

ILLINOIS

"All I had when I started was an idea for a product and a prayer," says Mary Anne Jackson, 37, president of My Own Meals Inc. in Deerfield.

It seems that was enough. The former executive at Beatrice Foods broke out on her own in 1986 to start the first food company ever to mass-market prepackaged meals for kids. My Own Meals now grosses more than \$5 million a year in sales, with a line of five meals that contain no preservatives or artificial ingredients. And that's just the start; Jackson is currently testing several more meals for release in the near future.

