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Story and photos by KAYLA LOKEINSKY



STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS IS NO EASY TASK,

especially when you're already working a full time job and raising a family. However, this did not stop Lake City resident Angie DePratter from starting her own side hustle.

With a desire to do something creative combined with a deep love for coffee, Angie created SimplyJLynn, an online store where she sells her customized creations.

In just a few months, Angie was able to turn a hobby into a business that has blossomed.

"On April 1 I opened up shop for SimplyJLynn and turned the craft hobby into a second income business for me and my family," Angie said. "It's doing pretty good. It's coming along really well."

A Jolt of Inspiration

In her online shop, Angie mainly sells customized drink and bar ware. Coffee mugs, travel cups, wine glasses and more, all adorned with handmade designs and quotes. Her hobby for designing mugs and cups stems from something that is a major part of

ANGIE DEPRATTER HAS TURNED HER CRAFT HOBBY INTO A SUCCESSFUL ONLINE BUSINESS.

her everyday life: coffee.

"I love coffee, so coffee mugs were definitely the passion behind SimplyJLynn," Angie said.

Angie, 34, sells her products on Etsy, an e-commerce website focused on handmade items. However, before she decided to make her products available to the masses, she was using oil-based Sharpie markers to color on mugs as a fun craft to do with her family. She was ready to take her crafting to the next level, but wasn't sure how well it would sell.

"I wanted to," Angie said about selling her products. "I wanted to really bad but I didn't have the confidence. I was proud of my product but not enough to sell.

After some contemplation, Angie decided to jump in with both feet. She purchased a Silhouette Cameo, an electronic cutting machine, and committed herself to making a certain number of products before she could open her Etsy store.

She plugs the cutting machine into her computer and then she designs what she wants to be printed. The machine cuts the vinyl and then she applies the design by hand. Once she began designing and making her customized products, she knew she was on the right path.

"I became proud and my confidence went up," Angie said. "As the days and weeks went on more people started noticing and they became happy with the products also. It gives you that extra boost of confidence to keep going."

A Full-Time Hobby

Now SimplyJLynn has become a five-star rated Etsy shop that has received rave reviews from customers. Her products include everything from inspirational to funny to heartwarming messages. She has over 70 items for sale, including wine glasses, beer glasses, coffee mugs, coffee tumblers, shot glasses, decorative tiles, prints and other personalized items.

People from all over the country have ordered her products. She has shipped items to California, New York and Texas. Her daughter Taylor, 11, helps her mom wrap the items and even helps her come up with some of the designs. It was actually Taylor who helped inspire the name for the SimplyJLynn shop.

"J is the first initial of my middle name and Lynn is my daughter's middle name so we smashed it together," Angie said. "I have a sign in my office that says 'Live Simply' and all the other names I was trying to think of were taken in Etsy so I saw the 'Simply' and the 'J Lynn' and I put it together."



Angie DePratter's Etsy store, SimplyJLynn, specializes in customized drink and barware, including coffee mugs, tumblers, wine glasses and shot glasses, among other products.

Her side business has become a full-time hobby and an escape for Angie. As a physical therapy assistant for Kindred At Home, she spends Monday through Friday in patients' homes helping them with physical therapy. Creating products for her online shop is a stress relief for Angie after working all week.

"Being in the medical field you do see a lot, so this kind of takes me away and clears my mind and it's less stressful to come home to," she said.

With her daughter, her husband, Cory, her family and friends supporting her, Angie has a huge support system that has helped her as she has built up her business. Her advice to someone who aspires to open their own side business is simple: be patient.

"It takes time," Angie said. "It will come, it will happen. Stay proud of your product, have the confidence that other people will see your product and be just as proud and have the joy when they receive it as you do making it."



To create her products, Angie makes the designs for her products on her laptop, then after hooking her computer up to her Silhouette Cameo, it cuts the design out of a piece of vinyl and then she applies it to the product by hand.



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