



Sponsor

OF THE MONTH

By: Holly Roberds | Professional photography provided by Lynn Fischer Photography.

The entire team at Fabulous Finds Upscale Consignment

Fabulous Finds

Walking into Fabulous Finds Upscale Consignment, you are instantly overwhelmed by a feast for the eyes. Every corner is jam-packed with delightful accessories, unique pieces of furniture, and chic clothing. The best part of walking into this dreamy store is that it is “guilt-free shopping.” It is harder to break the bank buying consigned art, furniture, clothing and décor. You are also adopting environmentally friendly practices while staying prudent.

Clarissa Edelen, owner and head fashionista of Fabulous Finds, knows how to pull a sharp outfit together from her stock. They carry everything from Gap to Gucci. Edelen makes sure to staff

UPSCALE CONSIGNMENT: WHY YOU’LL NEVER SHOP RETAIL AGAIN

friendly, trendy women who are willing to lend assistance and honesty. It is important to them that you find something that looks good and fits. Too often it is easy to talk ourselves into buying clothes at a consignment store whether it fits or not because it is the only size available. With literally hundreds of new additions every day, there is no reason to settle. Some customers frequent the shop four times a week to stay up to date on the incoming items.

Though Fabulous Finds is only coming up on their fifth year of business, they have outgrown their space as quickly as they filled it. Expanding to take over a dojo and a chiropractic office, Fabulous Finds is still finding places to grow. In fact, they opened a

So many tea cups to collect and choice from to add to your collection!

separate location in the same building 2 doors down for their French-chic-themed Fabulous Finds Full Figured Boutique that fits sizes 16 and up. It can be difficult to find fashionable wear in larger size, even though 65% of American women are size 12 and up. Not only is this separate Boutique charming, it is guaranteed to be stocked with stylish brands. The separate location also makes shopping easier when you don’t have to sift through a plethora of sizes that won’t fit.

Presented with a loaded store, many of us can become overwhelmed. With so many alcoves and nooks within the store, you come around the corner not sure what you will find. Fabulous Finds has worked to make consignment shopping easy by keeping highly organized so you can find what you are looking for. They organize their clothes by “type of item,” like dresses, sweaters or pants. Then the items are organized by size then color. They also stage their decor that can be anything from Woodley’s Fine Furniture to Restoration Hardware in a homey well-lit presentations making shopping an absolute pleasure.

Fabulous Finds has worked for years with A Women’s Work, a nonprofit dedicated to providing a timely fund for women in need. Consigners have the option to donate the profit of their contributions to A Woman’s Work. Pieces donated are dis-

cerned by a green sticker. The store has recently secured space in Gunbarrel for an outlet store. Anything that doesn’t sell after 60 days at the main location will travel to the outlet. The outlet will provide an even larger contribution to the nonprofit. Edelen is excited to find this new avenue to give back.

Consigning is a great way for people to downsize their homes, whether because of kids moving to college or grandparents moving to smaller, more manageable homes. Even through downsizing, many of us have sentimentality attached to our things. With consignment there is a comfort in knowing that it will go to someone who sees value in the things we did when we bought them.

In one instance Edelen helped a gentleman go through his wife’s possessions. She had passed on, and he didn’t know what to do with them. Mobile Consignment is a flat rate of \$50, and Edelen will travel to your home to sort through items. Edelen was touched by the man’s gratitude at not having to deal with those details in his time of grief. Edelen says she is met with gratitude and excitement all day long, as people either discover the store or the new treasures they have stumbled upon. She gets joy out of helping others and has been deeply touched by the “thank yous” and notes she has received over the years.



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An incredible jean display, so many to choose from!

Many books have been published of late to encourage us to simplify our lives and clear out the clutter. Fabulous Finds can help with that. In fact, they are up to over 9,000 consigners. If you are interested in consigning you have the option to open an in-store account where you get 50% back from the sale of your items. Even better, the credit never expires. If you prefer to get cash back, you get a 40% cut and Edelen will mail you a check once you've earned over \$21. What better way to save up for new shiniest than selling the old with little to no hassle?

Fabulous Finds gives their customers reason to celebrate! They threw a fashion show this past summer. It is hard to believe they found any space in the packed store to put in a runway and 65 chairs. With drinks and h'orderves in hand, customers and consigners watched 28 models strut the goods.

Follow Fabulous Finds on Facebook, Twitter and their email newsletter to find out about their upcoming events and fundraisers. They have brought in closet organizers, interior designers, and colorists for talks. They share news you can use. Also, check them out the last Friday of every month when they throw Wine Down Friday. Fabulous Finds is equipped with refreshments for your munching pleasure while you peruse the store.

You will most likely find Clarissa Edelen working till the wee hours of the morning organizing the hundreds of new items out onto the showroom floor. Her commitment to fashion, fun and consignment has afforded many wonderful treasures and experiences for consigners and customers. Adopt the consignment lifestyle and follow Edelen's advice, "Repurpose, reuse and refuse to pay retail."



Just some of the many unique boots you might find at Fabulous Finds Upscale Consignment



Written by- John H. Sutor, III.

Local Editorial: *Learning To Serve*

In 1970 Robert K. Greenleaf coined the phrase "servant leadership." His idea explained that a servant-leader is a servant first, and only after that is one inspired to make the conscious choice to lead. The concept has been deepened and explored for the past 45 years, and, at BCD, we believe so strongly in service that we chose to make it part of our formal curriculum.

The concept of service is rooted in our mission. Specifically, we seek to inspire responsible, globally aware citizens, and we believe that service is a critical piece of this goal. We know that when children serve others they learn that the joy is in the giving, and we partner with three non-profit organizations to achieve that purpose. Whether it be restoring an eco-system at Walden ponds, making a blanket for a family served by There with Care or serving a meal at Bridge House, students not only learn of the inner workings of these organizations, they develop empathy, compassion, and a sense that they are part of something larger than themselves.

Our school motto – Respect yourself. Respect others. Take responsibility for your actions. – further informs our approach to service learning. When we respect our individual gifts and when we share them with others in the form of care and service, we become responsible not just for our immediate surroundings, but for the community at large. By serving others, they are strengthening the bonds of society.

In middle school, our International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme provides the framework of our advisory curriculum as we focus on traits highlighted in the IB Learner Profile. We teach our students to be principled, reflective, caring, and open-minded, and we guide them to become expert inquirers, risk takers, and communicators. Service helps deepen these traits, providing our students with a sense of who they are, where their strengths lie, and how they can contribute. This is especially evident when our students are working with organizations and people with missions and profiles different from their own.

At BCD we believe everything we do is curriculum, and our goal is to help every child find his or her passion for learning. In our terms, we want every child to discover his or her excellence. Service helps us achieve that goal, and, by putting service first place, we embody Robert Greenleaf's concept in a broader, more meaningful way.