

Petersburg woman expands business with studio in Corbin City

By DEVIN LORING, Staff Writer | Posted: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 12:01 am

When it was devised, Let's Party Painters focused on the entertainment side of the business - the party business, that is.

Five years ago, Shawna Mulford, of Petersburg, took over the face-painting endeavor from her mother, Virginia, and, in a way that Shawna said is typical of her, the business has since expanded to a full-fledged event planning and entertainment venture.

"My mom gave me the business and all of the sudden we have a studio," Mulford said. "It's really cool, the growth of it."

The studio is located on four-acres of land on Route 50 in Corbin City that Mulford plans to use to expand Let's Party Painters. On Jan. 20, the business will launch the Creative Arts Studio, where classes will be offered in the arts, creative thinking, and eventually even yoga or zumba.

"It's incredibly dynamic," Mulford said. "It's a one-stop shop for everyone. We want to offer Art 101 to classes on home improvement to cooking classes, really just the creative arts as a whole. It's a complete exposure for the community."

Mulford said she plans to offer classes to all ages - "potty-trained to the 70- or 80-year-old kids."

Historically, the party business has provided face painting and different characters - such as princesses, pirates and heroes - for parties and community events. Mulford wants to keep that aspect of the business, but she also wants to provide the community with resources that she thinks are lacking in schools.

Mulford, whose mother was a high school art teacher, just obtained her master's degree in school psychology. The mother of twins said this opened her eyes to the local need for arts.

"Due to budget cuts, a lot of creative development opportunities have been lost, so we just want to fill the need for people of all ages," Mulford said.

Mulford also hopes to use Let's Party Painters as a means for philanthropies in the community. That is how the business began when her mother started the face-painting project - it was a fundraising effort.

"Our first official event was one for the community, which makes me incredibly proud," Mulford said.

On Dec. 2, Let's Party Painting participated in Project Love Cards, where community members gathered to create holiday cards for military personnel stationed overseas.

"What's great is the response from the community," Mulford said. "They have been so responsive and supportive, and I am just so appreciative. It really does kind of ignite our fire to keep us going."

Let's Party Painters is hosting and booking birthday parties. This month, Art Club will begin Jan. 20 and will meet twice per week.

For more information, see letspartypainters.com or search for Let's Party Painters on Facebook.

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