

Deberdoo's Door Decor

"I make wreaths to unwind," Debbie Droesler says. "It keeps your mind off of all the busy stuff going on."

The Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 member says she always has had an artistic bent and enjoyed crafts and do-it-yourself, even holding her own little art shows while in elementary school.

A few years ago, she started following and joining some craft groups online, and soon found herself creating wreaths of her own. "My friends were like, 'Wow!' " the carrier recalled, and they suggested that she try to sell them.

Droesler began joining more advanced craft groups and watched YouTube tutorials to increase her skill level. She eventually took her friends' advice, and two years ago she created a Facebook page to offer her completed designs, [facebook.com/DeberdoosDoorDecor](https://www.facebook.com/DeberdoosDoorDecor). The name honors her father, whose nickname for her was "Deberdoo."

Though wreath-making is a big business, Droesler has purposely kept her operation small. She said

that with a family, including three children and a dog, she usually devotes only an occasional hour or two in the evening to her creative projects, and possibly some extra time on Sundays.

She tries to make wreaths for every major holiday, but she had so many orders last year that she was constantly busy. Her kids would be asking, "What's for dinner?" she said with a laugh.

The carrier wanted to take a step back from that situation. Now, she says, "I do it as a hobby, but if I sell one here and there, great." She mostly sells locally, but has shipped out some to customers. But, she emphasized, "I don't do it for the money."

Droesler begins the creative process by picking out some sort of decorative item or sign to use as a focal point. "I really just look at the sign and pull colors [from it]," she said. "I look for fun ribbon."

Her creations are priced from \$15 for a simple decoration like a candy cane to \$50 for a more involved wreath. She sometimes receives specific requests from potential customers. One buyer asked for a fall wreath but requested that Droesler "throw some turquoise in there." Another customer inquired about having a wreath made for every holiday, like a subscription service. Droesler says that at this point, she thinks the customer has been provided one for almost every major holiday.

The 20-year letter carrier has even made a wreath for her post office, featuring North Pole Air Mail, which has adorned the front lobby for three holiday seasons now. She starts up Christmas crafts in early November and will play Christmas music "to get me in the mood," she said—even though the early celebrating causes some teasing from her children.

The carrier makes her crafts at home. She took a corner of the basement and dedicated an area to what she calls "my craft dungeon."

She puts the wreaths on hangers with a bag over them and hangs them around the basement, which also contains many racks for ribbons and other supplies. Though her hands are her main tool for her designs, she also uses pipe cleaners, decorative mesh, ribbons and glue guns to produce her creations.

"Most of the time it looks like a bomb went off," Droesler said of her work space.

"Fake bakes" are a new creation she's producing. "I've been doing so much of that lately," she said. It includes making realistic-looking food items such as hot chocolate, candied apples or pie. They can be used as decorations on their own, or as Christmas ornaments.

Since crafts have become the "thing to do



Debbie Droesler



Left: Some of her fake bakes
Right: A holiday wreath Droesler posted on Facebook



this year” during quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she says, some supplies (such as lightweight spackle, which she uses to simulate whipped cream in her fake bakes) are hard to get. Wreath frames also are more difficult to come by now—Droesler says she’s lucky she ordered a whole case of them a year ago.

Droesler doesn’t advertise her business; she garners attention for her wares entirely through Facebook and by word of mouth.

A few of her co-workers have ordered from her, too. When a fellow carrier who had bought from her in the past joined the “last punch bunch” recently, she made her a postal-themed wreath for her co-worker’s retirement that included a small LLV. “She loved

it,” Droesler said, adding that wreaths “make nice gifts.”

Many craft vendors set up shop at craft fairs, but Droesler hasn’t done so, as she prefers to only craft in her spare time. “I pretty much make a wreath, post it [on Facebook], and it’s sold,” she said, adding that she has no inventory like most sellers.

People have asked her to teach how to make wreaths, though so far, she jokes, she doesn’t think she has acquired the patience to do so.

Droesler has, however, gone live on Facebook to show Deberdoo’s Door Decor followers how to do a “fun and simple” craft that she says she

wouldn’t feel right selling because it is so easy to make. She likes the live format because it also gives her an opportunity to sit and chat with friends while creating.

Making decorations is “not as hard as it looks,” she says. “Anyone could do it.”

Droesler says making things can be cathartic. “For me, it’s kind of a therapy,” she says, noting that “after my father passed away, my mom and I took up ceramics [for a while]. It quiets all the noise.” **PR**

Last chance to donate through Combined Federal Campaign

There’s still time to sign up for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the federal workplace charitable giving program, but don’t hesitate; the last day to enroll or make changes during Open Season is Jan. 15.

As federal employees, letter carriers can participate in the CFC by making charitable donations via deductions from our paychecks. Pledges made during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations chosen by the donor. Carriers can select which groups they want to support from a list of more than 2,000 eligible charities, and an amount of their choosing will be deducted from their paychecks each pay period and automatically sent to each charity.

If retired letter carriers choose to donate, they will follow the same steps, but their selected amount will be deducted from their annuity payments.

Go to the CFC Donor Pledging System at cfcgiving.opm.gov to see the list of eligible charities and to sign up to donate.

Three charities on the CFC list have ties to NALC:

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is NALC’s only official charity. It is the world’s leading non-profit health organization sponsoring research into the causes of, and effective treatments for, neuromuscular diseases. MDA research grants support about 150 research projects worldwide, as well as camps and activities for children who have one of these diseases. For more information, go to mdausa.org. MDA’s CFC number is 10561.

The Postal Employees’ Relief Fund (PERF) provides financial support to active and retired postal employees whose primary residence has been

completely destroyed or left uninhabitable by a major natural disaster or an isolated house fire. The charity is run by the four postal employee unions and three management organizations, whose members support PERF through voluntary donations. Information and applications for PERF assistance can be found at postalrelief.com. PERF’s CFC number is 10268.

United Way Worldwide is the leadership and support organization for the network of nearly 1,800 community-based United Way organizations in 40 countries and territories. United Way focuses on creating community-based and community-led solutions that provide the foundation for a good quality of life: education, financial stability and health. For more information, go to unitedway.org. United Way’s CFC number is 10322. **PR**