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WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Stephanie Linton - Senses Vegan Comfort Food

By Glenda M. Lassiter

It is the worst of times for small restaurants. Walking the COVID-19 tightrope has been a balancing act for Stephanie Linton, chef and owner of Senses Vegan Comfort Food, LLC, a two-person operation in Norfolk, Virginia.

In March 2020, the swift spread of the coronavirus led Virginia to cease dine-in restaurant service. That month, the National Restaurant Association published metrics stating the pandemic forced layoffs and reduced hours for more than half of 5,000 restaurants polled. Linton felt that pressure and hurriedly concocted a recipe for her business' survival. She opted to open two days a week versus five and cut a third employee.

I was trying to stay open normal hours, but was having a problem even finding gloves, or bread," she said. "This week, I'm having a problem finding vegan mayonnaise." Food suppliers limited production because they also were hard hit, impacting whether Linton can find cake flour and certain extracts for the cakes and pies on the menu.



Stephanie Linton



Scan the QR code to read the full story.

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