

A dream come true for two women

By **ERICA BRADLEY**

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Two hardworking women made a dream come true when they teamed to open a retail store in downtown Norton. Destination Kitchen has been open more than a year and has survived the troubled economic times that have closed many businesses.

Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann opened Destination Kitchen in October 2008. Both women had other careers before deciding to become business owners, but their interest in the culinary field motivated them.

"Cindy and I wanted to provide things you couldn't get in Norton. This store is like a wish list for us," Mann said.

The economy was in a slump when the store opened, and the Internet is the biggest threat for many businesses. Boller said they knew the Internet would be their biggest competitor.

"We opened at a rotten time in the economy, but it's been more successful than we imagined," Boller said.

Boller said last Christmas people browsed and put more thought into their purchases.

Destination Kitchen stocks high-quality kitchen products—everything from baking pans to a mixer. They also serve lunch daily. The store was open a month before the lunch menu was introduced.

"There seemed to be a demand for lunch,"

Boller said.

The owners are always looking into new product lines, especially customers give them ideas. Mann said one of their customers had asked about Tall Grass Toffee. The toffee is made in Kansas and is currently carried by Destination Kitchen.

"If we hear of new product lines, we investigate them," Boller said.

Boller and Mann said they have always put their customers first.

"One of our priorities has always been to make people feel welcome in our store. We care about every customer that comes through that door," Boller said.

Mann said she enjoys working with customers the most.

"That's a real sense of satisfaction," she said.

Destination Kitchen also provides boxed lunches if requested by corporations.

When Destination Kitchen opened it employed two people—Mann and Boller. It currently employs eight part time people.

Boller and Mann took a class through Colby Community College before opening the store. They also have years of other experience to draw on.

Boller graduated from Norton Community High School and attended Kansas State University before transferring to Washburn University where she received a degree in sociology.



Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann, Destination Kitchen owners, check into some of the spices stocked at the store. Destination Kitchen opened in 2008 in downtown Norton.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

She worked at Wilson Carter Printers, sold real estate and worked in court services.

"I did that for 19 and a half years," she said.

She has two children and is married to Gail Boller.

Mann also graduated from Norton Community High School. She attended Colby Community College for one year before marrying and having two children. She worked at Eisenhower Elementary school in the computer lab and at

the Northwest Kansas Library System in the talking book library.

Boller and Mann said they never imagined they would be as successful as they have become. They said it was a lot of hard work. They had help from their families as well as from prayer.

"It was something we both prayed a lot about. We felt like if He closed the door, we wouldn't pursue it. We keep pushing on," Boller said.



Pictured from left to right, front row: Jane Sheley, Patty Newell, Toyah Braun

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Front row, Judy Fawcett, Alicia Brown;
Back row, Eunice Herra, Pat Hillebrand;
Not Pictured: Karla Colligan and Angela Riner

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PICTURED FROM LEFT, FRONT ROW: KATHY BEARD AND LEVONNE OTTER, BACK ROW: KORLA GRIFFEY, DOROTHY SHEARER AND CAROLYN FASKUHL

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