

Business Highlight

In honor of National Women's Small Business Month, we are shining a light on Angie Toussaint Billingsly, founder and CEO of [KMT Technical Services](#) in Bishop Ranch in San Ramon. KMT Technical Services has been in Contra Costa County for about four years and was in Dublin and in Alameda prior to coming to Contra Costa.



Q: What goods/services does your business sell?

A: Prior to SARS-CoV-2, we did lots of live events, such as huge conferences. We have since pivoted. We now provide AV technical services in the form of integration and consultation. Instead of merely providing event support, we go into an event venue, a conference room or a house of worship and assess technical needs. Following that we recommend professional equipment, which we order for our client at our cost. Then we permanently install the equipment. This equipment includes microphones, speakers, complete sound systems, audio mixers, large screens, projectors and much more.

Q: What prompted you to open your business?

A: I have always been an entrepreneur, and if I didn't know any better, I'd say it was inherited. From my immigrant grandfather, my brother, and even our millennial daughter, have had and DO successful businesses. Personally, I can be an excellent employee, but with my education and skill level, I would overstep, which I'm sure would cause tension between employees. By owning a company, I utilize my creativity and circumvent the untoward energy.

Q: October is National Women's Small Business Month. What does this day of observation mean to you?

A: It means female business owners all over the nation will get much needed exposure. In 2018, 19.9% of firms that employed people were women-owned! Our numbers are growing. I am proud to be among so many creative, artistic, talented, and smart women!

Q: What would you like to share about being a small business owner in Contra Costa County?

A: As a member AND a proud Ambassador of the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce, I have met many wonderful business owners, members, and many members of the community, including Patience Ofodu, who was also a board member. It was during her time on the board that I learned about WDB and their programs. Being in business has its challenges, but they are welcomed challenges and within my control. It provides a sense of pride and allows me to give back to the community in reciprocal ways. Being a female business owner means having the courage to be who I am. It means being able to provide a job for many to feed their families. It means demonstrating commitment and loyalty to my clients, and most of all, it gives me the opportunity to demonstrate to my daughter and daughters everywhere that we are just as capable as anyone else in doing what we love.