Elementary Earthworks
Galesburg, IL

Elementary Earthworks, LLC is a chemical free urban micro-farm in Galesburg, Illinois. This business was started in 2024 by Alex and Rosie Theobald. They provide produce to local eateries, restaurants, and the general public. They offer about 80 different varieties of herbs and vegetables in their 20 X 50 foot-plot in their backyard.

Elementary Earthworks have partnered with several local businesses in Galesburg such as Craft on Seminary Street, baked, and Cornucopia Natural Market & Deli to feature their fresh produce. "We enjoy local businesses and local food, so being able to connect our produce with some of our favorite restaurants and markets, while also selling to the general public, seemed the most sustainable and natural path to take first," Rosie said.

Rosie originally came to the Small Business Development Center to get reassurance she was on the correct path to getting her business started. "SBDC, especially Carrie, gave me the tools to believe in myself that I was truly capable of starting a successful business. SBDC empowered me to turn my passion into reality," said Rosie.

Prior to Elementary Earthworks Rosie gardened and preserved produce as a hobby. She was able to build up her passion and skills for growing fresh produce while managing a local CSA program a year prior to starting her business. The CSA had an adjoining farm to table pizza restaurant.

When asked what she likes most about owning her own business Rosie stated, "The empowerment and autonomy to make decisions that directly impact my own life and that of my community. Being able to use my business as an outlet for my passion and creativity, while also contributing to the community is such a wonderful feeling. Another aspect is seeing just how much different members of our community enjoy our produce, or have enjoyed growing plants I started from seed in their gardens."

In the future Elementary Earthwork plans to bring a variety of produce and plant starts to the community of Galesburg and provide local restaurants and eateries with local food to serve proudly. "Long term we would love to have space for the community to participate and enjoy, seeing food from seed to plate. We want to create an experience for the community to build a closer relationship to food," stated Rosie.

Rosie's advice for future business owners, "you do not have to figure everything out on your own, nor all at the same time. Keep asking questions, search and use resources available to you. The information is out there, the system is out there. It is okay to not know everything, no one does – and don't let that stop you."

You can find Elementary Earthworks on Facebook.