



Eos Hair Studio a Bright Start for Owner

Shannon Kurup has been a licensed managing cosmetologist for 13 years, but there were times she didn't feel comfortable getting her hair done.

"I'm a mother. I have two boys and a lot of times I would be reluctant to go to a place ... you feel like you can't bring the kids," she said.

So when she and husband Anand talked about opening a new hair studio, Kurup wanted to make her business family-friendly, both in atmosphere and price.

"I just want everyone to feel they can come here," she said.

The Miami Township couple has lived in the area for the past eight years. When they started work on the business, Anand approached the SCORE Cincinnati for help. SCORE is a volunteer organization, affiliated with the U.S. Small Business Administration. SCORE's Business-oriented volunteers help clients create or expand their company.

The Kurups were matched with SCORE volunteer Alex Nasiri, who admits she thought they were crazy at first. It was just at the beginning of the economic downturn, but the couple was set on their goal.

"Shannon had dreamed to open her salon for many years," said Nasiri. "She had worked ... for many other salons, but she never did it herself."

Now, Nasiri said she's inspired by the Kurups. In just three months, they found a building, signed the lease, decorated the space and set up a Web site www.eoshairstudio.com.

"I consult many clients as a volunteer for SCORE, only a few of them are serious in what they do. But these people were exceptional," she said.

The grand opening for the Eos Hair Studio was Tuesday, Dec. 16. Kurup said she's proud to operate her own full service studio, one she hopes everyone in the family will try.

Kurup named her salon after the Greek dawn goddess "Eos," the goddess "rosy fingers" who opens the gates of heaven every morning so Apollo can ride across the sky.

Kurup said she thought the name was a "great mascot" for her new business, as well as for customers coming in wanting a new look.

The Kurup couple received assistance from the SCORE Cincinnati chapter, which includes retired executives from Procter & Gamble and General Electric.