

Nashville

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News

25 cents

Movin' On

From corporate America to small town commerce Cancer gives couple new meaning to wealth

Story by
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As you walk into Honeysuckle Hide Away, a quaint cottage style shop on 26 Honeysuckle Lane, you're immediately struck with the smell of fresh paint. Lively shades of green and yellow adorn the walls while atop the shop's floor are pieces of small, wooden furniture and rustic home accessories.

"We sell home accessories because a lot of people have second homes here" said **Chris Kirlin**, owner of the shop.

However, Chris and her husband **Bob Kirlin** haven't always been earning a living in the small town of Nashville, IN. For many years Bob successfully sold men's apparel to many large department store franchises in the United States and other parts of the world.

After many years in the same business, Bob and Chris made a good life for themselves with their two children. They lived comfortably inside a four bedroom four bathroom 4100 square foot estate in a suburb of Cincinnati, OH.

"We had the big house and the cool cars and went to a lot of fancy parties" Chris said.

"I had gone over 1,000,000 miles on Delta (Airways), and that's just on Delta" Said Bob Kirlin rubbing the back of his neck in disbelief.

Soon, nevertheless, all the cars and parties wouldn't matter to them at all. During the winter of 1996 Bob was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Soon after having the cancer removed, Bob and Chris made some drastic lifestyle changes.

"Things like that in your life shake you down and you realize what's important" said Chris. "We decided we needed to do something together"

Eventually they came to the conclusion that that something was to sell their business and home and get a fresh start somewhere else.

"We were both at a point in our lives, and we realized stuff is stuff. I couldn't believe it but I had six couches, do you really need six couches?" Chris said.

After several months of searching different towns the Kirlin's decided to move to Nashville and open their first store, Lexington House of Nashville, Inc.

"We absolutely love it here", said Chris smiling with deep content. "There's nothing I miss about my old life, it's cool because I've done all the fancy stuff but it's just stuff."

"We have more friends here than we ever had in Cincinnati, I mean true friends"

Connie Percifield, one of the Kirlin's friends and owner of Plain Folk, a neighboring storefront, said "They fit right in, they have a love of the community and that's important".



Bob Kirlin discusses the many reasons why he and his wife decided to move to Nashville TN.
Photo by Curt Klinedinst

Cincinnati vs **Nashville**

Population: **331,285** vs **825**

House size: **4100 sq. ft.** vs **1600 sq. ft.**

Yearly Income: **apples** vs **oranges**

As stated by Chris Kirlin when asked about the change in income.
"Their is just no comparison." said Chris