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## **Army Wife Finds Comfort in Painting Glass**

Cuyahoga Falls resident designing memorable, meaningful stemware

(JANUARY 14, 2010) -- There are working mothers, and then there's Dia Ray. This budding entrepreneur holds down a full-time job at a local NE Ohio construction company, recently completed her MBA in Business Management, is raising a 2-year old son, is currently taking classes to gain her Advanced Accounting Certification, all while her husband, a military intelligence officer, is deployed with the Ohio Army National Guard to Afghanistan.

As a way to maintain her sanity with her borderline insane life, Dia Ray has found a creative outlet that is proving to be both comforting and profitable. As the founder of *Designs by Dia Ray*, Ray hopes to parlay her passion for painting glass and stemware into a permanent paying gig.

"Last year, I needed a way to keep my mind occupied after the baby went to bed and while the hubby was deployed," Ray says. "My inspiration came from a small boutique shop in Nashville during a visit with my parents. Looking at some of the painted glassware down there, my dad turned to me and said, 'Dia, you can do better than *this!*'"

Inspiration quickly turned into passion, which quickly turned into a business. An art enthusiast during her undergrad days – "Many years ago" Ray admits – the idea of creating artistic stemware was never a career option, until several friends and colleagues critiqued her work.

"It really took off...one friend wanted a wine decanter, another wanted champagne glasses...it all started with bride and groom flower vases I painted for my sisters' wedding," Ray says.

Now, with a certified business and several area shops displaying her work, Ray believes her decision to not sit idly by while her husband was off serving the country will pay off.

"The goal is to have a successful online business, with gift shops all around the country selling Designs by Dia Ray," the tireless businesswoman admits. "I'd ultimately like to make this my living."

Ray has also partnered with another "mom-preneur", Vicki McVan, who creates accenting wine charms and beaded fan pulls. Ray and McVan were colleagues at a local restaurant for many years and share a passion for wine and entertaining.

Ray says custom design requests are encouraged and turnaround time for an order is "usually within a couple of days. Time is a commodity, for sure." You can learn more about Designs by Dia Ray by visiting [www.designsbydiaray.com](http://www.designsbydiaray.com), following on Facebook and Twitter, or by stopping into the Hudson Sampler, located on Darrow Road in Hudson, Ohio.

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