

Local Businesswoman Recognized for Charitable Efforts

Diane Hintzen recently received the Businesswoman of the Year award.

By MADDIE CUTLER
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Diane Hintzen keeps her new Businesswoman of the Year award on the front counter at Evelyn & Arthur as a way to share it with her staff and the community.

Hintzen, of Lady Lake, is the general manager of the clothing store in Brownwood, and she recently received the award from the Hometown Civitan club to recognize her ongoing charitable efforts.

"It was truly a group effort," Hintzen said. "I wouldn't be able to help people without the help of the staff and people giving donations, but I am so grateful for this recognition."

Hintzen partners with Hometown Civitan often. She organized three charity events this year that benefited the club.

Most recently Hintzen and the store finished collecting toiletries to send to those impacted by Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers.

"We have a store in Bonita Springs, and the manager there is so wonderful," she said. "We all came together

as a company to help her and everyone in her community who is struggling."

Hintzen said helping people is important to her because she knows she has the ability to give back.

"I thoroughly cherish being able to give back to the community through service, and the award is just the cherry on top of the cake," she said. "I do it because it makes me feel good to help."

She had no idea she was receiving an award when the Hometown Civitan club invited her to the first club luncheon of the season. Because she partners with the group frequently, she figured they simply wanted her to meet the new officers being inducted.

"Suddenly Congressman Daniel Webster was there, and they announced I was getting the Businesswoman of the Year award," she said. "I don't know how I didn't burst out crying. I'm honored, flattered and humbled these women think I am worthy of this recognition because they themselves work so hard."

Hintzen is among just a few people who have received this award.

Hometown Civitan president Laura McLaughlin said the club gave away two other awards to business owners for their philanthropy — Fred Karimipour and Jody Nelson.

"We like to honor those who give back and help those in need," McLaughlin said. "We applaud those who help us as well as those who help others."

McLaughlin, of the Village of Collier, said she is always in awe at Hintzen's generosity and eagerness to step up.

"She's collected clothing and purses, she just wrapped up her toiletry collection, she's supported us with contributions to places like the Pace Center for Girls," McLaughlin said. "She is a supreme asset, and we thank her for her forward thinking toward the community."

Evelyn & Arthur is collecting donations for breast cancer research the last two weeks of October. Patrons who donate \$10 receive a 20% off coupon to be used in store.

For more information, call the store at 352-399-5732.

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Diane Hintzen

General Manager

Evelyn & Arthur

