



This image captured by Sharon Ward is titled "Waiting Patiently." Two of Sharon's photos are featured on our home page rotation.

"Nashua Mom Grows Hobby into Business"

by Beth D'Ovidio, Director of Communications at Breathe NH
July 2008

Sharon Ward, a Nashua resident, has grown her hobby into a thriving business as a free-lance photographer. She became a member of the Photographers Forum Camera Club of Nashua, which allowed her to meet other photographers and the opportunity to take classes to learn about digital photography. She admittedly is self-taught. "I started my business in 2005 in response to the suggestion of my friends," said Ward. Ward's interest in photography began when she became a mother. "I have always taken tons of pictures of the girls (her two daughters)," she said. "And I'm always the one with the camera. My friends really encouraged me to take my hobby to the next level – my own photography business."

Ward is drawn to portrait photography, with a focus on children. She began by photographing the children of family and friends and her business has mushroomed. Her portfolio includes photos ranging from infant sittings to First Communion and Senior portraits. My goal with any session is to capture the most candid natural pose. I want to capture the real true spirit and personality of the child," she said. "It sometimes takes so many shots to just get that one or two that really show the child's personality – especially with children who are a bit camera shy."

Unlike many other photography services, Ward does on location shoots. She travels to homes or other locations, like parks, to photograph her subjects. She has a backdrop and other studio equipment she brings if needed when she travels. This allows the subjects to be much more relaxed and allows the photos to better capture the subject's true personality. "I want everybody to walk away happy with their portraits, therefore I spend some time getting to know my clients and focus on the details."

Ward also photographs landscapes and has done some product work, shooting jewelry for an artist who sells handmade jewelry through a website, as well as some corporate work. She has also done some political campaign photography. "I never get bored with this profession," she said. "There's a lot of diversity and there is always something new in this field – either with photography techniques or software."

Several of her photographs are featured throughout Breathe New Hampshire's website. Breathe New Hampshire is a statewide non-profit health organization that changed its name and website last year. One of her images was chosen for the Breathe NH banner which is used when traveling throughout the state to promote the organization. "We wanted to depict images that represented healthy breathing and were of people and places in New Hampshire," said Beth D'Ovidio, Director of Communications at the non-profit. "Sharon answered a request we put out for photos through photography clubs in the state. We were absolutely thrilled with her work and were so pleased she was willing to allow us to use it."

To view Ward's photos or to contact her, visit <http://www.sharonwardphotography.com> or www.breathenh.org