

## *I just wanted to own a little quilt shop....*

*I would like to say that owning a Quilt shop was my life long dream, but for me it was the furthest thing from my mind when my husband purchased me a Bernina 1630 from Sew Special as a Christmas Gift. I was a stay-at-home Mom and I wanted to learn as much as I could about the machine. While my children were in pre-school, I would go to the shop and take lessons. These lessons led to helping out a day or two a week.*

*In 1998 when the BERNINA 180 was introduced I offered to go to the training for the software that went along with this machine. My profession was in computer science, and I missed working with computers terribly. I went to this training, and I realized I had found something I loved...integrating a computer with my love of sewing.*

*My Husband, being the supportive man he is, offered to invest some money into the store so I could build the sewing machine area of the business. After a near scare with Bernina pulling the dealership, I worked to build the business and share my two passions..computers and sewing. The business reached a point where we needed to move closer to San Antonio, or close. Again in 1999 my husband jumped in and financed the move to Leon Springs, and I became to sole owner of Sew Special.*

*We have been in Leon Springs for over ten years. We have grown, almost failed, and grown again. I have watched my kids grow up during these years, and was always grateful that owning my own business allowed me to be home afterschool with them. My dream now is to find land to build my own building. I have so many dreams of what I could do if I had a bigger store. Someday, maybe we will realize this dream also.*

*If I had any advice for someone thinking about opening a quilt shop....*

*Remember, you are opening a business! That means rent, payroll, employees, debt and many sleepless nights. There is a misconception sometimes that you get to sit around and sew all day. In reality, you help others, inspire others and manage a small business, which can and does have its own rewards, but quite possibly not the ones you think it will have.*