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Business Journal

Fort Bend Business Journal's Woman of the Year - Lisa Anhaier

Linens by Lisa/Sugar Land Antiques

By BK Carter
July 2009

Lisa Anhaier started a new business in Sugar Land which took off immediately upon locating in Fort Bend. Her management skills and extensive charitable work make her uniquely qualified as the Fort Bend Business Journal's Woman of the Year, 2009.

Linens by Lisa is a unique business in Sugar Land. Owned by Lisa Anhaier, the company provides chair covers, table linens, and table decor for almost every event that is held in Fort Bend. And Linens by Lisa has managed to attain the majority of this type business in five short years.

Lisa's management skills have taken her from managing one of the first stores in Town Center, Linens N Things, to Barnes and Noble. Somewhere along the way while managing a Kitchen and Company store, she and a friend bought some covers to handle a wedding. "After the wedding, we looked at each other and asked, 'we have all these covers so what are we going to do with them?'" and we decided to rent them!" Lisa said.

The ladies called the telephone company and were told the deadline to get into the telephone book was that day. They needed a DBA and a bank account so three hours later, they were in business.

After a couple of sorties into business on her own, Lisa started a company called Tablesapes. "Too many people thought I said 'Table Scraps'!" she laughed. To make sure she was on the right track, Lisa hired a firm to make sure she did it right. Linens by Lisa was born.

Lisa said that she had always thought that to make it in the business world, she would need to be located in Houston, and some friends and family talked her into taking a plunge, but the business didn't really take off until she moved the company to Fort Bend in 2003.

The company is very entrenched in Fort Bend. Lisa attributes that to the fact that their roots and hearts are in Fort Bend where she works with so many non-profits in the area. The community support the company receives is the key to its success.

Personally, Lisa has always supported Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels. "It may not be the 'pretty' charity, but it is so fundamentally important to any community." She was the chair of that charity's 2009 Groovy Party and serves on the board of the Fort Bend Seniors.



James & Lisa Anhaier



The Anhaier family, James, Andrew, Lisa, Christian, and James Leon.



Lisa at Sugar Land Soccer Club seeding the fields.



Paula, Stephanie and Lisa at Sip & Stroll in Sienna. Lisa is a Sponsor of the Grand Wine and Food Affair, one of her many charities.

Lisa has always supported the Fort Bend Women's Center, providing tables and chairs for the Girl Friends Giggle and the Boogie for the past four years. She has also supported the Fort Bend Junior Service League with the Sugar Plum Market and their fund-raising activities.

Linens by Lisa, Lisa, and her husband James also support numerous other charities including the Literacy Council, Cultural Arts, and CASA.

Lisa is a graduate of Louisiana State University where she met her petroleum engineer husband James Anhauser, a third generation Sugar Lander. They are the proud parents of three boys, James Leon Anhauser II -19 (named for his father because he was born on his birthday); Andrew David Anhauser- 16 (kicker for Kempner Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer); and Christian Lea Anhauser- 7 (Sugar Land Little League and Sugar Land Soccer Club).

Lisa says because life is so empty (Ha!) she and her husband wanted to invest in Sugar Land's heritage. Therefore, they bought a house on Brooks Street to house a new business, Sugar Land Antiques. The family already lives in the old Sugar Land neighborhood across the street and now will have a store which creates even more of a small town feeling.

Lisa comes by her love of antiques honestly. She spent most of her childhood in Delaware working with her grandmother, the ultimate yard saler and antiques. Grandmother owned Jayne's Junque, specializing in Depression glass and dolls.

"Not only do we carry quality pieces of vintage furniture and décor we also carry a nice selection of gift items. Sugar Land Antiques is also the new home of Southern Hospitality's coffee line," said Lisa.

Lisa continues to be active in the community. She said that when we all look at the bottom line and try to decide...how much can I actually afford to give? we should ask, "Can you afford NOT to give?"

"Everything we do makes a difference. A small donation of time or money can make all the difference. We should all get behind something we believe in and try to do all we can to make it a success. In a lot of ways, my company and the support I receive from the community allows me to turn around and give back. The adage 'you reap what you sow' has never proven more correct." are the words by which she lives and runs her business.

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