

Monroe 816 Awarded Prestigious Kansas Department of Commerce Award

GARNETT, KS: Val Katzer-Foltz with Monroe 816 was honored as the 2019 Kansas Women-Owned Retail Firm of the Year during the 35th Minority Enterprise Development Week Awards Luncheon on October 10th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Kansas Department of Commerce Secretary, David Toland, presented the award.

On behalf of the City of Garnett, City Manager Chris Weiner nominated Val Katzer-Foltz and her business, Monroe 816, for this award. The business began out of Val's home in Garnett as a "pop-up" store in 2016, setting up at various locations as a vendor. Monroe 816 transitioned to a brick and mortar retail store in 2018. What started as a home-based business has fast become one of Garnett's town square anchor businesses, bringing both the retail shopper and those wanting to take lessons on Do-It-Yourself projects to Garnett. "Val is social media savvy, use of live/recorded videos and fresh marketing approach are putting Monroe 816 and Garnett on the map as a destination experience", states City Manager Weiner. The retail boutique features restyled furniture, home décor and DIY workshops and is located near the northeast corner of 4th Avenue and Oak Street.

The Kansas Department of Commerce's Office of Minority and Women Business Development hosts this award program annually. Young entrepreneurs, advocates and corporations are recognized throughout the state of Kansas for their outstanding achievements in their respective industries, including Minority and Women-Owned Construction Firm, Manufacturing Firm, Professional Service Firm, Retail Firm, Service Industry Firm, Supplier/Distribution Firm. For more information about this program, please visit www.kansascommerce.gov.

For more information about Monroe 816, please visit www.monroe816.com.

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Photo: David Toland, Secretary-Kansas Department of Commerce; Val Katzer-Foltz, Owner-Monroe 816. *Photo courtesy of Kansas Department of Commerce.*