

The eyes have it

Permanent eyelashes bat at the Toledo area
by Kelsey Nowakowski

Forget those pesky eyelash curlers. There's a new path to noticeable lashes.

Dara Gadzala, a licensed esthetician for over 25 years, specializes in permanent eyelash extensions at Miracle Salon and Spa (6634 Summerfield Rd, Temperance, Mich). The Indiana native, employed at Toledo Hospital for 14 years in the records department, has also worked part-time as a beauty expert for years.

Gadzala recently trained with Xtreme Lashes, a Houston-based company that attended to Hollywood celebs such as Madonna and Jennifer Lopez at last year's Oscar ceremonies. Xtreme sends out reps who teach beauticians in the art of permanent eyelash extensions. A training which is a grueling eight-hour, hands-on, learning process.

"I wanted to be trained by Xtreme Lashes, because they train only licensed individuals, use safe products, and apply natural looking lashes," said Gadzala, who has also trained with Hollywood makeup artists Mark Traynor and Robert Tameggi, as well as Madame DeVuyt, founder of the Madame DeVuyt Skin Care Line.

Unlike some companies, Xtreme uses glue in application that doesn't give off harmful vapors. "The construction of the eyelash itself is better, because the curve forms better to the natural shape of the eye."

Although the world of permanent lashes is relatively new to her, Gadzala

has applied temporary lashes for over 20 years.

Unlike temporary eyelashes, which only last about two weeks, permanent lashes last anywhere from two to four months, with touchups recommended every few weeks. The lashes can only be removed when the natural shedding process occurs. The application process requires meticulous skill, with each lash attached with tweezers, magnifying glass and non-toxic glue, which never touches the skin. The process usually takes two to two-and-a-half hours for both eyes. Each customer receives a manual that provides all pertinent details about permanent eyelash care. One precaution — only water based mascara be used with the permanent lashes, but Gadzala says that "most women don't need to use mascara after they go through the process."



Dara Gadzala applies permanent eyelashes to a customer at Miracle Salon and Spa.

Costs for the procedure vary depending on what type of effect the customer is looking for. For 'extra body,' which is anywhere from 10-25 lashes, the cost is \$200. To add 25-40 lashes for a natural and fuller look, the cost is \$250 and \$300 fetches a dramatic look with 40-70 extensions.

"The result can be amazing," she says. "By making lashes thicker and fuller, you can bring attention to your eyes and brighten your entire face."

Call 419-279-1027 for information.

Bank on it

Non-profit furniture bank fills niche and need
by Sherris Schwind

Paula Massey is keeping the faith.

"Every day we jump hoping the net will be there to catch us." Massey, Executive Director of the Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank, is pointing to two dry-erase calendars hung on the Bank's reception area walls. The client appointments calendar is saturated with three weeks-worth of red marker, while the donation pick-up calendar extends only one week ahead. How will the Bank fulfill those two weeks of client need?

"Operating this place requires a daily leap of faith," smiles Massey, "Somehow, what we need always materializes."

The Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank, established by Massey, her husband Stan and her longtime friend Bonnie Hunter, just celebrated its second anniversary.

Both women had worked as volunteers and board members for homeless shelters in Toledo and those experiences had them looking to fill the void in social services' ability to assist clients in need of home furnishings. Originally operated from Massey's home and donated storage space, the Bank is now located in a 2,400 square-foot facility at 812 Warehouse Road in South Toledo. The Furniture Bank supplies creature comforts for up to 30 families a week. More than 2,900 people in 1,083 households have benefited from the Furniture Bank since its inception.

"Our clients must be referred by a social services agency caseworker or a church and a home visit verifies the need," Massey said. "We offer a one-time only service so that clients can get a second start after a life-crisis like homeless transition, physical or mental disability, teen pregnancy and parenting, house fires or fleeing domestic violence. Domestic violence clients are a priority and we try to see them within two weeks to offer them a sense of home again so that they won't return to their abusers." Three of every four of the Furniture Bank's clients are single women or female-headed households and the majority of clients earn less than \$5000 a year; "I don't know how they do it", sighs Massey, shaking her head incredulously. Ninety percent of our clients earn under \$10,000 in a year. Clearly, major purchases such as beds, sofas, dining sets and

dressers lie outside the budgets of individuals living on such meager incomes.

Following a career in public relations and advertising, Massey returned to school in pursuit of a degree in social work in order to "do something I felt was meaningful. I felt a life of service was part of my spiritual path. Here I'm a full-time volunteer director working 40-50 hours a week". Massey visited a furniture bank program in Columbus which she used as a model.

The Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank receives no government support and is solely funded through donations and grants from such groups as The Stranahan Foundation and the Toledo Community Foundation.

The Bank also holds fundraisers such as its 2005 "Take A Seat, Toledo" art



Joey Nearhood makes a deposit at the Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank.

chair silent auction. Over 20 area artists and designers contributed works to last year's auction, which raised \$2,000. Still, Massey says that donations are sorely needed, since referrals are up 30 percent from last year.

"We are in constant need of donations and gently used furniture and we never have enough small appliances, bedding, bath towels, lamps, or kitchen wares", Massey says sweeping her arm toward shelves that store these items. "When clients come for pick-up, we pack a box of plates, cups, silverware, towels, sheets, sponges and dish and bath soap for them to get started with...we really need nice towels!"

The Toledo-Lucas County Furniture Bank is located at 812 Warehouse Road, Unit B (just off E. Angola between Reynolds Road and Airport Hwy). It does not accept donations of clothing, books or toys; however, monetary donations may be made by check submitted to PO Box 637, Sylvania, Ohio 43560. Volunteers are also always needed. 419-381-8120.

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