BY KATHLEEN BARBOSA
Staff Reporter

Ewenique Stitches owner Janina Snell didn’t let cancer or a business-threatening flood hinder her success.

One year after her diagnosis and flood damages, Snell is busy stitching Greek letters on 250 sweatshirts, and in just nine months of work since opening for operation on December 15, 2010.

Last November, Snell, a Northeast Missouri State University graduate, was diagnosed with cancer that spread from her neck to her lymph nodes. One morning after her 7:15 hour surgery to remove her thyroid and the region in her neck, Snell woke up to her newfound reality in Ewenique Stitches, where a flood damaged everything.

“[There was] one corner that was dry and in the back, I had a really bad roof and two or three doors uniform that had to be fixed for communicating that" Snell said. "The only dry corner in the entire building was the back door.

While the building owner spent two months on repairs, Snell was recovering from her surgery and beginning treatments.

“The drapes on her back had bunched up of course, and they were trying to remove the water somehow to try to see her. When she was able to walk again in March, Snell couldn’t take any new orders until the old ones before she became sick were finished. Luckily, Snell’s good friend, Sandy Stintle, was done by when she needed it.

“Trunked to Columbus [Mo.] twice, and when she needed help getting her Greek letters all caught up again. I helped her with out with all that,” Stintle said.

She is the owner of The Stitching Post, another local stitching shop and when she could not meet their shopping needs during her recovery time.

“It was one hell of a year,” Snell said. “But we made it through all of that.”

Her new black poodle is a surviving cancer present from herself. "Knock on wood." Snell said. "I'm really sweet.

"When the kids got back, I could breathe again," Snell said. "Before I picked up and moved from here." Receiving well-wishes on a card shaped like a T-shirt.

"It's such a cute and friendly store," Sophomore Claire Mahoney, Sigma Sigma Sigma member, is one of many regular customers at Ewenique Stitches.

"It's such a cute and friendly store," Mahoney said. "I'm really trying to do that."

Owner Janina Snell sews Greek letters on a hooded sweatshirt at Ewenique Stitches, a shop on The Square that stitches letters for Greek organizations on campus at Truman State University.

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