

ROUND THE TABLE



For Kenneth and Cassandra Carskadon, what started as a lifelong passion for board games has grown into a new business venture designed to bring people together. Round the Table, located on 1st Street in Montevideo, is a retail destination specializing in board games, tabletop role-playing games, trading card games, and hobby accessories. More than just a store, Round the Table provides a welcoming space where customers can learn new games, participate in demonstrations, and connect with others who share their interests. "We are lifelong nerds and have always wanted to share the passion for board games," the owners shared when describing the inspiration behind their business.

Established as an LLC in March, its physical location opened in July, Round the Table was created with a mission to bring additional entertainment and community opportunities to Montevideo. The owners wanted to create a place where families, experienced hobbyists, and those new to gaming could come together. A unique feature of the business is its in-store board game library, allowing customers to try games before purchasing them and experience the social connection that tabletop gaming can provide.

The Carskadons chose their downtown Montevideo location in part because of their partnership with Java River Coffee Shop and owner Becky, sharing a courtyard space that encourages collaboration between local businesses. Through community involvement, word of mouth, and online outreach, Round the Table is building relationships with customers and organizations throughout the area. The owners also hope to expand their community impact by helping establish clubs at local schools and creating more opportunities for people of all ages to connect.

As new entrepreneurs, Kenneth and Cassandra faced the challenges of navigating financing and logistics while bringing their vision to life. With support from the UMRDC Revolving Loan Fund, they were able to overcome some of those initial hurdles and open a business centered around their passion. "Do something you love and add to your community," the owners advise others considering entrepreneurship. Round the Table's story demonstrates how the Revolving Loan Fund supports local entrepreneurs in creating unique businesses that strengthen communities and provide new experiences for residents of the Upper Minnesota River Valley.



204 S 1st Street
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