

"I had a woman bring me her great-grandmother's necklace, which was wearing out a bit," she said. "I made bracelet and earring sets for her and her sisters and nieces. I thought that was really special that each of them got a piece of that woman's necklace as a keepsake and something nice that could be worn still."

Belva also does mother/daughter and family rosaries and jewelry pieces. She works with Swarovski crystals, glass beads and acrylic beads and loves to make custom pieces per the customer's taste.

"I love it when someone has a dress or outfit they want to wear to a special event but don't have any jewelry to go with it," she said. "They can bring the outfit in, and I'll sit down with them and pick out beads that would go nicely and move things around and design a piece or two specifically for them."

Belva has also been busy creating new pieces out of old items for a Sioux Falls Boutique called Recycled Elements.

"They like things like necklaces made out of old keyholes or skeleton keys, and I take mismatched earrings and make push



Belva works with Swarovski crystals, glass beads and acrylic beads and loves to make custom pieces per the customer's taste. She has even made pieces out of old recycled items like skeleton keys and mismatched earrings.

pins out of them. It's pretty fun to make something new out of something old that you'd normally just throw out," she said.

Belva's husband Kenneth even gets in on the crafting making beaded banners. He also custom-made all her jewelry display and transport cases she uses at craft shows.

"It's kind of nice that it's something we can do together. We go to the shows and meet new people, and he does all the heavy lifting for me," she said.

As for her love of glamour, Belva says she must take after her great-aunt, whom she spent a lot of time with as a young woman.

"Even her key chains were glitzy," she said, holding up a rhinestone encrusted key chain.

■ Story and Photos by Tera Schmidt



Belva and her husband, Kenneth, created Be-Ken Jewelry & Crafts a few years ago. They travel to craft shows around the area to display and sell their wares. Kenneth also made custom jewelry display and travel cases for Belva.



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