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# *Sharing SBLA Success Stories*

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## **Facultas Community Developers**

*This month we are featuring a very active, enthusiastic SBLA whose focus is to encourage and assist young adults who are stepping forward to open businesses in their community.*



With a love of Saskatchewan and a desire to improve the quality of life in their hometown of Regina, four young men got together and did something. In the summer of 2003, Paul Maindonald, Sean McDougall, Andrew Mitchell and Mike Stefaniuk – friends since high school – formed Facultas Community Developers Inc. (Facultas), a Small Business Loans Association, hoping to make Regina a better place to live.

Since the summer of 2003, Facultas has provided loans for a variety of businesses such as:

- a distributor specializing in premium hardwood flooring;
- a restaurant with authentic Dutch and Indonesian cuisine; and
- a business consulting and event planning company.

The majority of Facultas' clientele are young entrepreneurs in their twenties. Sean, Paul, Mike and Andrew want to help young people start up successful businesses and are dedicated to helping ensure their success.

“There are fewer entry-level positions available these days, and employers are looking for a minimum 3-years' experience,” says Mike Stefaniuk, treasurer of Facultas. “For a young person who is a recent graduate, this is sort of a Catch 22. They cannot get a job because they lack experience, but they need a job so they can get experience. By providing funding and assistance with business plan development, our SBLA is helping young people start their careers through self-employment.”

There is a diverse background among the members of Facultas. Paul Maindonald works in the sales/marketing department at IPSCO Inc., Mike Stefaniuk is a marketing analyst at SaskTel, Sean McDougall is a research analyst at Canwest Opinion Research, and Andrew Mitchell is a coach with the Regina Diving Club.

Goofy name and all, **Facultas Community Developers Inc.** is a community-minded, non-profit group helping young entrepreneurs realize their full potential.