



# THE UNICORN TAVERN

## CHAMBER AMBASSADOR BRICK AWARD RECIPIENT

It's all about family for Garry & Kristal Boyd.

From their collective experiences traveling and working in restaurants around the world, having owned several well-known, small but successful, concepts throughout the Midwest, Garry & Kristal Boyd have curated The Unicorn Tavern to be a tribute to their years in the hospitality industry & their desire to provide a fun, family friendly dining and drinking spot in their own East End neighborhood (from their website: <https://www.theunicorntavern.com/our-story>).

Not only did the Boyd's want to open a restaurant in their Grand Haven neighborhood, they wanted involve their favorite things in life: their children and love of Belgium food & beer.

Their oldest daughter Charlie is a fan of mermaids. Their son CJ is a fan of dragons. Their daughter Mackenzie passed away at the age of 7 and she is their Unicorn. You can find touches and nods to their family throughout the restaurant with more Mermaid and Dragon additions in the works. Charlie & CJ are involved in the restaurant in other ways too including designing menu items and the décor.

They want to meet yours too – family photos The Boyd's and The Unicorn persevered through the many, many issues caused by the pandemic and were finally able to have their 3rd annual grand opening in February. The restaurant is a welcome addition to Grand Haven's eastside.

When you walk into The Unicorn, you are greeted by a host where you are able to sit either in the main dining room or at the bar. The feel of the space is like a cozy, eclectic den. There is even a lounge space in the corner by the bar for groups, social gatherings, or a place to do homework. In this corner, you are greeted by dozens and dozens of framed photos of families in the community. Everyone is welcome to bring in a framed family photo to add to the collage.

Drawing inspiration from Belgium, the Unicorn Tavern's menu features burgers and frites, and went to great lengths to make sure their frites (french fries) closely resemble what you would get in Belgium. Other menu items include Belgian Onion soup, Schnitzel, Bruges Hot Chicken, and Limoncello Cheesecake Brulee made with Chef Scotty's secret limoncello recipe. The menu offers vegetarian and gluten free options – but not a kids menu. Smaller portions of the main menu items are available for children or those with smaller appetites. The bar offerings are just as exciting and well curated with specialty cocktails, Belgian and Michigan beers, and wine on tap.

To make the magic of The Unicorn come to life, the Boyds have recruited over 50 talented staff members to join their restaurant family – 20 more than they originally planned. Once the warm weather hits, the patio will open to offer more seating in the sunshine. But the Boyd family isn't stopping there. Plans are underway to add The Dragon and The Mermaid to the location. The Dragon will offer a BBQ menu and The Mermaid will be a Tiki Bar.

With that, I would like to present the Chamber Ambassador's Brick Award to Garry & Kristal Boyd for bringing a magical unicorn to the Grand Haven area!

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The Unicorn Tavern is located at 415 S Beechtree St. in Grand Haven.

***Written by:***  
***Chamber Ambassador, Stefanie Herder***