INGRID BLINN received a Master’s Degree in Counseling and started her own counseling practice in 2009, sharing office space with three other therapists. But Ingrid dreamed of a counseling and wellness center of her own and in May of 2012, she decided to purchase a building with room to expand.

Ingrid knew she would need a business plan and enlisted help from Barbara Leachman at the local Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Barbara counseled her on finding the right building, in the right location, at the right price. Ingrid remarked, “I was assisted by the SBDC from the beginning, from looking at buildings to the actual building purchase…the SBDC helped me explore areas I was not familiar with such as working with the City of Lewiston, parking, handicap accessibility, location, navigating through the SBA loan process, financial projections, and marketing & signage.”

Ingrid’s expansion decision has proven to be a positive one as she now employs two part-time receptionists, a janitor, a massage therapist, and another counseling therapist. She also leases four additional offices in the building.