

Debi's Ordinary People Collectibles

A need to see a particular group of people positively portrayed is what originally inspired Debi Mahdi, a graduate of Florida A&M University and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., to begin a hobby which turned out to be quite a successful endeavor. Debi's Ordinary People Collectibles began after friends and family members started asking to buy various pieces that were seen when displayed in her and husband Rashid's (member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.) home, around the Fall of 1994. Debi found that her shows went over well. The problem was that conducting the shows took away time that could be used for marketing and improving her product line.

Debi and Rashid pondered over this dilemma and the decision was made to concentrate and market their figurines wholesale. During the summer of 2000, Debi's Ordinary People introduced their first series of African American fraternity and sorority figurines. Vivid colors adorn each figurine that comes gift boxed. Sales soared from these uniquely sculpted, "one of a kind" figurines and art products.

Not an overnight success, many hours of dedication, hard work and sacrifice by this couple have gone into the making of this moderately successful business venture. Debi has expanded her line of products to include picture frames, art plaques, CD cases, "bling" sparkle-beaded ink pens, and, now, Diva Lady embroidered tote handbags, scarves, and umbrellas.

Recently, Debi introduced one of her most popular products—shopping diva tote handbags. The large chic "Diva" tote handbags are anything but ordinary! They are adorable, eye-catching, and exquisitely adorned with glitter, sequins, and embroidered jewel beading. These bags are not only available in trendy sorority colors/letters, but also available to all consumers in regular non-sorority colors/styles, as well. Demand for these reasonably priced trendy bags has been tremendous.

Debi notes that Black fraternities and sororities, like the Masons, do not stop fraternizing after college. There are many prosperous undergraduate, graduate and alumni chapters throughout the United States. "I get personal satisfaction knowing that our products give people pleasure and delight."