

**Wellsville Chamber of Commerce**  
**Chamber Spotlight**  
**The Torn Edge**  
**By: Elliot Kelley**

The twenty-first spotlight for the Wellsville Chamber of Commerce is The Torn Edge, owned and operated by Michelle Douglas Gressel. Her one-of-a-kind pieces of heART are handcrafted for her custom heARTwork clients and her gift line pieces seen in her shop. They hold a special meaning to those that purchase them as a gift, those that receive them as a gift, or to those that choose to commission her for something that may be a legacy piece. Michelle gathers and assembles items that most would see as only one functional use or may possibly be considered trash. She then rearranges them to capture the essence of HOPE and LOVE. Many of her customer have a distinct story to tell, so they often bring items with special meaning so she can create original pieces of work for her customers.

Michelle resides in Gardner but grew up in Franklin County. She has known Barbara since she was a child and attended church where Glenn Layton was the Pastor. She ran into Barbara, with Layton Real Estate, who shared information about her available space on 517 Main Street in Wellsville. In July of 2021, she opened her doors in the shared location with Olivia's LLC because she knew it would be the perfect opportunity for her to showcase her talent and her works of heART. The Torn Edge's hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Michelle attended Pittsburg State University. She majored in Recreational Therapy on the mental health side, with a minor in Psychology. She served as a recreational therapist in the mental health field after college. Michelle assisted clientele with stress relief activities that created diversions that would help her clientele find and develop their passions. This would ultimately fuel Michelle's creativity and fill her passion to help others, The Torn Edge's grass roots began by tearing paper to create a story for teacher's gifts as a sign of gratitude. She kept tearing and tearing, and she realized it became a much larger therapeutic passion. It was really about taking all the broken and torn pieces of our lives. We are all broken. When we take a moment to reassemble the pieces, they can be purposeful and beautiful. That became the ground floor of what you see today in her shop.

There is no such thing as a typical day for Michelle. Although she strives to meet some parameters each day, much of her daily assignments are based off the heART work she is commissioned to create. Her time, designs and skills set are dependent upon her customer's needs and wishes. Her mission is to provide a one-of-a-kind custom designed and hand-crafted heART that inspires, rebuilds hope, and tells the story of her client's life journey by joining the torn edges of their life into a beautiful reminder of LOVE and HOPE.

Michelle is most proud of her ability to push herself to do something she hasn't done before, like making a kitchen inside a log cabin from scratch. She is also proud of the fact

she has had customers come from Western Kansas, Nebraska, and even Oklahoma to have her create heART pieces for them.

The Torn Edge believes anything can be used as a “canvas” if it reflects the client’s story. She also has increased her brand to include apparel, as well as small and medium gift pieces, The Torn Edge Candle and Melter Line, and other miscellaneous items. Recently she has added the Jim’s Formal Wear Line for tuxedos and suits for not only proms, but for weddings and other special events. This was more impactful than she had ever realized when she had the opportunity to meet more of the community in and outside Wellsville. Even more amazing is that Michele travels to homes to do customized work, such as repurposing furniture and home space. On top of this, she even serves as a motivational speaker at various non-profit organizational meetings.

Because of the success of her sole proprietorship, Michelle has had to learn to juggle many “hats”, as it is difficult to be everywhere at once. As the owner, she is the artist, designer, marketer, floor designer, scheduler, customer service associate, accountant, and all the positions you would see in a business location. However, she has learned to manage all aspects of the business to maintain its success.

What she values most about the Wellsville Community is the support and friendliness the people provide local businesses and each other. When asked about how the community could help The Torn Edge grow to new heights, she simply replied, “Let’s continue to bring the outside in and show other communities how special Wellsville really is! Let’s keep promoting The Torn Edge and other businesses on social media.”

To learn more about The Torn Edge and the amazing pieces of heART Michelle Gressel creates, check out [www.thetornedge.com](http://www.thetornedge.com), her facebook page—The Torn Edge, or Instagram @thetornedge. She can also be reached at (913) 938-6489. You can even purchase an e-gift card for a friend, as well.

📍 THE TORN EDGE

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the one  
whom my  
soul loves."

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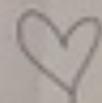
A COLLECTION OF ILLUSTRATED PORTRAITS BY JOE GLADIAN

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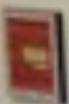


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