

Unique service

Duluth woman watches as her business in organization continues to grow and grow

By Janelle Verke
Managing Editor

Kim Schlichting-Yeakle has what one would call a knack for organization. Pair that with her calming spirit and go-getter attitude and there was only one thing for her to do — start a business that put her natural talents to good use.

Schlichting-Yeakle, owner of Northland Organizing, inc., is a professional organizer who started her business in 2005 and has never looked back.

“The biggest thing about doing this was that I realized I was able to really help people,” she said. “It is so rewarding for me.”

Schlichting-Yeakle said she started the business during a time when HGTV was doing shows on organizing, and more and more people were talking about hoarding as a disease.

“I realized there was a real need for something like this in our area,” Schlichting-Yeakle said. From that time on she started networking and building a client base. “It has become a full-time job for me.”

Working with a wide range of people — from those who are chronic hoarders to those who just need a little extra hand — Schlichting-Yeakle has found that many people are in need of the services she provides.

“This is a 24/7 kind of job,” she said. “But at the same time I am able to keep my own schedule.”

She has been known to tackle some of the most heart-wrenching cases of hoarding by entering into a client’s life and helping them face their issues and then



Star Photo by Janelle Verke

Kim Schlichting-Yeakle of Duluth has started a unique business. Owner of Northland Organizing, inc., Schlichting-Yeakle, above, provides a number of services as a professional organizer.

find a solution that works for them personally. A member of the National Association of Professional Organizers (NAPO), Schlichting-Yeakle keeps up on the latest trends and ways to help others.

Another way she is becoming well known is for her twice-annual rummage sale.

“I started out by helping people sell things they didn’t need anymore on craigslist.com,” Schlichting-Yeakle said. “Eventually I decided to have a sale, and it has just taken off.”

A call to Schlichting-Yeakle about her sale gets one started on a journey to relief. One client she recently helped was going through the “nesting” phase of a second pregnancy. Sorting through clothing and items the family didn’t need anymore was more than enough for the client, who eventually called Schlichting-Yeakle to pick up the items to sell in her rummage sale, rather than tackle that part on her own.

“It’s a good way to put my skills to work,” she said. When she picks up rummage

sale items, she will either price them herself for 50 percent of the profit, or she will take 25 percent of the profit if the items are already priced.

It is a lot of work for Schlichting-Yeakle, but in the end she said she feels very rewarded in having helped those who need the service. After the sale, she donates leftover items (with the clients’ permission) to Goodwill, Safe Haven Women’s Shelter or Bethany Crisis Nursery.

“This has been a great thing for me,” Schlichting-Yeakle said. “I feel like I’m really making a difference.”

Schlichting-Yeakle will hold her annual spring rummage sale with 14 clients and a variety of items in the next few weeks. Please watch the classified section of the *Hermantown Star* for more information. For more information on Northland Organizing, inc., visit Schlichting-Yeakle’s Web site at northlandorganizing.com.