

# Marie Yakes



**Marie Yakes** owns a unique business in the brand-new Shadow Lake Towne Center shopping area in Papillion. **Sweet & Sassy's** unique children's hair salon, spa and celebration concept is served up in a bright, entertaining, and wholesome atmosphere that caters to young girls up to age 12 and boys to age six.

It's not just a special salon and day spa for kids. Sweet & Sassy can be the fabulous location for a girls' dream party with themes such as spa, karaoke, Hollywood star, princess, dress-up and more. "We want it to be fun for the girls and easy for the moms. We take care of the entire event from invitations to goodie bags, we'll even pick them up in our hot pink limo!" said Yakes. In addition, the onsite Sweet & Sassy Shoppe offers a "contemporary mix of fun 'tween-focused retail merchandise for every occasion."

Like many in the area, Yakes is retired Air Force. Explains Yakes: "That's what brought me to Nebraska. Since moving here, I've taught community college, done web development and was a training manager. I've been happy so far; I enjoyed every day I spent in the Air Force and I've had some great jobs that I loved but I've never been as excited about a new adventure as I am about Sweet & Sassy. I'm hoping everybody who visits will be as excited as I am. My biggest challenge as a new business owner is that there's so much to learn. Things like marketing, HR, contracts, and financing were all new to me. Fortunately I've found a great management team and the franchise has been very supportive."

"I took a few years, looked into several businesses and visited other franchises, but when I walked into the first Sweet and Sassy, it was love at first sight. My business is just starting up — so I admit there really isn't much balance right now — I work more hours now than I ever did before but I truly enjoy just about every one of them." Spoken like a true entrepreneur!

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