Photo by Brent Siefts

MY HOMEMADE BUSINESS

Hilary Lehman

Mom of 3 Creates Loops Chicago

"I started a business because I couldn't keep my daughter's pants up," notes Hilary Lehman, a Naperville mom with three children. About five years ago when her daughter was a toddler, Hilary says finding a belt that was small enough for her daughter's tiny waist was challenging. She was talking with a friend who also had young children and they decided the best plan was to make their own belts. When their children started wearing the belts, other parents wanted to know where they could get them. So five years ago, Loops Chicago was launched by Hilary and her partner, Hada Teuscher. They sell their unique belts through an online website and in boutiques across the United States.

The company has a selection of thirty different designs. The best seller is not the cute little flowers or the tiny alligators, as one might expect. Flames, camouflage and the skull and crossbones motif are popular choices for children, according to Hilary. "People like designs that are less traditional and more funky," she explains.

After the success of the children's line, the two women began to offer belts for men and women. The next expansion was into pet collars and leashes. "The items for pets have become our most popular line now," says Hilary. She said that some people buy their children belts that match the family pet's collar and leash. "Our lines are always changing," says Hilary. "We are looking at having more products for lap size dogs and plan to expand our selection of men's belts."

For additional information, visit www.loopschicago.com.

Have a great Home-Made Business story to share? If so, tell us at editorial@glancermagazine.com

A Perfect Place to Visit–

Casa Bella's Showroom: Visit our Downtown Naperville Location

by Jessica Gomes, Casa Bella Design Center

Casa Bella Kitchen and Bath Remodelers is located in the heart of downtown Naperville. Casa Bella opened its showroom in July, 2004, and is a full service, one stop shop for all of your remodeling needs. We offer everything from developing a layout for your space to product selection to managing the installation. This unique space beckons clients to experience the effects of its designers' creativity and talent as they pass through eight awe inspiring displays. We want to inspire our clients with the possibilities to create the environment you've always dreamed of in your home.

Our showroom features work from local craftsmen, such as glass from a local artist and an aluminum backsplash from a local metalworker. These are some of the things that set us apart from other remodeling showrooms.

The showroom features many distinctive touches that are inspired from our own designers. Casa Bella's designers designed and selected all of the products displayed in the showroom. This works well for our client base because it's like walking through the designer's portfolio.

There are three full size kitchen displays which include product lines such as KitchenAid/Whirpool, GE Direct, Viking Range and Sirius Range Hoods, among others. Our bath display includes a two-sided walk in shower and the Zehnder towel bar system. Our den features an inset plasma television above a fireplace which displays intricate millwork.

We offer 4 cabinetry lines of which are Jay Rambo, Bertch, Ultra Craft and Merillat. We also have a vast selection of plumbing fixtures that are offered from a wide range of companies including but not limited to: Kohler, Whitehaus, Jacuzzi, Hansgrohe and MTI Whirlpools. We also offer countertops from Silestone, Spekva, Zodiac, Corian, Avonite and Cambria. Casa Bella also offers concrete, metal, granite and marble countertops.

Our showroom has a local flavor, and provides services on a grand scale. Casa Bella brings a little luxe to the downtown Naperville area.

Casa Bella Kitchen and Bath Remodelers is located at 15 W Jefferson Avenue, downtown Naperville. This full-service, one- stop-shop for all of your remodeling needs, offers everything from developing a layout for your space, to product selection and managing the installation. Jessica A. Gomes (pictured) a graduate of the Interior Design program at Illinois State University, has been working at Casa Bella for four years and oversees the company's project design and sales. Jessica works directly with clients to design creative solutions that satisfy their needs. Call (886) 619-8862 for more details or visit the showroom today.