

Once Upon A Time owners garner state business award

Mother-daughter team earn honor for store's success, community service

By Lacey Storer

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At Once Upon A Time, mother-daughter team Gayle Marzoff and Amy Bramble work hard to make their store successful.

They attend seminars all over the country to learn new styles and trends. They host special events throughout the year to treat their customers to something special and they make an effort to give back to the community that has supported them and their business.

Their hard work has paid off, as their antique furniture and interiors store was recently recognized by the Kansas Department of Commerce for the contribution it makes to the community. Once Upon A Time received a Merit Award for its efforts.

Bramble said the store was one of the few to be nominated by the Miami County Economic Development director. The store was competing against stores from Miami, Johnson and Wyandotte counties for the overall Kansas Regional Achievement Award.

Bramble said businesses were judged on how much they give back to the community, what kind of events they have,

how they train and treat their employees and what their business offers retail-wise.

Bramble said she wrote in the nomination application that Once Upon A Time offered customers more than just a shopping experience.

"We try to create an inspiring, relaxing atmosphere to kind of take everyone away from their daily troubles," Bramble said. "And we know our customers, most of them by name."

Bramble also said she thinks Once Upon A Time stands out because of the merchandise and events it offers its customers.

One such event is the Girls Get Ready night coming up on July



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Once Upon A Time mother-daughter team Gayle Marzoff and Amy Bramble recently received a Kansas Department of Commerce Merit Award for their store's success and service to the community.

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19, which will be a wine-tasting with appetizers and live music.

As far as merchandise goes, Bramble said she and her mom make an effort to carry unique items.

"We try not to carry such a mass quantity of one thing that when you come back, you're not going to see it (again) and your neighbor isn't going to have the same thing," she said.

Bramble also said that they make an effort to put money back into the community. They sponsor the Louisburg High School band, as well as other clubs and activities. They also give 10 percent of their proceeds back to Louisburg Middle School when LMS parents or students shop there, and plan on doing the same to Holy Rosary-Wea Catholic School this next school

Bramble estimated that Once Upon A Time gives \$7,500 back to the community. That doesn't quite compare to the overall Kansas Regional Achievement winner, Nebraska Furniture

Mart, which gives back \$3 million each year, Bramble said. But still, she is proud that the store is being compared to Nebraska Furniture Mart.

"We just feel honored for being

nominated," she said. "And (we want to) thank the community for making our business what it is today."



Patty Clark of the state Department of Commerce (right) presents a Merit Award to Once Upon A Time's Gayle Marzoff during an awards ceremony June 27 in Lawrence.

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