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Posted: 12:00 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2012

BUSINESS PROFILE: KETTERING

Couple's business offers repair of damaged furniture

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By Beth Anspach

KETTERING — Kettering resident Mark Cummin, like thousands of other former Delphi workers, found himself without a job in 2006 when the plant closed. Mark's background was in machine and tool, so he and his wife, Raelynn, knew that he could put those skills to use in other ways.

What the business does: Mark purchased a Fibrenew franchise in 2008 after determining the concept was unique and fit within the couples' lifestyle.

"We repair and recolor leather, fabric upholstery, plastics and vinyl," Raelynn said. "We have repaired items from couches to airplane seats to booths in restaurants."

The couple works to color match every item and they do most of their work on site, though, according to Raelynn, they sometimes have to bring items to their shop.

The process is simple. Customers call and describe the repair they need and the Cummins go to the home or business to do a free evaluation.

"We don't have to take away most items but if it's a huge dye job, we don't want to spray in a home or business," Raelynn said.

The process takes a few hours and involves a technique that fills in holes and makes the repair virtually invisible. the company offers a one year warranty on their work. "We've never had to honor any warranties so far," Raelynn said.

Recent Developments: Fibrenew Dayton has developed a partnership with Morris and Ashley Furniture stores in Dayton, which has helped the Cummins build their customer base.

"They (Morris and Ashley) probably refer people to us daily," Raelynn said. "They sell more furniture in the area than any other store, hands down, so people call them, often years later, with a repair issue. Most of the time, we will get these calls."

According to Mark, the company is unique because it encourages repair and recycling and "keeps things out of the landfills."

"What we do not only helps people but is also good for the environment," he said.

Contact information: call the Fibrenew Dayton at 937-293-1626 or log on to www.fibrenew.com/dayton.

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