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A Different Empanada is Possible!

In its twelve-year history, Empanadas La Boca has been shaken by earthquakes and financial challenges but today, with the help of PeopleFund's small business loan program, this East Austin caterer is once again on sure footing.

Fernando and Fotini La Guardia began their business in 1996 in Santa Monica, California with the opening of La Boca Café. The restaurant became a local favorite and the LaGuardia's were enjoying their success when one of California's biggest earthquakes struck. The restaurant was destroyed and the family lost everything. The LaGuardia's decided to move to Austin, Texas and start over. The road to recovery was long and arduous and the family struggled financially until they met PeopleFund.

PeopleFund, a local non-profit lender dedicated to economic opportunity and stability for all people, gave Empanadas La Boca a small business loan and business mentoring and marketing services that helped Empanadas established itself as a well-known, successful caterer in Austin.

Fotini, grateful for PeopleFund's patience and generosity, comments, "They were kind and listened carefully to our needs, they gave us a chance and that's what we appreciate most."

Empanadas currently takes both large and small orders, and delivers fresh empanadas daily to homegrown favorites like Flipnotics, Gingerman Brewery, Café Caffeine and Whole Foods. Look for a café area coming soon!

Since 1994, PeopleFund has provided small, flexible business loans (ranging from \$20,000 to \$200,000), comprehensive training and mentoring services to businesses, community organizations and affordable housing ventures. These clients, supported and strengthened by PeopleFund, create jobs; provide needed goods and services; improve the physical environment; promote diversity in entrepreneurial success; and help to build individual and community assets. We have loaned out over \$16 million in Central Texas, and our clients have created 1,600 jobs and invested \$9.8 million in physical improvements in their neighborhoods.