

## Maeve's Place held long delayed celebration of opening

Phoenicia, NY – October 22, 2021

Maeve Walsh was on hand to meet old friends and new on Friday, October 22, when the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce met at her namesake coffee shop for a new-business/anniversary ribbon cutting which was long delayed by Covid concerns. Maeve's Place Coffee Shop, a business that hires and trains people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and offers high quality specialty food and gift items, opened last year at the Phoenicia Plaza on Rt 28 thanks to lending from the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

"It's been an intense and incredible first year," according to Maeve's Mom and business partner, Iva Walsh, "but so far, we have exceeded our wildest dreams and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us in any way." Walsh, who first opened Maeve's Place in Pine Hill, said that like all other businesses, she faces struggles caused by Covid but pointed to mitigating factors like more people spending more time in the region for the last year's success. "We have nearly tripled our revenue since moving to Phoenicia."

While Maeve's Place is a for profit business venture, Walsh says it is mission oriented and that profits follow the mission. "We started this effort to create an inclusive working environment for people with disabilities. Having a job where they can learn and contribute is critical to quality of life and increases productivity for the businesses who hire them. It has worked really well for us and we hope to show other businesses how it can work for them as well.

With the widest range of coffee and tea products available in the region, and food and gift items in every price range, Maeve's Place is as inclusive for customers as it is for employees. "We serve breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and baked goods that are as popular with locals as they are with tourists in the region," said Walsh. Everyone can find something to enjoy here whether they eat in and browse or get takeout and buy on line.

Maeve's Place is not the first business that entrepreneur Walsh and her daughter Maeve have opened together. Maeve, who lives with Down Syndrome, and her Mom developed a line of skin care products while Maeve was still in high school. The mother-daughter team still produces and packages their own line of products with the Maeve's Pretty Face label. Those are sold, along with gift items from cutting boards and picnic baskets to coffee mugs and specialty items. Maeve's Place is open from 8 – 4 Thursday through Monday. For more information and updates, contact Maeve's Place on Facebook or visit [MaevesPlace.com](http://MaevesPlace.com)