



# All in the Family

Four local businesses that like to keep it all in the family

by Bob Waite

When we think of family businesses we often use the term “mom and pop” as a description of something that is very small, unsophisticated and probably a little behind the times. This “mom and pop” description doesn’t at all fit the facts. The facts actually show that family owned and run businesses are the backbone of the American economy. According to Astrachan, J.H. and Shanker, M.C., in *Family Businesses’ Contribution to the U.S. Economy: A Closer Look*, family businesses account for 64 percent of U.S. gross domestic product, generate 62 percent of the country’s employment, and account for 78 percent of all new job creation.

Montgomery County and the surrounding area is blessed with many family businesses. Some have been operating more than a century. It is not uncommon to meet third and fourth generation owners of these business, who often went off on their own for a while but eventually returned home to the businesses they grew up around.

Ray’s Appliances in Conshohocken, Mastroieni Furniture in Montgomeryville, Graboyes Windows and Door in East Norriton and Lindy Communities in Jenkintown are all examples of thriving businesses that add to our quality of life.