

At new downtown store, focus is on 'handcrafted, one of a kind' items

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Local business owners and Mayor Rick Murphrey joined members of the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce in welcoming a little royalty to downtown Saturday. The Queen of Everything, a specialty store that showcases the work of local artists as well as offering customized, one of a kind gifts and party accessories held its grand opening at its location at the corner of Battleground Ave. and E. Gold St.

Owner Heather Queen says her store is mainly geared toward children, but does offer a wide range of art and collectibles for adults too.

The main focus of The Queen of Everything is customized gifts and costumes. Queen said she's set up to supply, say, a dance academy that's gearing up for a show with specialized

tutus that are made to order.

She provides an order form where customers can dictate what they need, whether it's for one item or many dozens of them. She can also supply all the things needed for a unique birthday party or wedding reception. She also says that custom gift baskets - complete with candy, wine or champagne, or other goodies, will be a big part of her business. Queen, who has been in the specialty accessories business for years out of her home, said she's decided to put her ideas to work in a store. And she's getting a lot of help from her two daughters, Kayla, 22, and 12-year-old Teresa who made most of the tutus on display. "They're both amazing artists - they can do almost anything," Queen said. "This is all family run, me and my daughters."

At the ribbon-cutting Saturday, Queen served pizza and cupcakes and was already busy

taking orders.

"It was a great time and I really loved the turnout," said Queen, a West Virginia native who has recently lived in Myrtle Beach, S.C. "I felt that the city has really welcomed us." Queen has a special treat lined up for the holiday season, too. She'll be serving coffee and hot cocoa for the Kings Mountain Christmas Parade on Dec. 6 and for the downtown Christmas light show that kicks off in the next few weeks.

"I've had a lot of jobs, including a country-western DJ and managing a radio station. I've also worked as a licensed therapist," Queen said. "But art is more a passion for me. I just like to make things pretty."

Queen has also made contact with a handful of local artists, whose work will be available for purchase in her store.

Coming soon at The Queen of Everything? Art classes for both children and adults.



QUEEN OF EVERYTHING held its ribbon cutting, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, on Saturday, Nov. 22. Joining well-wishers, chamber and city officials for the ceremony are (4th from left) store assistant Julissa, children Joseph-10 and Teresa-12, artist Matt Panter (back row), owner Heather Queen and daughter Kayla Mills.

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