

The Small Business Spotlight

is on...

THE POWELL STUDIO
SCRANTON, PA
WWW.THEPOWELLSTUDIO.COM
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When thinking of landmark Scranton businesses, *The Powell Studio* in Green Ridge stands out. The photography studio just celebrated its 75th year in business, having started by noted photographer James Boniface Schriever, whose works are housed in the Library of Congress. *The Powell Studio* has changed hands several times with Gigi Holmes and her husband, Paul, purchasing it in 1997. In this month's *Small Business Spotlight*, Mrs. Holmes discusses the business's evolution over its storied history.

The Powell Studio is a long-standing business in our area—what made you take it over?

I started working at Powell Studio in 1983 while I was attending the University of Scranton. I would work in the day and go to school in the evening. My degree is in Business Administration. After I graduated, I knew I loved the photography business, so I began to work at the studio full-time and haven't looked back. I have worked here for 35 years and have owned it for the past 21 years.

What do you love most about what you do?

I can honestly say that I love to come to work every day – I get to see people at the happiest times of their lives. I have seen generations of customers grow up in front of my lens. It makes me feel that I am a part of their lives. Our customers, young and old, always say, "There is nothing like a Powell Portrait," when picking up their images because you don't often see the traditional black-and-white images that we do.

“Our membership has helped us expand new business in many ways”

In the age of digital and cell phone cameras, why should people still go to a professional photographer?

One main reason to still go with a professional photographer to capture your special moments is the quality and the customer service that you

get with us. We, as professionals, can bring out the best of a person in our photos—we also have special tools to help enhance photos that apps don't have.

How does your business give back to the local community?

We give back to the community by supporting a wide variety of charities and fundraisers.

How has your Chamber membership helped your business?

Our membership has helped us expand new business in many ways – for example, we have had clients tell us they discovered us through the annual Business and Buyers' Guide.

Get in the Spotlight!

Every month, The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce features a member small business in the Small Business Spotlight. Don't miss your chance to be seen! Visit scrantonchamber.com to apply for membership or to fill out a Small Business Spotlight application today!