

# 100,000 Tassels: ‘My whole thing is doing something bigger than myself’

BE THE CHANGE

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Kim Adams dreams of giving \$100,000 to local organizations and individuals in need over the next five years through her 100,000 Tassels

There are a lot of people out there who have it in their heart to give to others, and the ways in which they accomplish it are varied based on their circumstances. That’s the beauty of it, I think. Giving isn’t just about writing a check — though it can be. It’s not just about showing up to dish up a meal at a soup kitchen — though it can be. Really, the giving spirit can be tailored in so many ways that the possibilities are endless.

I sat down earlier this week with Kim Adams and learned a little about her and a project she’s working on in the hopes of giving \$100,000 in Lapeer County over the next five years or less. It’s kind of a retirement bucket list goal built on the remnants of her previous work, and it’s pretty unique.

Adams, 61, grew up in North Branch and now lives in Attica with her husband. She went to cosmetology school after high school and worked for Mike’s Barber Shop in North Branch for a few years before opening her own business at the age of 22 — Dynamic Design in North Branch. It was through her work doing hair that Adams first connected with a cancer patient who came in to have her hair done when it began growing back after chemotherapy. Shortly after the appointment, Adams received a thank-you from the client, who said the experience had been life-changing.

That was a profound moment for Adams.

“That’s a pretty powerful thing to happen, when someone tells you that you changed their life,” she said. “That’s as good as it gets.”

From there, Adams felt led to get into the wig business even though she had no experience in it, and life led her from North Branch to Metamora to Lapeer. She met a young woman named Katie Kirkpatrick who was fighting cancer and participated in the intimate experience of shaving off Katie’s golden hair, which had begun to fall out from her treatments. That touched her heart, and she opened Katie’s Spa in Lapeer in 2005, retiring in 2022. Throughout her years in the hair and wig business, Adams also got into the business of creating clip bows, turbans and other accessories, which she manufactured and shipped worldwide — always thinking of the connection that she was making with people, wondering who would be wearing it. Upon retirement last year, she was left with “a warehouse full” of materials, and now she’s dreamed up a way to put those to good use and give back through her 100,000 tassels project.



KRYSTAL MORALEE

The tassels Adams creates can be worn as jewelry, purse adornment, high school and college wear, pet collars and more. She has more than 3,000 already, and her plan is to create more and sell them, with the intention of giving the proceeds away as needs arise in the community.

“My whole thing is doing something bigger than myself,” she said. “There are so many beautiful charities in Lapeer.”

Adams has a vision of not only selling her tassels at local events — such as Ladies Night Out on Friday in downtown Lapeer — but also connecting with local groups to have tassel-making events, just for fun and community spirit.

“This is not about me. This is not meant to be about me. This is all of us,” she said. “I just want to make a difference, and I have all the stuff.”

To learn more about Adams and her 100,000 Tassels project, visit [100000tassels.com](http://100000tassels.com).