

Hunting for Treasure



Retailer Turns Treasure Hunting Passion into Booming Business

Tabitha Clark and her husband, Russell, started R&R Homes nearly 20 years ago, but she never would have guessed that their careers in homebuilding would lead her to become a small business owner and operator in her own right.

In fact, it was her passion for treasure hunting that led her to open Reclaimed Warehouse, an architectural salvage retail boutique.

Tabitha Clark enjoys the hunt. Whether at home or traveling, she has always found time to scour antique stores, architectural salvage yards and junkyards in search of architectural design gems.

Over the years, Clark has amassed a stock of unique items so large that her collection needed a warehouse. The couple began offering R&R Homes clients the opportunity to shop through the warehouse and incorporate their favorite finds into their new homes.

Finding herself somewhat embarrassed when she would take clients to rummage through the dusty warehouse, Clark and her husband began considering the idea of turning the

warehouse into a boutique.

"We opened a store and it did great," Clark said. "The folks in Moore took it in. It really floored me at how well the store did in that first year.



"I'm so new to running a business — leading staff, running daily operations — these were all very new to me. It's been really amazing and really hard and lots of learning."

Today, only two years after opening her first boutique location in Moore, Reclaimed Warehouse has expanded its offerings and grown to include a second location at University Town Center in Norman, giving the boutique a total of 9,000 square feet of space.

"When we opened, we had custom

tables that my husband had built," Clark said. "But we're more than furniture pieces. We also wanted to offer unique lighting options."

Since opening, the boutique has added lifestyle products, décor, custom furniture, remodeling services and more. Reclaimed Warehouse also has become the first and only distributor of the Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines brand in the Oklahoma City metro area, one of four distributors in Oklahoma.

Still, the success of Reclaimed Warehouse's retail ventures is just part of the story. Clark and her team are also committed to using their space to enhance people's lives and skills.

The Moore location features an event space that is often used to host crafting workshops. In the past, artists and crafters have used the space to host their own events, and residents have rented it to host bridal showers and other major life event celebrations.

"It's evolving every month," Clark said. "I feel like this is something that God had called me to do." — **BSM**