

Blue Star adds style to home furnishings

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Redesign, reclaim, repurpose, and resell.

These four R's are what Beth Bright, owner of Blue Star Collections, models her unique business around. Bright scours throughout the Midwest each year looking for what others may consider "junk" and turns it into a thing of art. Blue Star Collections is located on Fourth Avenue in Superior and will be opening for the first time at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10. Bright will be hosting a show to display her home furnishing designs.

The driving force behind her business is the designing and restaging of furniture without breaking the bank. She prides herself on this philosophy.

"I'm a people person," Bright said. "I've always enjoyed the people aspect. I love the hunt of going and finding great stuff."

Bright had worked for an airline before getting into the junk-selling business. She grew up in Fort Dodge and previously lived in Minnesota with her hus-



band Brian.

The concept for Blue Star Collections began in 2004 when she rented a building along Highway 71 near the AmericInn of Okobojo.

"I began collecting junk inspired by recycling and being green," Bright said. "Being with the airline I got to see a lot of history, it inspired me to save stuff, go to auctions, get hand-me-downs and it got so big it was either get rid of the stuff or have a sale."

In 2005, she rented a building in Spencer and sold items out of that shop. The move to Superior took shape when she realized she needed more floor space for her merchandise. In February, Bright and her husband Brian bought the century-old Methodist Church in Superior church. The building is a landmark in the community.

Bright and her husband along with many friends

and family spent the last six months repainting, remodeling, updating and recreating the interior and exterior of the old church. The structure had been vacant for the last nine years and needed quite a bit of work.

"All summer long we painted it and made a huge, drastic change," Bright said. "It started a whole conversation around town, the community was interested what was going in the church. It was a fun journey rescuing it."

On Thursday, Blue Star will open the doors of the church for the first time.

Don't expect traditional 9-5, Monday-Friday store hours at Blue Star Collections. Bright hosts what she calls "occasional" shows – around 10 per year – with 4-5 of those right in Superior. The other shows will be on the road, such as expos in Des Moines.

After each show, Bright



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Blue Star Collections, owned by Beth Bright will be opening its doors for the first time on Thursday, Nov. 10. Blue Star is a home furnishing business that prides itself on providing affordable options for residents. Bright bought the old Methodist Church in Superior in February and with the help of her family and friends, completely redesigned the building over the summer.

will travel throughout the Midwest on month-long hunts for new materials.

"Between working, decorating and running shows it's a lot to handle," she said. "It's kind of a 'on your mark, get set, go shop' and my customers are very patient with me."

The upcoming show will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Thursday as an introduction to the community. A sale will be held from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Bright is looking forward to building a new relationship with the Iowa Great Lakes community.

"It has been a great little run," Bright said. "It's been a great success, it has been rewarding, I couldn't have done this without family and friends. I've always been crafty and had a passion. I always say, 'if you can dream it, you can do it.'"

