

LIFESTYLES

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GirlfriendsCafe

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You've always got a friend online

GirlfriendsCafe.com seeks to build a user base in Kentucky

By LEE WARD

The Independent

Two women determined to maintain a friendship despite geographical differences gave birth to the Web site *GirlfriendsCafe.com*, which just went online in the middle of February and aims to be a place for women in the United States and Canada to meet and make friends.

Co-founders Linda Allen, originally of Cincinnati and currently a resident of Daytona Beach, Fla., where the Web site's offices are, and Lee Davis of Salt Lake City, Utah, were unlikely friends, two women who lived on opposite ends of town and had no mutual friends. But both were single parents of boys who met while trying to track down the same man. "That's another story and another Web site," the "about us" section of the Web site states.

Eventually, their lives took them in different directions. But instead of growing apart, they developed the Web site to help them stay in touch and to fill a need many women discover in this mobile society; the need to make friends.

The free site is a meeting place for women and is based on the idea that "you can never have too many girlfriends." It's for women of all ages, marital statuses and interests. In the member's area, those who register have the opportunity to interact with others, even though personal information and e-mail are protected, the Web site says.

Specifically, the site is for:

- ▶ Singles whose friends have gotten married
- ▶ Newly divorced women whose friends are still married
- ▶ Stay-at-home moms with limited outlets for meeting other mothers
- ▶ Widows seeking friends with whom they have interests in common
- ▶ Someone whose closest friends have relocated
- ▶ Busy professional women with little time to make friends
- ▶ Someone new to an area who seeks to meet people

The site offers personalized online profiles, chat rooms, message boards, instant messenger, private post office, member blogs and advanced search capabilities.

Allen said there aren't many members in the Tri-State yet, but hopes its use will grow. She said most who use the site are interested in making new friends; the most used feature is instant chat. Allen said as membership grows, she and Davis hope to plan activities and meetings at which members get a chance to meet face to face.

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Insights about friendship

Books and friends should be few but good.
— Latin Proverb

A good friend is my nearest relation.

A hedge between keeps friendship green.

God defend me from my friends; from my enemies
I can defend myself.

Love is blind; friendship closes its eyes.

Love is blind. Friendship tries not to notice.

The best of friends must part.

"Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from your friend's forehead."
— Chinese Proverb, (sent by Julio Fung)

To have a friend, be a friend.

The death of a friend is equivalent to the loss of a limb.
— German Proverb

Life without a friend is like death without a witness.
— Spanish Proverb

The best mirror is an old friend.

May there always be work for your hands to do, may your purse always hold a coin or two. May the sun always shine on your window-pane, may a rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be near you, may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

— Irish Blessing

A cheerful friend is like a sunny day spreading brightness all around.
— John Lubcock (English Astronomer)

The only unsinkable ship is FRIENDSHIP.

SOURCE: friendship.com

Diamonds are nice! ... but the best things in life you can have ... are Girlfriends!

— **Motto of girlfriendsCafe.com**