

ChangeScape Helps Guide Health Care Providers Into the Future

There are companies that take change as it comes, and companies that go out looking for change.

For Mindy Richards, owner of ChangeScape, success has come as a result of her change-embracing philosophy of business. She started the business a year ago with a major change of her own, deciding to leave her position as a Chief Executive Officer of a hospital.

Now her company offers management and health care consulting to hospitals, health care systems, and physician-based groups, as well as other corporate clients.

The growth of business has come through referral, as satisfied customers spread the word about the quality of the company's work.

"We help physicians grow their practices and help hospitals start programs they don't have," said Richards. "We help bring in new business to health care providers to help them grow their market share in an industry where the number of providers is constantly shrinking due to consolidation."

The company has grown and expanded since it began, and change has been the most important factor in its continued success.

"Change means there's more opportunity for us," she said. "Independent hospitals are trying to figure out how they should be configured in the future and who they should develop partnerships with — whether it's other hospi-

tal, physicians, independent laboratories, or special health care service providers such as rehabilitation therapy."

The more companies find they need to deal with unexpected changes, the more work there is for ChangeScape.

"I don't know of any others who do exactly what we do," Richards said. "Part of what makes us unique is the expertise of the people we have working together."

She explained that ChangeScape brings together experts in various aspects of the health care field, with experience in management, clinical medicine, out-patient care, and occupational health.

ChangeScape can even help companies stay on top of technological change, using databases to gather information and process it for clients.

Richards, who herself has 12 years of management experience, said that her company now has corporate customers throughout southeastern and central Michigan and has plans to grow geographically as well.

ChangeScape is located at 390 Park St. Suite 110 in Birmingham and can be reached at (810) 644-7363.



Mindy Richards

An Unforgettable Shopping Experience At Village Forget-Me-Nots Gift Gallery

"A woman in business, a smart one, knows that attitude is everything," said Gerrie Harding, owner of Village Forget-Me-Nots Gift Gallery. "There's pros and cons to every situation, and when my employer moved my marketing position out of state, I started up my business in Lake Orion."

"I worked at first selling my own personal handcrafts to gift shop owners," she said. "It only took a year for opportunity to meet preparation again, and I found myself the partner of a quaint little gift shop. A year later I became the sole proprietor, and one year after that I moved the store to Oxford, where I have a lot more room to display household treasures and gifts from all over America to accommodate the upscale tastes of my customers, at affordable prices."

Harding used to rely on local artists, but since moving to Oxford Mills shopping center, she travels the country to American handcrafted wholesale shows for her merchandise.

She recently picked up a line of fused glass plateware by Peggy Karr. The line includes plates, serving bowls, candy dishes, and sun catchers.

"Peggy applies layers of colored glass to form pictures on the piece, then fires them in a kiln to fuse the glass together," Harding said. "The results are very elegant pieces for display or use."

The store has been so well received that Harding now plans to expand it further, adding to her Sunshine greeting card line and adding other cards and accessories by well known artists such as Mary Engelbreit and Susan Wheeler. Just arrived is the Boyd's Bear Premier Edition of cards.

Harding is especially proud of the request by the Orion Historical Society to decorate the



Gerrie Harding, owner of Village Forget-Me-Nots Gift Gallery, at the Predmore House.

Predmore House for the Lake Orion Heritage Days Home Tour in September. The house was built in 1879 and was decorated in the Victorian style with items from her store.

The store carries a large variety of higher-end handcrafted gifts and home decor which arrive almost daily and change frequently. A new and expanding area is the bath and body products, and aromatherapy products.

The newest piece is the Lake Orion afghan Harding designed and commissioned to be made exclusively for her store. She is now working on another afghan featuring Oxford historical scenes, which is due to arrive in October.

The Gallery is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and can be reached at (810) 628-5208. The store will be open Sundays and evenings starting in mid-November for holiday shopping. Harding also offers free gift wrapping for her customers.



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It's a Matter of Taste Unusual Gifts and Collectibles



An Unforgettable Shopping Experience

Village Forget-Me-Nots
Gift Gallery

Oxford Mills Shopping Center

1400 S. Lapeer Rd. • Oxford
810-628-5208

Blown Glass by Gail Leone
Peggy Karr fused glass
Woodstock Derrussion chimes
Whispering Winds pewter chimes
Big Sky Carver bears and decoys
Candles, potpourri, sachets
Body and bath products
Bird houses and feeders
Decoys by world champion carvers
Bone china teapots, cups & saucers
Lighthouses & lithographs
Handpainted slate, seedboxes, etc.
Aromatherapy candles & oils