

Hillside Tee's & More LLC, Laura Malone

Laura Malone's family moved from South County to High Ridge in the winter of 1977. Soon after, a severe snow and ice storm hit the district keeping schools closed for over a month. While Laura was involved in a few activities during her time at NHS, she attended Jefferson College's half day program her junior and senior years leaving her little time for activities or becoming acquainted with other students. While she felt rather unknown up to her graduation from Northwest High School in 1979, her bright, smiling face and outgoing personality were welcomed when her three daughters attended NHS and Laura began her tee shirt business.

She met her husband Keith at her graduation party in June of 1979. At this time, she worked full time and later attended college part-time studying for a degree in accounting. She and Keith continued dating, married in July of 1982, and welcomed their first of three daughters, Amanda, in April of 1984. Andrea and Ashley followed in 1986 and 1987 filling the house with many a memory to come.

After the girls were born, Laura desired to spend more time at home with the girls and left her full time employment for a part-time job at Sears. During her 10 years at Sears, she was Top Sales Performer several times and earned many awards for her outstanding sales year after year. In 1998, Laura left Sears and opened Hillside Tees & More LLC, a t-shirt and embroidery business. She quickly discovered a need in her own community for t-shirts, especially for clubs, groups, organizations, classes, various sports at NHS and soon became known as The T-Shirt Lady! She spent hours meeting with sports teams, classes, organizations, and other school groups discussing, designing, and taking orders for tees. Over the years, she made many friends as she stopped in the office or wandered the halls delivering tees.

Her business became a tremendous avenue to become involved in the NHS she'd not known, make friends and acquaintances in the community, and help those in need in various, creative ways. She's held several fundraisers, sometimes giving her earnings to those in need, donated clothing to children, sold t-shirts at fundraisers only to return her profits to the event, or helped in other ways needed.

During her 24 years in business, she has been involved in several fundraising events. Laura has always been there to help others in any possible way. She has donated money through fundraising and endlessly helped families in need. For example, she has donated clothing to children in need, sold t-shirts at fundraisers and given the profits back to the event. She has always donated when asked; whether it be with cash or tees, she continues to help others.

Obviously, fundraising has always been true to Laura's heart, and while she has made thousands of t-shirts for various causes throughout the years, one particular event that Laura is extremely proud to make and sell her colorful, creative tees to is participants and supporters of the annual NHS Katie Fisher Powderpuff game. This amazing community event has raised over \$120,000 providing over 194 \$500.00 scholarships to NHS seniors.

As if not busy enough, in 2017 Laura opened an on-line ladies' boutique which she absolutely loves. Through this she has met many wonderful ladies and recently celebrated her fifth-year anniversary of business. Her boutique carries a ladies' line of clothing and, of course, t-shirts. Through the boutique, Laura continues fundraising for various events and has matched what the event raised on different occasions. Laura's successful career, her passion to help others, her loyalty to friends and family, her strong people skills, and her enthusiasm for life make her well deserving of the Distinguished Friend of the Alumni.