

The night before The Craft Barn opened for business in Marysville, Ohio, I remember watching the grandchildren of the store's owners run up and down the aisles of craft supplies and home décor. I also remember thinking, "These kids' future depends on the success of this store." That's when I realized The Craft Barn is more than a craft supply and home décor store. The Craft Barn is the Jarrell family's legacy.

That may seem a bit dramatic, but when you think about the seven grandchildren who are depending on this business to provide for their future, I think the purpose behind the store is much more evident.

It Was A Dream

Kathy Jarrell has had a DREAM for many years: open a business that would belong to the family and would provide for future generations. She wanted to work with her children in something that would bring all their passions together – painting, drawing, jewelry making, crocheting, knitting, home decorating, wood reclaiming and sewing, to name a few.

In order for that dream to come true, Kathy, her husband Eugene and their three adult children, Abby, Ashley and Austin, had to CREATE a business in which they all could participate. That's when The Craft Barn was born.

A strong woman with an endless LOVE for her family is the force behind The Craft Barn. And not to discount Eugene's or Austin's input, but the entire store operates on the strength of a team of strong women. In addition to Kathy, Abby and Ashley, there are employees Vicki, Merri, Heidi and Susie. And two high-schoolers (Elizabeth and Bryn) who have proven to be invaluable.

So from a DREAM, came the need to CREATE a business they LOVE. Dream it. Create it. Love it.

Service, Service, Service

Since the store opened July 1, 2016, the family and staff have worked diligently to provide a service to our local community unlike any that can be found in any chain arts and crafts store. We've even gone beyond our central Ohio community to bring that service to customers throughout the United States as we start to sell online the products that encourage every crafter to Dream it. Create it. Love it.

That's more than just a saying to us. It's how we face every project, whether one of our own or that of a customer.

There's a lot about The Craft Barn that is similar to any other chain craft store out there. But the differences are huge and what sets us apart from those national chains.

First, we have the best customer service you will find anywhere. I can guarantee that an employee at one of those chain stores will not take the time to help a customer find the conversion from the embroidery floss in an old cross stitch kit to a DMC color that will help the customer complete a long-ago, forgotten project that she just found in a closet.

When you step into The Craft Barn, you have entered a no-flim-flam zone. Unlike those chain stores, whose employees are mostly interested in getting you to buy whatever it takes for that store to meet its sales projections for the quarter, employees at The Craft Barn are focused on answering your

questions and helping you find what you need – even if that means suggesting you purchase a lesser priced object. We want our customers to trust us, come back to us and steer their friends to us.

Handmade From Our Hearts to Yours

The second difference between The Craft Barn and those national chain craft stores is our ability to make many of the products we sell. Signs, pillows, scarves, hats, table runners, kitchen towels, coffee mugs and wine glasses, greeting cards, soaps and lip balm are just some of the products our talented staff makes that are for sale in our brick and mortar store.

The ability to make products that are high enough quality to sell also means our staff is able to give advice, help and suggestions for nearly any craft. Want to know the best way to emboss paper for a card? Heidi is our resident paper crafter and is always ready to pass along her tips and tricks. Can't figure out that crochet or knit pattern? Our store owner Kathy is an avid yarn geek and will answer any questions you may have. Have questions about quilting or beading? Merri will be there with her favorite tips. And want to personalize a sign that you can give as a gift? Vicki is our in-house Silhouette specialist. And as far as fine art goes, Abby and Ashley are talented artists who are eager to share their ideas.

Can I Customize That For You?

And the third difference is our ability to help you customize almost anything. Have a t-shirt you want to make for your daughter's third birthday? You pick the message and we'll make the transfer and put it on the shirt for you. Want to give special gifts to other members of your spouse's military unit? We can make the sticker that will look awesome on a set of travel mugs. Want to put a special saying on the wall of your great room? Just pick the font, and we can make it for you.

A Few Bonuses

Our in-store home décor and furniture are unique and some you won't find anywhere else. Amish-made farmhouse tables, raw-edge wooden sofa tables, life-like floral, great planters and whimsical outdoor décor are just a few of the items that we specialize in.

A bonus service we offer is the ability to special order supplies that we otherwise wouldn't stock. If we can get it from our distributor, we can special order it for you.

So just what does The Craft Barn hope to accomplish with a blog?

I met someone recently who had no idea what a "Blog" was. She'd never read one, never seen one online. Said she always just checked YouTube if she had a question or wanted to learn a new skill. I tried to explain that a blog is like an online diary or journal that someone writes and then lets the whole world read. But after I thought on it for a bit, I realized I was wrong. Well ... sort of.

Some blogs certainly are like online journals, but there are some people out there (and, I am NOT one of them) who can make a living by writing a couple thousand words every other day or so. With that in mind, a blog certainly is much more than a journal or diary. That's why we at The Craft Barn decided it was time to get serious about blogging.

We want this to be a place where you learn new things. Where we AND you get feedback about our ever-growing crafting community. Where you can get to know us ... and we can get to know you.

We hope the information we share here will introduce us and our talented staff to you. Each of us has his or her own niche or expertise when it comes to crafting.

We will use this space in the coming weeks to introduce each of us to you and give you an opportunity to ask questions and impart your knowledge to us. If you've got a topic you would like us to address, simply click the "Contact Us" link at the bottom of this page. And if you live in central Ohio or are visiting or driving through, stop in and say "Hey!" Our physical store is located at 750 Colemans Crossing Boulevard in Marysville, Ohio.

Let's get ready to Dream it. Create it. Love it!