

Chic & Unique store to come downtown

By HILLARY GAVAN Senior staff writer | Posted: Saturday, August 27, 2016 10:00 am

BELOIT — Megan Warntjes is excited to open her second location of Chic & Unique in Beloit's thriving downtown.

“The revitalization going on down here is absolutely phenomenal,” she said. “I hope I can be a part of helping people come shop downtown and help show what a great find Beloit is.”

The store will have an official grand opening on Sept. 8, 9 and 10. On Friday, a few curious customers were checking out Chic & Unique during its soft opening.

Chic & Unique is located in the former American Red Cross Building at 318 State St. It may be unrecognizable to some because of the extreme renovations Megan and her husband, David, have undertaken in the space. The building which was once covered in white, is a warm tan and has new windows out front. Carpet has been torn out as well as two ceilings and more. Four dressing rooms were added and the stairway was moved.

The store offers gently used women's clothing as well as new jewelry, scarves, accessories and gifts. It will be carrying a local gift line of soaps and lotions as well as some used and repurposed furniture as well as a vintage hat collection. Some of the new clothing items offered are from overstock companies, arriving mostly from Nordstrom and Dillard's. This fall the store will be selling some fur coats.

“We have all sizes and price points,” Warntjes said.

After raising four children, Megan obtained a degree in interior design and managed a furniture store. After working in a consignment store, she loved it so much she eventually purchased it when the owner was ready to move on.

In addition to loving fashion, Megan said she hopes to recycle, repurpose and reuse items.

“The average person in the U.S. sends 65 pounds of clothing into the landfill every year. If we can take some of these wonderful items and repurpose to make them useful, we can keep them from the landfill. What isn't sold is donated to local charities,” she said.

In addition to offering unique clothing to ensure women don't have an identical look with someone else, the store has helped countless families struggling to afford fashions for themselves and their children. She



Chic & Unique

Megan Warntjes opened Chic & Unique, a clothing, accessory and home furnishings consignment store, on Friday in the former Red Cross building downtown. She already has a store in Burlington and is looking forward to having her new location in Beloit.

recalled one mother who had broken down in tears after she was able to find her daughter a prom dress, shoes, handbag and jewelry for under \$100.

The Chic & Unique in Burlington has been a popular spot and what some say is the town's best kept secret. Recently, the Burlington store had a fashion show which raised funds for the Transitional Living Center.

The store's gently-used items are generally upper end brands such as Kenneth Cole, Coach, The Limited, White House Black Market although it does offer some trendy Target items.

"You will be confident when you walk out the door you will have your own one-of-a-kind look that works for you," she said.

Although the Burlington store is consignment, where consignors receive a percentage of the sale price, the Beloit location will simply buy out people's items for a flat rate. Those interested in selling their clothes can contact the store to make an appointment to bring in their items. The buyouts are done on Thursdays by appointment only.

"We will offer them a price, and they can walk out with cash or credit for the store," she said.

For larger items such as furniture, people can email in images and call ahead to make an appointment. The store can also offer hauling for larger items.

Chic & Unique had a booth at Holidazzle which Warntjes said had a great response from the community. She also handed out more than 300 coupons at Beloit's sidewalk sales and received a warm welcome from all.

"The people of Beloit are very loyal to Beloit and are very inviting to people coming in from the outside. They have a homegrown pride that is amazing. People outside Beloit don't realize what a great find Beloit is," she said.

Store hours until grand opening are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays; and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturdays. After the grand opening, the store will be open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday.