

# Rent-a-Royal for Your Kid's Party; Eye Spy Some Hot Tees

Boutiques, businesses and brands you may not know — but should.

By Lynne Konstantin

## GIVE AND GET

We love a lovely tee, and Project Iris has loads of them just launched for spring — buttery soft ring-spun cotton, form-fitting cuts with one-of-a-kind floral prints — perfect for yoga or hanging with the kids.

But the watercolor images of lotuses, vibrantly hued Queen Anne's lace and other nature-inspired and gorgeously detailed designs are more than just a pretty face. The Cincinnati-based brand was developed with a purpose — to give back.

Project Iris makes it easy to contribute to causes that help other women, says president and CEO Neil Hoynes. "With this line, we intend to raise awareness, and funds, to positively impact world hunger, malnutrition and the health of women and children in developing countries," like Honduras and Guatemala.

The company has partnered with World Food Program USA (wfp.org), the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, to contribute 5 percent of each sale toward providing nourishing meals for new mothers and their children in the most poverty-stricken parts of the globe.

We love it even more. Project Iris tees range from \$39-\$59. Log on to [projectirisclothing.com](http://projectirisclothing.com) to place an order. **RT**



## PRINCESS CHARMING



For a princess, Mikki Frank has to put in a lot of work hours; and, like Cinderella, she's not complaining. Since Frank started her business, the Singing Princess, in July 2010, she hasn't had a single weekend off.

When Frank goes to work, she usually dons a tiara from her collection, a custom-made gown that's the stuff of fairy tales — and a fanciful coif. She dusts off a magic wand or a mermaid's tail then heads off to make many a little girls' — and boys' — dreams come true.

As the Singing Princess, Frank visits children's birthday parties and gives them the show of shows. She arrives in full costume as the Little Mermaid, Belle from *Beauty and the Beast*, Snow White, Rapunzel or a host of others (including a few she's developed herself), depending on the birthday girl's whim.

Not to be left out, boys can choose from a pirate or a prince, who will serenade the group with a guitar to accompany the princess. She has written scripts for each character and will sing a magical story in her sweetly gorgeous voice, interactively engaging the group as she goes.

She then provides arts and crafts, plays games, sings "Happy Birthday" and allows plenty of time for posing for photos with all the little guests. Depending on the package parents choose, Frank may be accompanied by a Tinker Bell or Fairy Godmother assistant — and will give princess makeovers with plenty of sparkle.

Frank, mom to 4- and 7-year-old daughters and a 2-year-old son with her husband, Ivan, says she's had a passion for singing since her bat mitzvah and continued to sing and act throughout high school. While studying psychology at University of Michigan, Frank participated in two a cappella groups, Amazin' Blue and Kol HaKavod, a Jewish group

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## HERE AND NOW

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through U-M Hillel.

After graduation, she headed to New York, where she worked on the production end of *The Producers* before returning to Michigan, where she worked for Fenby Stein Entertainment, helping book wedding and event entertainment. For the last few years, she's focused on being a mom.

"With two little girls and their friends playing princess all the time, I have marveled at how the world of make-believe can transport them to such an amazing place," says Frank, who lives in West Bloomfield. As for her little guy, she says he "loves a good lullaby."

Fortunately, she says, business is brisk enough that she has recruited six actors and singers to create more availability, careful to vet others offering the same high-quality experience that she prides her business on.

"While more business is nice, the real payoff is the feedback we get from families," says Frank. "When we sing to a little girl, you have no idea the magic that shows on her face; it's the best part of the job." One might say it's a dream come true.

Parties range from 30 minutes to 2 hours; \$155-\$355. Contact the Singing Princess at (248) 429-9521; [thesingingprincess.com](http://thesingingprincess.com). **RT**



**Mikki Frank, Cinderella made princess.**