

Alton photo business snaps up association's July honors

July 16, 2012

By JESS CHARLTON

For The Telegraph

ALTON - A picture is worth a thousand words.

Picture This & More, 520A West Delmar, has been awarded the RiverBend Growth Association award for July.

"It felt pretty good. We were awarded back in June of 1999, and it's just flattering to be nominated again - even more that we won," co-owner Ken Link said. "It makes us feel good - like we really do make a contribution to our community and people respect that."

In June 1999, they won Small Business of the Month from the Growth Association of Southwestern Illinois.

Picture This & More has one location, which opened in May 1992.

Ken and Glenda have been in business for 20 years. Ken said they started the business out of their basement doing framing. They worked a year from their home before establishing their business.

"We just decided why not," he said.

Glenda worked for Gwin's Travel Agency when they initiated their business. Before that, Glenda worked as an office manager for an optometrist. Ken worked for McDonnell Douglas, the St. Louis defense contractor that later merged with Boeing, for 32 years. During his last seven years of working for Boeing, he also worked at his framing business.

"Glenda and one of her friends would work during the day at the business, and I would help during the weekends," he said.

Glenda's co-worker had a great idea for their business' name. Her friend suggested calling it "Picture This," because of the framing component, and adding "More" to reflect the business' other services.

"That's how we got the name," Glenda said.

They can also do photo restoration, restoring old and torn photos to make them look new again.

They have two employees: Kella Marchal works full time and Clyde Totten works part time.

Picture This & More does all types of framing from decoration, hanging in the basement, preservation for family heirlooms and expensive, original pieces and anything in between.

Picture This & More, Ken said, is known to specialize in memorabilia framework.

"We always love to hear the stories with each piece. We enjoy hearing the background on why this particular piece is so important to someone. It helps us with carrying the emotion to tie in to make the project perfect for each customer," he said.

The business offers two-week turnaround time for all pieces, and walk-ins are welcome.

"That's another thing we take pride in; when people come in with a quick need, we generally are able to do good with materials with the choices we have in stock. The turnaround can be rather quick, too," Ken said.

Their website states Ken holds the distinction of being a certified picture framer, an accreditation from the Professional Picture Framers Association. In February 2010, he was elected president of the association's National Board of Directors. He is a past president of the St. Louis Chapter of the Professional Picture Framers Association and a former member of the National Professional Picture Framers Association Advisory Council, Chapter Relations Committee and the Awards and Recognition Committee. In 2006, Ken received the prestigious Award of Service from the national organization.

Picture This and More's number is (618) 466-0940; their website is www.picturethisandmore.com. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and closed Sundays.

Picture This & More

520A West Delmar, Alton

(618) 466-0940