

THE CHICAGO MARKET: LIVING AND GIVING™ ANNOUNCES
APRIL 2009 RETAILER OF THE MONTH, ANNA KUSTERER OF ANNA'S IN JACKSON, MI
Program Recognizes Outstanding Retailers Each Month

CHICAGO, IL (April, 1, 2009) – The Chicago Market: Living and Giving™ is proud to announce the April 2009 Retailer of the Month honoree. The ROTM program is designed to acknowledge exceptional retailers who are making a difference in the gift industry, as well as to provide inspiration to other retailers who can benefit from the winners' stories.

Congratulations to the April 2009 Retailer of the Month, Anna Kusterer of Anna's: for home, family and friends in Jackson, MI.

Retailer of the Month: April 2009

Store Name: Anna's: for home, family and friends

Owners: Anna Kusterer

Website: www.insiderpages.com/b/15246723392

Location: Jackson, MI

Years in Business: 24 years



Anna's has been a mainstay of a gift store in Jackson Michigan for over 20 years and the success of the store has hinged on charming customers with unique product since its inception. According to owner, Anna Kusterer, "we buy items that are different so customers feel they are taking something home, or giving a gift, that's truly unique".

For product this includes "a little bit of everything", says Kusterer, "from Waterford Crystal to gourmet food we satisfy our customers." It doesn't stop there; Anna's also features jewelry, purses, lamps, furniture and home accents. She also just picked up a local Michigan line that makes Oak and Pine furniture and bird houses. "I think every bird in Jackson will have a bird house and every home a wind chime from this line by the time we are through!" Kusterer said.

Aside from unique product Anna's also has an attached café. "When our local community café closed 10 years ago, I saw a need for a community gathering place," Kusterer explained. Since then her café has been serving up savory breakfasts and lunches to a loyal crowd that often steps into the gift store to shop.

"One thing our chef has been doing," Kusterer added, "is using the gourmet products we sell in the store in some of his recipes for the café." This has been satisfying appetites and increasing sales of the gourmet food products.

Recently, Anna's: for home, family and friends, was named "Best Local Gift Shop: 2009" by the people of Jackson. Also, owner Anna Kusterer, was presented with the 2009 Nike Award for a woman who "exemplifies the qualities of progress, strength, freedom and triumphs while facing adversity".

Kusterer is very proud of these awards but there is one thing that matters more: her customers. She has the stamp of approval there too. One enthusiastic customer gushed "No matter how many times I visit this place there is always

something new to see, and I love all the little rooms and tucked-away areas that just seem to pop up and surprise me whenever I'm there."

For more information about Kusterer and Anna's: for home, family and friends, please visit www.insiderpages.com/b/15246723392.

Each month a different retailer is to be featured. To nominate someone you know for Retailer of the Month e-mail Sara Hall, buyer relations manager, at shall@mmart.com.

For more information on Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI) or The Chicago Market: Living and Giving, please visit www.shopchicagomarket.com or call 800.677.6278 (MART).

The Chicago Market: Living and Giving is a trademark of Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI). **Beckman's Handcrafted Gift Show** is a registered trademark of MMPI.

Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI) is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year. MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 West Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the Boston Design Center in Boston; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and the Washington Design Center and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

Vornado Realty Trust, owners of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated equity real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

###