

Accountant seeks to help people succeed

By Arlene Bachanov Daily Telegram July 23, 2012



Mike Dickie

Danielle Shepard of Tecumseh recently opened D.C. Shepard Accounting Services.

TECUMSEH, Mich. — As a student, Danielle Shepard already had long known she wanted to be in a profession that helped people. She originally thought about becoming a nurse, but a couple of on-the-job training experiences were enough to convince her that nursing wasn't for her after all. Becoming a teacher was another possibility, but she decided against that too, fearing that the demand for teachers just wouldn't be there. But then one day, in talking to her stepfather, she told him she would love to help people as a tax preparer. He suggested that she become a bookkeeper, and the seeds of what eventually became D.C. Shepard Accounting Services were planted. Shepard, who grew up in Britton and started learning about accounting in high school, attended Jackson Community College and Siena Heights University, where she earned her bachelor's degree. In addition to working in accounting, she did income taxes including helping with the Community Action Agency's tax-preparation program.

Eventually, she decided she wanted to run her own business, and opened D.C. Shepard Accounting Services two months ago. She operates the firm out of her home at 4341 Dillingham Drive, Tecumseh, where she lives with her husband, who works for the University of Michigan as a steamfitter, and their three children, ages 9, 6, and 5. Shepard sees her new business as being "part of helping individuals and businesses achieve success on a fundamental level: in their finances." She can provide a full range of services, whether it be to a business that needs an accountant for just a few hours' work, a CPA firm needing bookkeeping help, or someone who wants professional tax, budgeting or other assistance such as, perhaps, paying bills and tracking finances for an older person.

She also offers QuickBooks setup and consultation and will soon be able to present seminars to businesses as a certified QuickBooks Pro Adviser. Clients get a free consultation, either at her office or the client's location, at which time she will go through their needs and build the appropriate package of services for them. Each package has a flat rate. To her, the ability to work one-on-one with clients is one of the things she likes best about running her own business, because it fits right in with her personality. "I'm a people person," she said. "I need people. I need to help people succeed."

Shepard's business hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. She can be reached at 517-815-1630 or on her cellphone at 442-6139. A website is currently under construction.