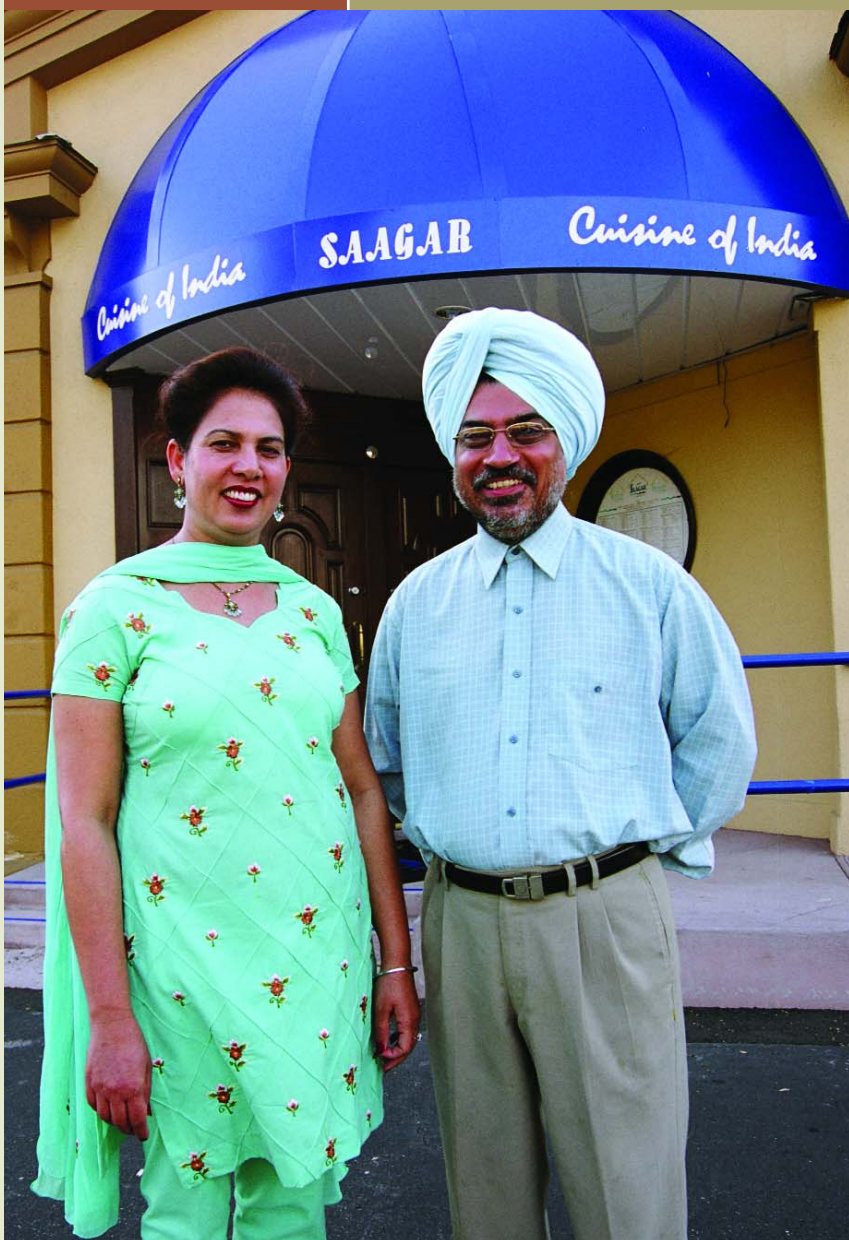


# Dishing Up the American Dream

**JOBS  
CREATED/  
PRESERVED:**  
**15**

Restaurateur Gurcharan “Gogy” Sandher is living – and working – the American dream... Indian style.

After emigrating from India in 1981, Gogy spent the next six years paying his dues picking peaches in Northern California and washing dishes in Los Angeles. In his off hours, he taught himself how to cook native Indian dishes and in 1987 opened a restaurant in Huntington Beach.



*Baljeet and Gogy Sandher, owners of Saagar Fine Cuisine*

Nearly 20 years later, encouraged by success, Gogy and his wife, Baljeet, decided to pursue another dream – a second restaurant. They found a 12,000-square-foot building in Newport Beach and with the help of CDC Small Business Finance and Zions First National Bank, secured \$2.1 million in funding to open Saagar Fine Cuisine, an up-scale Indian eatery.

Bill Sommer, executive vice president of Zions First National Bank: “CDC’s professionalism and **INTEGRITY** are evident in the way they treat borrowers and nurture their lender partnerships.”

“The people at CDC held our hands as we walked through the SBA process,” said Baljeet. “Jeff Bolton (CDC loan officer) and April Harvey (CDC closing analyst) in particular made us feel very comfortable.”

Like many restaurants, Saagar Fine Cuisine is a family affair. The Sandhers’ son (age 17) and daughter (age 14) both help out after school and weekends.

“We work all the time, but we are very happy,” said Gogy.



Small Business Finance