



**LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE** — Tenn. Comfort specializes in Tennessee made and Tennessee themed items. The T-shirts are hand printed by Crystal Tucker of Tucked & Threaded

## GIFT IDEA: Tennessee made, Tennessee themed

Spend more than a minute talking with Jay Burgart and he'll use his store slogan in the conversation.

"You gotta love where you live," he says, explaining how a North Carolina man ends up selling Tennessee merchandise.

Tennessee Comfort, which opened on Lindell Street in Martin in September, is a specialty store, and its specialty is Tennessee-made, Tennessee-themed items.

From handmade soaps and lotions to soybean candles, all of which make great stocking stuffers, to Dolly Parton mugs, Tennessee shirts and "world's softest" socks, the store sings Tennessee's tune.

Burgart, the former owner of Northwest Repurpose, a consignment shop at the same location, decided to change the theme of his store just in time for the Soybean Festival.

But he soon found his new idea wasn't quite as simple as it sounded. The first two items he ordered, he found when they arrived, were made in China. That was not part of his scheme.

"Then I started looking

for Tennessee people who actually made things," he says. After "quite a bit of research," he has stocked his Tennessee store with only items made in Tennessee.

T-shirts are made by Crystal Tucker of Tucked and Threaded in Greenfield, greeting cards come from a woman in Knoxville, and a man in Obion County



makes wooden signs in the shape of the state out of barn wood.

Whether shopping for yourself or for someone special for the holidays, Tennessee Comfort offers something you won't find in any other local store.

"Love where you live," it says on the door.

Tucked and Threaded is another local shop that offers one-of-a-kind items perfect for someone on your shopping list.

Owned by Crystal Tucker, this Greenfield business

specializes in hand-printed apparel and accessories. The hand-printing process is much higher quality, and lasts longer, than vinyl printing.

One of Tucker's most popular designs simply says "731," a meme urging local shopping and local businesses. Other designs include fall and Christmas motifs and catchy sayings such as "In a Field of Roses, Be a Wildflower."

Tucked and Threaded sells women's and children's custom T-shirts, sweatshirts, canvas totes and much more. If you can dream it up, Tucker can turn it into something wearable.

For December the store has a "12 Days of Christmas" promotion, where visitors to its Facebook page can win free merchandise each day from local businesses. The promotion runs Dec. 1-12.

T&T is basically an on-line business now, but its products can be found in local stores like Tennessee Comfort. You can contact Tucker at tuckedandthreaded@gmail.com or visit her website, tuckedandthreaded.com.

# BLACK FRIDAY 2 DAY EVENT

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