

Focus on Chamber Businesses: Mae B

Mae B Coffee shop and refurbished furniture store prides themselves on being a happy place to go in Hartley. This pride in small business charm is how they became a part of a nationwide organization called the *3/50 project*.

“All you have to do is join (and it’s free),” said Mae B co-owner Deidre Welch. “It’s about celebrating independent businesses.”

The 3/50 project stands for ‘three’ independently owned business you would miss most if it was gone. Then if just half of the employed U.S. population spent ‘\$50’ each month in independent business, their purchases would generate \$42.6 billion in revenue.

The Coffee Shop was the only business in Hartley to be signed up to participate in this website of small business pride...however, just with them talking about the web-site, there was one additional business that joined. Go online for more information and sign up today; five minutes of your time is one small step towards changing the community: *The350project.net*.

“This would net-work local businesses together,” said Mae B co-owner Mary Mohni.

In addition to being a part of *The 350 project* both Welch and Mohni try to bring ‘city life’ to small town living with art and whimsy design. Their shop started as an occasional market which had five sales the first year. Then the following year in 2007 the ladies decided to join forces and make their vision a full time job of coffee and furniture.

“Even if I didn’t run the coffee shop, I would come just to hang out and enjoy the ambiance,” Mohni said. “Our coffee is really, really good – but there is something for everybody even if you’re not a coffee drinker.”

The building that the shop is currently residing in was the old Hartley Implement building just off of Central Avenue

“We donate what we can, we our cleaning up our corner of the world,” Welch said. “We took a building that was in need of love and resurrected it.”

Quick answers for consumers:

1. **Store hours:** Monday-Friday six to 11 am
2. **Location:** 50 2nd St. SW, Hartley, Iowa 51346
3. **Owner(s):** Deidre Welch and Mary Mohni
4. **What they offer:** gourmet coffees, teas, smoothies, baked treats and grilled breakfast sandwiches and burritos.

5. **What they do:** recycle furniture and home goods, paint and restyle interiors, create fabric florals, hand painted signage, jewelry, barn quilts and other fun & inspirational items.
6. **Something people should know about your business:** after the coffee shop closes the ladies do interior painting, room restyling and decorating. They also work on furniture for the store or for other people, and if they get a free day the ladies hit auctions to get furniture to create new treasures.
7. **Average day:** The ladies come in around 4:30 am to start the machines and make their daily fresh bake goods and when the store closes their day doesn't end, they work on other projects.