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## Extended Stay

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Charan Anand didn't plan to stay in America.

The Newhall resident came to Nogales, Ariz. in 1994 as a foreign exchange student from India in high school. He did his senior year at the school and graduated.

But when Arizona State University offered him a full scholarship, his family thought it was best that he stayed in America.

"I had to hold my emotional feelings (back)," he said.

Three and a half years later, when he graduated from Arizona State with his degree in supply chain management, his plans to go back to India were thwarted again, after Greyhound offered him a job in Los Angeles.

While he was working at Greyhound, which helped him get both a work permit and eventually a green card, Anand, 32, began to think seriously about opening his own business.

"I wanted a proven concept to get out into the market," he said.

While doing logistics for the Allen Lund Company, a transportation brokerage and logistics firm based in Pasadena, Anand found out about PostNet, a postal business that offers services such as shipping, printing and finishing services and private mailboxes.

"When you have a proven concept, you can build on it," he said.

He found the Santa Clarita Valley an ideal location.

"Santa Clarita is growing by leaps and bounds," he said, and added that many of the locations he was originally looking at would be ready in two years.

However, he found a home in Bouquet Center, and opened in August.

Anand's business got off to a slow start. In the first four months he was open, Bouquet Center - at the corner of Bouquet Canyon and Newhall Ranch roads - was undergoing major renovations that greatly affected businesses in the center.

However, with Washington Mutual moving in next to them in December and improved signs, Anand said business has improved.

"The construction slowed us down," he said. "Since the renovation is over, we can see it growing."

He said he feels it's going to grow stronger, and he will begin to explore options for additional machines and things to help his business.

In addition, he has advertised and gotten out into the community.

He said his goal is to be a part of the community, and be able to help people in terms of printing and shipping.

"The more you're involved, the more they get to know you," he said.

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