



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Small Business Series Focuses on Bradley's Gift & Home and the Knoxville Chocolate Company

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Joy Hamlett, owner of Bradley's Gift & Home and the Knoxville Chocolate Company. The West Knoxville store houses everything from home décor to women's accessories and an array of chocolate gifts from their onsite kitchen, hundreds of handmade items with signature recipes.

Mayor Jacobs' bi-weekly small business series is comprised of video interviews airing on Wednesdays on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms. The discussions offer folks the opportunity to talk about what they do; highlight their work; and share any plans for the future. This month the Mayor highlights the achievements of women business owners as part of Women's History Month.

"Realizing it was okay to not have to do it all was important," Hamlett said. "I think there is this expectation that you have to do it all and have your business and work it all the time and try to be a good mom. I had to learn very quickly to separate. My kids are so gracious knowing that we have this business and they're part of it, but it's been fun for them to grow up here and to see what hard work looks like, what serving are community looks like and loving our neighbors as well."

Hamlett met her husband Brad in 2000 and they married two years later. With Brad already owning the chocolate operation since 1995, Joy saw an opportunity to expand by offering various gifts to pair with the chocolate.

"We have our kitchen onsite now which is amazing," she said. "We expanded even more to bring the kitchen back onsite, which we felt was an important part of the experience. Our best seller is our chocolate covered popcorn."

The Mayor and Hamlett also discussed the challenges of being a parent and owning a business, the value of having a fearless business mindset, and how learning from mistakes is key for any successful business.

To hear more of what was said during the interview, check out the [video](#).

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