

# Spotlight on Business

## glee gifts

266 North Main Street, Mansfield

[www.gleegifts.com](http://www.gleegifts.com) 1-877-339-4533 (glee)

by Susan Flynn  
The Hometown News

Who are the "chicks" in your life? Everybody has some! Girlfriends, mothers, sisters, bosses, daughters, teachers, next-door neighbors, grandmothers and don't forget the mother-in-law! Next question: For those special occasions when you need a nicely wrapped gift for one of these chicks, where the best store to buy one? The answer is "glee gifts" located at 266 North Main Street in Mansfield!

A word of note – although there are gifts appropriate for a more traditional "chick," the emphasis at glee gifts is on unique gifts with a flare for fun! As the owners, Ann Foley-Collins and Nadine Miller quickly point out, their focus is on "unique gifts for fun chicks." They continue, "we love to have fun. We love to entertain!"

Featured items include a whimsical Mariposa platter or Lolita wine and martini glasses, competitively priced. For that gal who has everything, why not consider a hand blown glass ornament by local artist Luke Adams? For the chick who entertains, a party pump may be a great gift. It's a ball which the hostess fills with the beverage of her choice and the guests serve themselves by operating the pump.

glee gifts also has items with a local touch such as hooded sweat-shirts with "Mansfield Townie" written on the front – a great gift for the high school or college gal with a birthday coming soon. Want a gift "with heart"? Check out the heart tiles by Evelyn, a local craftswoman. Novelty items abound at glee gifts – platters, books, jewelry and more!

When Ann and Nadine attend gift shows, they look for the "newest and best gifts." With them is a list of items their customers want. Claims Ann, "We offer stellar customer service. We go out of our way for our customers." These gals are interested



in more than just making sales. They are seeking to build relationships with their customers. They want to help other women to celebrate milestones in their lives. Whether it be a birthday, becoming a mother, graduating from a school or becoming a bride. It's a store to visit year round for all occasions as well as during the holiday seasons. You can even register a wish list there!

Men are great customers and are invited to stop in. All men have "chicks" who like gifts –whether it be a mother, wife, girlfriend or daughter. But the man who doesn't necessarily like to shop, should come to glee gifts. One male customer simply enters the store, points to "this", points to "that" and leaves. The gals gift wrap the gifts, and has them sent to him via UPS, charging his credit card. Now – men... how convenient is that?

Although building relationships with customers is a priority, the glee gals are building a relationship with their community - Mansfield. "This is a great main street," says Nadine. "We have events every year." Not only has glee gifts been a participant in community events and joint endeavors with other business owners, but both Ann and Nadine have appeared on local cable television programs including "Process for Profit" and "Florescia's Kitchen." Ann currently serves as President of Mansfield's Downtown Business Association and Nadine is its Treasurer.

How this dynamic duo joined forces to create glee gifts is worth

mentioning. They originally met through their children who attended the same daycare center. Both were working moms. Both have two boys the same age, living in Mansfield and dreamed of more time at home. Ann adds, "we always had fun together, we thought owning a business would be fun too."

Ann, is a visionary – creative, able to design and merchandise. Nadine is an operations person – organized, able to deal with vendors and endless paperwork. Both love the day to day customer interaction. They describe themselves as a "kite and an anchor." Ann as the kite and Nadine as the anchor. They created a business plan for glee gifts and left the corporate world behind a little over two years ago to open glee gifts. They must be doing something right. For the second year in a row, they have won, "Reader's Choice Awards." This year there was "Best Jewelry Store," "Best Gift Store," a silver award for "Best Regional Gift Store" and an "Honorable Mention" for home decorating!

And they give back by supporting women's issues. Currently they sell "Mel's Bracelets". 100% of the proceeds support cancer research at the Massachusetts General Hospital. "Mel" is Mel Simmons who died from breast cancer. The bracelets are a memorial. They are beautiful multi-colored beaded bracelets. You give yours away to someone then buy a replacement for yourself, thus the giving perpetuates. "Being a story for and about women, it makes sense for us to carry these," remarks Nadine. The store has sent over \$35,000 to MGH.

For a Mel's bracelet or other unique gifts, stop at glee gifts and see for yourself how you can bring a smile to a "chick you know!" For more information, visit [www.gleegifts.com](http://www.gleegifts.com) or call 877-339-4533 (glee) or just stop by to chat with Ann or Nadine.