

## Vendor Spotlight: Adorable Adoptables

By Laura Kirkpatrick

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For many people, crocheting is simply a hobby. For Kayla Williston, it's a business. Kayla creates beautiful, hand crocheted toys for people of all ages at her table at the Halifax Seaport Farmers' Market. Started only four years ago, her small business, Adorable Adoptables, brings joy to those who buy her unique and precious toys.

At first, crocheting was a hobby for Kayla—but then her creations started piling up. Since she was going through so many materials, she decided it was time to start selling. “I didn’t want to just throw it away,” she said. “I wanted it to go to people who really appreciate it.” A little over a year ago, Kayla applied to bring her business to the Seaport Farmers’ Market.



This hobby started as an extension of her knitting. In her university days, to help maintain focus on her studies, Kayla took to knitting to keep her hands busy. After a while, she decided to take on a new challenge and started to crochet toys. “It took me close to a year before I was really happy with what I was making,” she said. Kayla sought advice from fellow crochet artists and refined a lot of her methods.

Kayla’s table at the Market features adorable cartoon characters and sea life. Her favourite creation is her jellyfish, made from her own pattern. They’re even featured on her business cards and they’ve become her specialty. Kayla is also in the process of creating the original 150 Pokémon characters—she’s completed 78 so far.



Her favourite thing about being in the Market is when kids come over and gasp at her creations. She recalled a time when a young boy grabbed a jumbo jellyfish off her table and was told he couldn’t have it by his mother. A couple hours later, the mother returned and bought the jellyfish since her son was still crying about it. Once he had his hold on it, it looked like he would never let it go. “I nearly cried,” said Kayla. “I had my favourite toy growing up and maybe that would be his favourite.”

When asked what advice Kayla would give to future small business owners, she said: “Take people’s advice no matter how harsh it sounds. It’s all constructive advice that will help your business grow.”

