



CHILDREN'S CORNER

CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE

By Jennifer Webb

"NOW WHAT, LORD?" KELCIE HUFFSTICKLER PRAYED. For the past 14 years, she had worked for a nonprofit, going into health classes and teaching programs aimed at keeping kids safe. A grant funded her position, but now they were losing that grant. She had some time, but she knew change was on the horizon.

Her husband and her three kids were her life. She loved her little town of Des Arc. She had a journalism degree, so maybe she should start there?

In the evenings, she poured through job openings, mostly in Little Rock. None of them seemed right or like a good fit. She wanted to be there when her kids left for school and when they got home. Little Rock was awfully far away if she got a call that a kid had gotten sick at school. The distance, the inflexible schedules, it didn't seem like the right path.

What could she do that would let her stay in the town that she loved and was passionate about? She had done a video for Des Arc, trying to pitch it for a small town makeover show. She hated seeing downtown areas die, and there were vacancies in some of the downtown buildings. What if she could open a business right in downtown Des Arc? What businesses would do well?

She set to work doing market research. She talked to tons of people about what they thought, and there was one idea she kept circling back to - a children's consignment store. Most people in Des Arc regularly go to Searcy, but there's not always time to go out of town to shop. It would serve people in two ways. It would help parents get clothes for their kids, and it would give them an outlet to purge clothes when their kids grew out of them. She

knew of several big families in town who would definitely benefit from having a children's consignment shop.

She was not normally one for change, but the more she talked, thought, and prayed about it, the more the pieces started clicking into place. She was able to secure space in one of Des Arc's historic downtown buildings. Thankfully, all it needed was a little paint! She started collecting and tagging clothing months before the doors actually opened. She focused on high-end boutique-style clothing that was gently used for both boys and girls. She also collected baby items, shoes, and large ticket items.

Her pricing software did something unique. When she tagged an item, it generated a price with a discount every 30 days. She keeps each item for 90 days. If it doesn't sell within that time frame, then it goes into a clearance corner. If it still does not sell, then she donates it to Imagine and Believe, an

organization that provides clothing at no cost to foster and adoptive families.

Consignors earn 50% of whatever the item sells for but do none of the work. Kelcie hangs, tags, and prices it. Consignors can download an app that will send them a notification when one of their items sells and keep track of their balance so they can check it at any time. She does payouts at the end of every month.

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Kelcie opened the doors on Aug 2, 2025, to the Children's Corner Consignment Boutique located at 216 Main St. in Des Arc. The community responded with enthusiasm. She has hundreds of customers, many of whom come in on a regular basis, since clothing is always going on sale. Most items are less than \$10.

She's gotten very positive feedback, and many people look forward to her Walk Through Wednesday. She goes live on her Facebook page on Wednesday mornings at about 10:30 am. She highlights her favorite items in the store. She also regularly shows off individual pieces on her Facebook Page (Children's Corner Consignment Boutique). Customers can comment and ask that items be held for them. She sends an online invoice, and customers can come in at their convenience and pick up the items they have requested. This allows for an online shopping experience for customers who can't make it in. Shipping is coming soon!

The Children's Corner Consignment Boutique is a family business. Her teen daughters, Eden and Selah, love stopping by with their friends after school and helping their mom when they have free time. Kelcie's parents, Scott and Deborah, live a block away and drop in and help frequently. Her husband, Tyler, runs errands for her, and her son, 9-year-old Ezra, enjoys getting much of his wardrobe from the shop.

Kelcie loves seeing her customers, often weekly, and building relationships with them. She credits the store as a God thing, since He is the one who led her to do it and opened every door she needed. It brings a beautiful shopping experience to the town of Des Arc and helps parents find adorable, high-quality clothing at exceptional prices. Follow their Facebook page or stop by to take a look at their adorable pieces today. 🧡



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