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Art That Gives Back

Tricia and Shawn Clary make art at Clary Glass and Metal Art, where proceeds fund scholarships for local students.

PHOTO BY KATELIN DAVIDSON



Tricia and Shawn Clary make art at their business, Clary Glass and Metal Art, with proceeds funding scholarships for local students.

Creating Opportunity Through Art

Clary Glass and Metal Art focuses on giving back

Story and photos by Katelin Davidson

Creativity and passion abound from Clary Glass and Metal Art owners Tricia and Shawn Clary. The couple has expanded their business by adding a new component in the past year, but their company operates a little differently than most.

Instead of focusing on personal income, the Clary couple is dedicated to giving back and returning support to a community that gave them so much. Tricia and Shawn create one-of-a-kind artwork that draws their customers in, and their dedication to helping others brings returning customers who are interested in

doing the same.

Tricia, who works as an elementary school teacher, began selling stained glass artwork about five years ago.

“Some were pretty awful,” Tricia says, laughing.

But the practice turned her hobby into a talent. As her skills improved, so did the interest in her work. While she enjoyed what she was doing, she felt like there was an element missing from the product, and that involved the payment process.

Tricia never made art for money. She decided if people were going to buy her artwork, the money would be put to good use. That is when the Clary Scholarship Program was born.

“All proceeds from the sale of stained glass goes toward the Clary Scholarship Program,” Tricia says. “In order to be eligible for the scholarship, you have to

meet three criteria.”

Every scholarship is awarded to a student who was in Tricia’s fourth-grade class, is a senior graduating from high school, and is going directly to college, a trade school or the military after graduation.

Tricia says she feels her family has a lot to pay back to the community that supported them through extreme hardships, including the loss of a child and a horrific car accident that forever impacted Shawn’s life.

After receiving such tremendous support and love from family, friends, coworkers and community members, Tricia says the family is finally in a position where they can return that love and support to others.

Tricia grew up in Prosser and graduated from Prosser High School in 1995. Shawn



LEFT: Tricia created three different stained glass trees and donated them to the Holiday Hope Drive that raised money for community members in need. **RIGHT:** Creating custom pieces that combine metal and glass are some of Tricia and Shawn's favorite art projects to make. METAL AND GLASS PHOTO COURTESY OF TRICIA CLARY.

community support and outreach. Last year,

she created the Holiday Hope Tree Drive.

"In the winter of 2020, with the pandemic raging, I watched as so many families were struggling to get by."

Tricia says, "We teamed up with a local coffee shop, Kaffertins, to try to offer a little holiday hope. We made three sizes of stained-glass Christmas trees. One hundred percent of the proceeds went to our Holiday Hope Drive. We used the money to provide a Christmas for needy families in our area. We ended up selling over 80 trees. It was awesome!"

As Shawn and Tricia move forward with new projects, they each focus on their own craft while supporting the creative endeavors of their partner. Tricia's favorite pieces are metal and glass blended together, creating a unified project between the two mediums.

"We enjoy making new and unique pieces and seeing how others react to them," Tricia says. "I also love seeing our son get involved with creating pieces."

Clary Glass and Metal Art welcomes custom orders. The custom glasswork takes substantially longer than metalwork. The business can be found on Facebook, or email tscrary@gmail.com for information on buying artwork.

from an office inside their home, while Shawn and Kyle create the metal art pieces in a shop by the house. Shawn does most of Clary Glass and Metal Art's graphic design, and most of the cutting for the metal art portion of the business.

December and has been an exciting addition to the business. Shawn and Kyle use an Arclight plasma table to create unique and high-quality products.

While the metal art business continues to expand, Tricia remains focused on perfecting her craft with stained glass. She is always looking for opportunities to help those in need and positively affect others' lives, which is one reason she decided to become a teacher.

"I wanted to do something that would make a difference," Tricia says. "Teaching is the niche I have found that allows me to make a difference in the lives of young people. The best part of my job is seeing the growth students can make. I love watching them explore new ideas."

Funded by the stained-glass business, Tricia has awarded 23 scholarships during the past seven years. At first, she only gave out one \$500 scholarship a year, but in the past few years, she has been able to give a scholarship to every qualifying applicant.

Tricia is also involved in other forms of glass art, as well as different metal pieces. Clary Glass and Metal Art sells stained glass art, as well as different metal pieces. Tricia completes the stained-glass artwork

was raised in Benton City but moved to Prosser for high school, where he graduated in 1989.

The couple were introduced by their mothers, who were coworkers, and have now been married for 21 years.

Shawn spent eight years in the Air Force, then attended Columbia Basin College before moving into electrical training programs. Tricia attended Washington State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in social studies, then earned a master's degree in education from Heritage University.

Shawn and Tricia moved to Richland in 2000 and bought a small farm in Eltopia in 2016. Shawn worked as an electrician until that same year, when he was involved in a serious car accident that forced him to retire. Tricia has taught in the North Franklin School District for 16 years.

The Clarys have one son, Kyle, a senior at Cornell High School. He is part of the Tri-Tech welding program. He helped pique the family's interest in buying a plasma table.

"He has made several really neat pieces on the high school's plasma table," Tricia says.

Clary Glass and Metal Art sells stained glass art, as well as different metal pieces. Tricia completes the stained-glass artwork