financial assistance from Donna Nightpipe, Small Business Development Coordinator. Without the Nation's help, Miller's Market would still be a dream.

The original T.F. Miller store in Clarkdale, that opened in the early 1900's, used to be the central mercantile for the Clarkdale area during the mining boom. The old Miller's warehouse still stands and the original Miller's storefront is still located at the corner of the main street business mall. In many ways, the opening of the new Miller's Market is a revitalization: For the owners, for the customers, and for the town.

Laura, Rachel, Maria, and Katina Ontiveros, also a lifelong Clarkdale resident who has jumped in as part of the team, are looking forward to the grand opening of the store which will be held on March 1. They are also looking forward to being a more integral part of the events that Clarkdale has become known for: Halloween, Fourth of July, Concerts in the park, Art shows and more.

Hours are Monday through Friday from 7am-7pm and Saturday from 9am-7pm. For more information please call 928-649-5994.