

Local Business Spotlight: The Grand Selfie Studio

by Calvin, Kate, and Kim Holtrop



LaJoy Cotton, a Muskegon photographer, saw an opportunity for a local selfie studio in The Lakes Mall. She wants to group her selfie business, The Grand Selfie Studio, with the family-friendly businesses next to the building that used to be Sears. Cotton is planning to make her selfie studio a place where families can enjoy themselves and where clothing changes are available during shoot times.

Over the past few years, Cotton noticed that photography services were declining due to an upward trend in selfie studios. The nearest selfie studio, however, being just outside Grand Rapids, made a long drive for Muskegon residents and did not offer clothes changes. So she took the opportunity to fill the gap, creating her own local studio.

During Christmastime, 2022, Cotton partially opened The Grand Selfie Studio where a nail salon used to be, providing clients photography services and dressing room use.



She is planning to renovate the other parts of the studio to accommodate ten to fifteen selfie stations and a soundproofed room for podcast recordings. Each selfie station will be equipped with sliding, lightweight walls, paper backdrops of many kinds, and various props that Cotton's clients may use during photo and selfie shoots.

According to Cotton, the solid-color backdrops are frequently requested by her clients. Other backdrops available relate to recurring holidays. And others are greenscreens, so that photos and videos can be edited more easily and clients will have options of more personalized custom designs.

Cotton also offers a 360 Photo Booth, where people can make videos and take selfies with a spinning mount for their cameras, phones, or tablets.



Utilizing as much wall space as possible, Cotton will make each selfie station wheelchair accessible and the selfie studio spacious from check-in to exit.

The studio will also supply free Wi-Fi and provide for client privacy.

Cotton welcomes walk-ins and intends to post advertisements on the studio's big outer windows.

She hopes The Grand Selfie Studio will be ready and fully open in time for the Valentine's Day season, decorated with many backdrops themed for the holiday.

Cotton started LJ Grand Photography, the company that umbrellas The Grand Selfie Studio, out of her living room in 2018, starting with taking pictures of her kids. Then she took pictures of

Homeschool Graduates...



Taylor Renae Ball

I enjoy listening to music, playing piano, sketching, hanging out with family and friends, and enjoy being around horses. I've played basketball for 11 years and I'm also a diehard Green Bay Packers fan. I've seen all of the Pirates of the Caribbean movies more times than I could count and know them by heart, and same with most of all the Marvel movies. I'm going to work at Grace Adventures Paradise Ranch this summer as a camp counselor for the summer. I hope to go to cosmetology school or go to college for business.



Hannah Grace Beggs

I enjoy horseback riding, biking, hunting, hiking, and 2-tracking, as well as spending time with family. My hobbies include sewing, baking, cooking, and raising goats. My plans for the summer are to raise a market goat for the county fair and help my brothers learn the ropes of a goat project as well.



William Daniel LaVern Brown

I enjoy listening, reading, or watching any shape or form of storytelling be it books, movies, plays, songs, or funny stories from a friend. This is why I have been in 6 theatrical productions. My future plans are to have a gap year to job shadow and figure out a game plan and then charge into college able to come out debt free!



Jocie S. Churchley

I have been working at Chick-fil-A in Muskegon since it opened in January of 2021. After graduation, I plan to stay with the company, pursuing a career in marketing. Outside of work and spending time with family and friends, I enjoy going to the beach, journaling, and hiking. I strive to be content where God currently has me and obedient to where He will call me in the future.



Kendall Jay DeBoer

I have been Homeschooled since my freshman year of High School and life has been a lot different ever since. Having freedom with my time and schooling, Has given me the ability to discover my interests and passions. I love to dirt bike, 4-wheel, snowboard and go hunting and fishing. Over the past few years I've had more time than ever to explore these passions. Throughout this time I've learned to follow God's will and to listen and obey. "We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had decided to let them become like his own Son, so his Son would be the first of many children." Romans 8:28-29 CEV

other people's kids, and eventually transformed the room into a photo studio and invited more clients. After about a year, with a desire to master photography, she moved her business into a photo studio on the second story of My Space Office & Storage on Getty Street before coming to The Lakes Mall.

Other avenues of Cotton's business include an eight-week after-school photography course at Muskegon High School, and volunteer photo sessions available to patients and their families at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.



David Josiah Domont

I am the third child, oldest son, of Scott and Christine Domont (Fruitport, MI). I have been home educated my entire life. I have participated in Civil Air Patrol, continue in TaeKwonDo, volunteer with Awana, and after completing a 30-hour race in WI last year I have found an enjoyment in Adventure Racing. I have worked in landscaping and construction the last two summers of high school, and I plan to work construction throughout this summer as well. I am interested in ministry work, with a heart toward Russia. I continue to seek the Lord's leading in my life, taking each step as it is made clear for me.



Wesley Scott Domont

I am the fourth child, second son, of Scott and Christine Domont (Fruitport, MI). I have been educated my entire 16 years, and with graduating early am taking a year to work with my Dad building fences and pursuing some interests. I have participated in Civil Air Patrol, continue in TaeKwonDo, volunteer with Awana, and enjoy bike riding. I also enjoy doing bike and phone repairs, and have a particular interest in learning how things work. I will be using this "gap" year to seek the Lord's direction for my life, and pursue opportunities as He provides.



Emma Pearl Eitniar

I have been homeschooled my whole life. I enjoy walking, biking, fishing, camping, playing cards, and spending time with friends and family. I plan on getting a full time job in childcare, and look forward to seeing what else God has planned for my life.



Addison Ellise Fisk

I plan to attend Northpoint college in the fall, to pursue an education in worship ministry. I enjoy spending my free time skiing, being outside and raising my chicken army. My biggest goal in life is to continue following Jesus, and wherever He takes me, I will go.



Grace Olivia Jackson

I have been homeschooled since 1st grade and I have loved my homeschool journey. I am the oldest child of Richard and Darcie Jackson. After graduation I plan on working and seeing where God leads with the possibility of starting my own business. I like to read, play piano, sing in my church's worship band and spend time with my family and friends. My favorite Bible passage is Matthew 5:14-16.



Aleia Danielle Lenz

I've been blessed to be in music for thirteen years of my life, and I get to continue that education this fall at WMU, double majoring in flute performance and music education. I dearly love (in no particular order) Bridge Bible Church, classical music, and my sister.