



Essential Necessities & The Rock Shop

TAMMY CUTCHER'S
ARTISAN CRAFT SHOP
LEND'S UNIQUE QUALITY
TO DOWNTOWN LAPEER

Photos and Story by Phil Eich,
Storyville Social, as part of the
Michigan Main Street Story
Series

"Twenty-seven years ago, I started using essential oils to raise my family. Then friends and family started calling me asking, 'Hey, can you make me something for this?' or 'Can you make something for that?' and I would because I saw how it helped my family.

Eventually, because of the demand, I started doing craft shows and farmers' markets.

Then I opened a storefront, and it was actually part of my home. It was a great big house; I lived upstairs, and the store was down below. But there were a lot of small rooms that made it hard to get around, and the more I expanded, the less room I had.

So, I looked into moving downtown...and loved it. It's like family! And there are always events: for example, we've got Bike Night. Monday night is Car Cruise—that's one of my favorite nights—and there are always bands and music and the farmers' market.

In my shop, I make over 90 different products myself that I sell alongside other items like crystals, Tibetan singing bowls, statues, and more.

Moving my store downtown was the best move I ever made. I just love the people, and every day people pop into the store just to chat.

To give you an idea of how connected we all are, the high school kids come into the store to show me what they're wearing to the prom or homecoming. They even take their pictures here! I'm an aunt to so many teenagers in Lapeer and that makes this more than just a business for me. It's a family.

When you come in, you're my friend. I've made so many friends by doing this, and people who are more than friends—sisters, brothers—and I love it. The stories and the people who keep coming back, that's my reward for helping people with homeopathic medicine.

It just makes me very happy because that's what I'm here for. That's my purpose: to help others and be a part of the community."

—Tammy Cutcher, Essential Necessities and The Rock Shop, Lapeer



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