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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Welcome Home Gift Shop

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DÉCOR AND GIFT SHOP

Spread Holiday Happiness and Christmas Cheer!

For anyone looking to add a touch of charm and elegance to their home, Welcome Home by OBR Gift Shop is the perfect destination. Established by Connie Coots and the Odessa Board of REALTORS®, this delightful boutique offers a unique shopping experience filled with home decor, custom apparel, and one-of-a-kind gifts that you won't find anywhere else in the Odessa-Midland area.

At the helm of Welcome Home by OBR Décor and Gift Shop is Connie Coots, who has helped the shop grow and thrive. "Our purpose is to provide the community with a space where they can purchase distinctive gifts, beautiful home decor, and custom items," Connie shares. Welcome Home by OBR caters to a wide audience, from those looking to beautify their home to REALTORS® in need of the perfect closing gift.

As Connie says, "We started the store to provide quality gifts for buyers and sellers, and it's grown into something truly special. There aren't many boutiques like ours in Odessa." With its unique products, personalized service, and commitment to the community, Welcome Home is more than just a gift shop — it's a beloved destination that brings a little beauty to everyone who steps through its doors. Whether you are looking for jewelry or a charcuterie board, the friendly professionals at Welcome Home by OBR have you covered. "We also carry a large variety of signs for our REALTOR® members making it convenient for them to cater to their sellers."

Something For Everyone

What makes Welcome Home truly special is its dedication to curating unique, high-quality items. From art and candles to pillows and rugs, there's something to suit every style and taste. The store carries brands like Happy Everything and Voluspa Candles, which are





popular with their customers. "Everyone loves our Voluspa candles. They're one of our best-sellers," Connie explains.

In addition to home decor, Welcome Home offers custom drapery, floor lamps, door hangers, coffee table books, and more. Shoppers will also find stunning artwork, including pieces from Studio 67 Rugs, which are a highlight of the store.

REALTORS® have found Welcome Home by OBR to be an invaluable resource. Not only does the store carry home decor and gifts perfect for closing sales, but it also stocks items that are specific to their needs, such as open house signs. Members of the Odessa Board of REALTORS® receive exclusive discounts, making the boutique an even greater asset to the local real estate community.

Spreading Christmas Cheer

The holiday season is an especially magical time at Welcome Home, with popular lines like Glitterville making their appearance in the store. "People love our Christmas decorations, especially the

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We started the store to provide quality gifts for buyers and sellers, and it's grown into something truly special. There aren't many boutiques like ours in Odessa.

Glitterville items and the Mark Roberts designs we carry," Connie says. From 12-foot nutcrackers to beautiful Christmas pillows and trees, Welcome Home is the perfect place to stock up on festive decorations for the holiday season. Another standout line is the Queen of Sparkles, a favorite among shoppers during the holiday season.

Beyond its retail offerings, Welcome Home Gift Shop is committed to giving back to the community. Throughout the year, the shop hosts pop-up events and supports local nonprofits. A notable event on the calendar is the Christmas Tour of Homes, set to take place on December 8th, where four fabulous homeowners will open their homes to bring Christmas cheer while providing college scholarships to our local colleges – For more information, check out their website at www.odessarealtors.com. The boutique will showcase its dazzling array of holiday decor.

Expanding to Serve Clients

Since its inception, Welcome Home by OBR has grown tremendously. Originally a smaller operation, the store expanded after COVID, offering an even wider variety of products and increasing its visibility in the community. Now, with a larger space and an ever-evolving selection, the boutique continues to draw in shoppers who are excited to see what's new.

Check It Out

So whether you're a local REALTOR® in need of the perfect gift, or simply looking to spruce up your space, Welcome Home Gift Shop has everything you need and more.

For more information, visit Welcome Home by OBR Décor and Gift Shop at their Odessa location at 4708 E University in Odessa, TX, or check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/welcomehomeobr/boutique. As Connie says, "We get beautiful items in here all the time." Stop by and see everything they have to offer!







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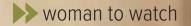
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By Jacki Donaldson Photos by The Stones Photo + Film

Williamson

Skyler Williamson has so many memorable client experiences that choosing the most special one is difficult. She recalls the 15 families she met at the closing table during her first year in real estate and the recent bittersweet journey of selling a close friend's house so she could move across the country. Selling her parents' home is also noteworthy, as it was her first transaction as a licensed agent. This milestone is also meaningful because the sale went under contract from the hospital room where Skyler was in labor with her daughter, Loni-Kate.

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Skyler was nine months pregnant when she got her license, and that first deal from the labor and delivery floor-during the pandemic-jumpstarted a career that has not slowed in the least. "Once I sold that first house, I never stopped," shares Skyler, whose now 4-year-old little girl often accompanies her mom on the job. "She is the funniest assistant," Skyler smiles. "She will say, 'Ooooo, this house is so pretty' or 'Mom, this room is really big."

Real estate emerged as a career path for Skyler shortly after graduating high school and attending college. Realizing she wanted to enter the workforce rather than pursue higher education, she accepted a position in 2018 at the age of 19 as an assistant for Amber Davis, Broker/Owner of Davis and Co. REALTORS®. Amber and Skyler already knew each other, and the partnership blossomed, with Skyler working in property management for two years. Inspired to do more in real estate, Skyler earned her license at age 21. Elevating her business year after year, she now averages about \$6 million in sales annually.

Leveraging her social media smarts, Skyler has expertly marketed herself across online platforms. Her Facebook page features her home-buying and selling activity and lifestyle content. Her "This or That?" series asks questions like "Would you prefer waking up to the peaceful sounds of the water or enjoying the wide-open space of an acreage property?" The

resources she posts address topics ranging from boosting curb appeal to the merits of energy-efficient appliances. Skyler also educates about current and relevant issues, like mortgage rates and choosing between a home equity loan and a home equity line of credit. Through the Lonestar Trails Facebook page, Skyler has become the go-to neighborhood REALTOR®, amassing roughly 40 home sales in her former neighborhood.

The clients who benefit from Skyler's efficient and effective efforts rave about her. "Skyler repeatedly went above and beyond for us," one happy buyer boasts. "She made herself available at all times, even working around my husband's crazy work schedule to show homes and answer questions late at night and any day of the week. She was extremely knowledgeable, and what she didn't have an answer for, she did the research to be able to get me the correct one. She's the most helpful, honest, and caring REALTOR® I've ever worked with." Other clients praise her finesse for delivering an easy buying and selling process. "Skyler had our house under contract in 23 hours after listing," one loyal seller comments. Skyler responds, "I am always willing to go above and beyond for my clients, even outside the homebuying process." Skyler's clients become friends, and then they become repeat customers.

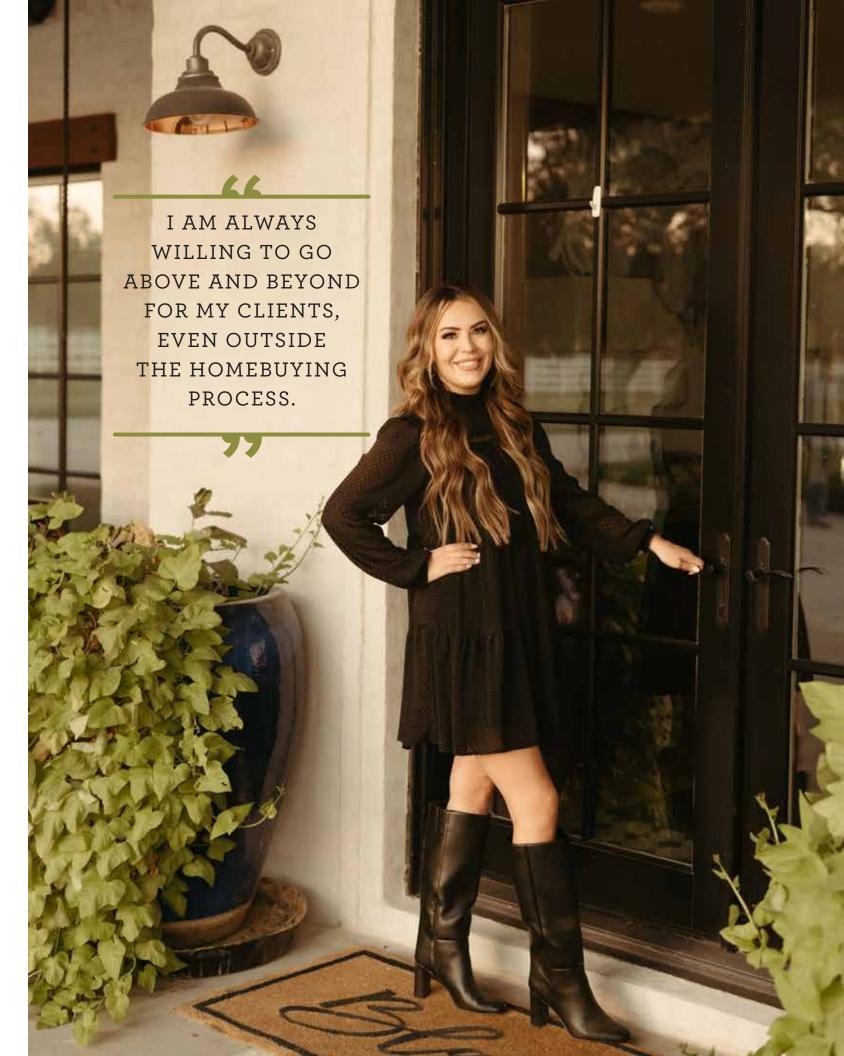
Contemplating what comes next for her in real estate, Skyler commits to extending her reach in the community and hustling. Both have served her well in the past four years, and she is proud of the outcome—seeing her clients reach their homebuying goals and start their new lives in their new homes.

When Skyler finds pockets of time to put her feet up and relax, she hangs out with her husband, Kwentan Williamson, and their sweet Loni-Kate. Skyler adores shopping when she carves out some solo time in her schedule, and the family loves hanging out with friends, including Amber. "Amber is family to us now," Skyler beams. "She is an amazing person all around."

Working with Skyler Williamson is like teaming up with a friend who happens to be excellent at real estate. She's the kind of person who makes everything seamless, whether answering questions late at night or helping clients navigate their transactions with a smile. From her fun and engaging social media posts to her dedication to exceeding expectations, Skyler supports her clients every step of the way—no wonder they trust her and then stick around as friends long after the deal is done.







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Alba's guiding principle is, "If you can dream it, you can achieve it." She embraces this mindset because she's lived it, and her mission is to make believers out of those who are walking in the same shoes she once wore. Serving a clientele that is 90% foreign and closing roughly 50 homes per year, Alba has built an impressive sphere, which has earned her an accomplished real estate career. During her first year in business, she closed \$2 million. She reached \$5 million during her second year, and every year since, she has amassed more than \$10 million.

Born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico, Alba moved to Odessa in 2009. She promptly enrolled in ESL classes to learn English and poured herself into raising her three children. In 2015, she began selling Direct TV at Sam's Club before moving into manufactured home sales, where she earned top-producer status. Then came real estate in 2018, inspired by her seven-year journey to buy her first home due to the challenge of finding a Spanish-speaking REALTOR® who could help her fully understand the process.

"I got my license to help people like me," shares Alba, who has become a champion for the Mexican market.

Communicating only in Spanish and leveraging social media, radio and TV appearances, and advertising, Alba's marketing efforts are far-reaching, and her repeat and referral business validates that she is making a difference. She speaks fondly of her first client, a Venezuelan man who found her on social media and recently closed on his third property with her. She is overcome with emotion when people stop her in the grocery store to thank her for helping a parent, an uncle, or a cousin, and to show her gratitude for the opportunity to change lives, she gathers her clients every year to celebrate Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a vibrant and deeply symbolic Mexican celebration that honors deceased loved ones. This year's event took place on October 31. It featured a tradition full of color, music, food, activities for the whole family, and a beautiful altar to honor the memory of loved ones.

KEYS TO THE AMERICAN DREAM



Most of Alba Estrada's closings culminate in heartfelt celebrations, with happy tears, bright smiles, and a flurry of photos and videos to commemorate the monumental milestones. One family's video captured their kids crying because they couldn't believe they had a house. "The clients I work with live with family members and in RVs," Alba explains. "They don't speak English, don't know the culture, and don't think they belong in nice neighborhoods. I tell them they do belong. Helping them achieve the American dream is what wakes me up in the morning ready to do more of what I do."

"Alba is truly an inspiration. The way she leads—with unwavering kindness, generosity, and gracesets a powerful example for all who know her. No matter the challenges or negativity she faces, she treats everyone with respect and compassion. Her ability to give wholeheartedly and uplift others has profoundly impacted my life, shaping not only the REALTOR® I strive to be, but also the person I aim to become. She has guided me through so much personal and professional growth. To know Alba is to admire her, and to learn from her is a true privilege." - Shawna Gonzalez,

Casabella Group

"Alba is such an amazing person, not only is she an amazing real estate agent, she's also a great woman and a great leader, she was such a big heart, and we all love her so much!" —Alejandra Madrid, Casabella Real Estate Group

"Alba has a remarkable gift for recognizing potential in people, even when they can't see it in themselves. She challenges you to reach your best and inspires you to aim even higher." -Andy Arellano, Casabella Group

"Alba Estrada has been an incredible mentor in my real estate journey, providing invaluable guidance with her patience and support. Her fairness and dedication to her clients are evident, as she consistently goes above and beyond to ensure their needs are met. Her kindness and passion for the field inspire me, and I aspire to embody her level of excellence in my own career." - Andrea De La Cruz,

Casabella Group

"Alba has a huge heart for helping people. She has that motherly instinct and makes nothing in the world seem impossible." -Berenice Esparza, Casabella Group



Helping them achieve the American dream is what wakes me up in the morning ready to do more of what I do.



Seven years into her career, Alba is still dreaming and achieving. She is now selling in Mexico, helping clients who bought here buy there with American income, and she is growing Casabella Group, the team she launched in 2021, alongside Shawna Gonzalez, Andy Arellano, Alejandra Madrid, Berenice Esparza, and Andrea De La Cruz. "They are thriving, they all speak Spanish, and they all have a niche," says Alba, who aims to expand her team into other cities and Mexico. She also sees the possible makings of a REALTOR® in her 12-year-old daughter, Isabella, who adores accompanying her mom at open houses. Alba also has a 19-yearold daughter, Melina, and an 11-year-old son, Omar. "They all have a servant heart," Alba beams.

Alba is planting roots-for herself, her family, and her clients. "Feeling at home here took me years, but once I became a homeowner and invested here, my mindset changed," she notes. "I am helping others believe in themselves and immerse themselves in the community because I never believed I could do all this, and here I am."

Alba Estrada's journey has become a beacon of hope for many, and each closing represents resilience, bridging cultures, and reshaping lives. Alba inspires others to envision their possibilities as she nurtures her growing team and extends her influence beyond borders. She is a powerful reminder that anyone can turn aspirations into reality in a world where dreams often feel distant. Her story is about more than personal success; it's about creating a legacy of empowerment and connection that resonates far beyond the closing table.



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