



View Journal Times article
on Kouzena 220

KOUZENA 220

Located on the corner of 6th Street and Wisconsin in downtown Racine, Kouzena 220 takes you on a travel adventure to the country of Greece. Born into a Greek family, Paul Maheras, the owner of Kouzena 220 (kouzena means "kitchen" in Greek), spent his life steeped in the tastes, smells, and traditions of Greece. His parents, both originally from the south of Greece, made Racine their home when he was quite young and like many immigrant families, went above and beyond to build a life for themselves and their children.

"Racine's corner of Greece," Kouzena 220 is family-owned and has been serving 6th Street for three generations. His parents purchased the building in 1985 and it was his mom who opened the first Greek restaurant in Racine. In the early 2000s, after Maheras' father passed, they closed the restaurant and the building lay dormant until Maheras and his brother brought it back to life with his mother's blessing.

Paul's dream to continue his parents' legacy and stay connected to his Grecian roots through food almost did not happen. For more than two years, Maheras used his own resources, demolishing, destroying, re-storing, and re-building. Despite his best efforts to secure financing, Kouzena 220 was close to foreclosure until WWBIC stepped in.

"Because of their tenacity, we were able to stay open," Paul said. "Without WWBIC, we probably would not be open right now. It was a long process. We had to go through quite a few hoops, but WWBIC was relentless in making sure it would happen. And it did."

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kouzena220.com

Owner:
Paul Maheras

Business Location:
Racine

Employees at Business:
6

Total Investment:
\$230,000

WWBIC Support:
**Training, Lending,
Coaching**



*Entrepreneurship and
Financial Wellness Training •
Lending • Coaching*

