Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) believes that residents, small businesses, and neighborhood groups in all communities have the talent, energy, and ability to engage and revitalize their own communities. Since 1993, NDC has been working with local neighborhood partners in the low-income neighborhoods of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Greater Minnesota to empower emerging entrepreneurs with business knowledge and access to opportunity to develop successful businesses that allow them to move out of poverty, become self-sufficient, and develop and transform their own neighborhoods.

NDC accomplishes its mission through five integrated programs: entrepreneur training; small business financing; technical assistance; capacity building of neighborhood partners; and business incubators.

Success Story: Manny’s Tortas, Minneapolis, MN

28 years ago, Manny González moved to Minnesota with two dreams: to learn English; and to own his own restaurant. He realized his first dream quickly. In 1998, he read about Neighborhood Development Center’s (NDC) innovative, Latino-organized project: the Cooperativa Mercado Central. It had space for five food stands, and Manny saw a chance to realize his second dream. Manny enrolled in NDC’s 16-week entrepreneur training program, as well as secured a loan to start his business, and 12 years later, Manny’s Tortas is a community staple with two successful locations.