Quentin Fischer Says Building a Business Starts With Knowing Your Own Backyard

The South Riding, Virginia entrepreneur explains why the community he grew up in still shapes how he works today.

Chantilly, Virginia Oct 29, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - A Hometown That Taught Him the Basics

Quentin Fischer grew up in South Riding, Virginia, playing Little League baseball, soccer, and Dulles youth football. He says those years on local fields taught him lessons that still show up in his work.

"You learn pretty fast that a team only moves as fast as the slowest person on it," Fischer says. "Nobody tells you that's a business lesson too, but it is."

He studied business at Freedom High School from 2018 to 2022, then went on to Northern Virginia Community College, where he studied business administration. Both schools are close to home, and Fischer says that proximity mattered.

"I didn't have to go far to find people who wanted to talk about business," he says. "South Riding has a lot of people building things quietly. You just have to ask around."

Local Jobs, Local Lessons

Before starting a business with his father, Fischer worked two customer-facing jobs in the area: Manhattan Pizza, where he delivered and worked inside the store, and a Chevrolet dealership, where he worked as a sales consultant helping customers find the right car.

Both jobs put him in daily contact with people from the same community he grew up in.

"When you deliver pizza in your own area, you see the same houses, sometimes the same faces," Fischer says. "At the dealership it was similar. People wanted someone local, someone who understood the area they were driving in every day."

He says that local familiarity changed how he approached both jobs. "You can't fake knowing a place. People can tell when you actually know the roads, the schools, the neighborhoods. It builds a different kind of trust."

Giving Back Close to Home

Fischer's community ties extend beyond work. He has volunteered at food drives with his mother and has helped host one in South Riding.

"Volunteering close to home is different," he says. "You see the direct result. You're not reading about an outcome somewhere far away. You're handing something to a neighbor."

He says that kind of local giving shaped his view of what it means to serve people well, a view he carries into business.

"If you can't take care of the people around you, I don't think you're ready to take care of customers

either," Fischer says.

Building Something Local, With an Eye on What Comes Next

Fischer is currently working with his father to start a business, and the two are looking for manufacturers. He says doing that work from South Riding, rather than elsewhere, has shaped the pace and approach.

"We're not rushing because we're not trying to prove something to a bigger market right away," he says. "We're trying to build something that makes sense, starting from where we are."

He says the area's mix of small business owners and larger companies nearby gives him a wide range of people to learn from. "You can find someone running a small shop and someone running a much bigger operation, sometimes a few miles apart. I try to learn from both."

Fischer says he does not think a business has to start big to matter. "Plenty of good businesses started small, in a place like this. I'd rather get the foundation right here first."

He adds that his approach to the new venture is shaped by the same instinct that shaped his volunteer work and his customer-facing jobs: pay attention to the people directly in front of you before thinking about scale.

"Whatever we build, I want it to actually work for the people nearby first," Fischer says. "Everything after that follows from getting that part right."

About Quentin Fischer

Quentin Fischer is an entrepreneur based in South Riding, Virginia. He studied business at Freedom High School and business administration at Northern Virginia Community College. He has worked as a delivery driver and inside employee at Manhattan Pizza and as a sales consultant at a Chevrolet dealership. He is currently working with his father to start a new business and is identifying manufacturers.

Media Contact

Quentin Fischer

*********@quentinfischersouthriding.com

https://www.quentinfischersouthriding.com/

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