

dsM:
2021

THE
PEOPLE
ISSUE



**The leaders showcased
in our 2021 publication
influence our city in
many ways. Each is part
of the rich and vibrant
tapestry of individuals and
organizations that make
our city a compelling place
to live, work and play.”**

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President and Group Publisher, BPC

THE PEOPLE ISSUE

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Letter from the Publisher



Welcome to the 2021 issue of **dsM – The People Issue**. Last year, we launched this special publication because we wanted to feature some of the local industry and community leaders who make our city great. The response to the publication was tremendous.

Soon after we unveiled last year's edition at a splendid event, the pandemic hit. That unveiling was one of our last in-person events, and we, like everyone, quickly adapted to a virtual environment. 2020 was a challenging year on many levels, but our community adapted, adjusted and kept moving forward. Now, as we enter 2021, it is clear that the many outstanding individuals and companies in our area are a large part of why we have been able to persevere.

The leaders showcased in our 2021 publication influence our city in many ways. Each is part of the rich and vibrant tapestry of individuals and organizations that make our city a compelling place to live, work and play. They represent a variety of enterprises and organizations, ranging from business to arts and culture, education to health care and more.

But how could we do these leaders justice in the middle of a pandemic? When we began to plan the publication, social distancing prohibited most in-person meetings and group photo shoots were off the table. We asked ourselves how we could create a compelling publication in a safe way. Then, inspired by our Zoom meetings, our creative team came up with a design that would showcase our featured leaders one square a time. It seemed fitting to give a nod to the Zoom square. After all, we have become accustomed to seeing our colleagues in that signature single frame, or the familiar checkerboard of headshots.

In the publishing industry, this type of publication is referred to as native advertising. This publication is a special type of content that enables people and companies to tell their story in an editorial style. The final product is a stunning piece that adds value to both our sponsors and readers.

We hope that you enjoy the 2021 edition of **dsM – The People Issue**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne dePaer". The script is elegant and cursive.

AGRICULTURE

“We work to ensure
the cattle never
have a bad day.”

DAN HANRAHAN

Owner, Hanrahan Ranch



Dan Hanrahan

THE FACE OF **HANRAHAN RANCH** DAN HANRAHAN

CUMMING, IA | WWW.IABEEF.ORG/RAISING-BEEF/HANRAHAN-RANCH

How would you describe your operation?

I take care of a 130-head cow herd just south of the Des Moines metro, near the town of Cumming. We are a cow/calf operation, taking care of the cow herd year long, and raising calves born in the spring and marketed at the end of the year, half grown.

What do you love about Greater Des Moines?

What I love about being part of the Greater Des Moines community is the close connection between agriculture and the consumer.

What are some guiding principles you use?

We work to ensure the cattle never have a bad day. We work each year to identify ways we can improve our land, and cows play a critical role in helping us accomplish that. The same sense of stewardship extends into community involvement with various groups. In all of it, we work to protect, to improve, and to grow.

What is a fact about your operation others may not know?

In the rolling hills found in parts of Madison County, cows help use acres that aren't suited for conventional row crop agriculture. With cows we can leave the land protected by inedible green grass, capture sunlight, rainfall, and carbon, and upcycle all of it into one of the most desired proteins found anywhere—beef.




**I get to work with
an organization
and donors that I'm
deeply passionate
about.”**

TIFFANY NAGEL SPINNER

Director of Development, Des Moines Art Center

ARTS & CULTURE



We believe that
dance speaks
to everyone,
no matter your
age, culture or
background.”

BLAIRE MASSA

Executive Director, Ballet Des Moines



*Top (L-R): Amelia Grubb, Logan Hillman, Renee Castonguay
Bottom (L-R): Sunny Hsieh, Bobbie Kandravi, Ben Rose*

THE FACES OF **BALLET DES MOINES** BLAIRE MASSA

121 S 11TH ST, SUITE 100 | WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265 | (515) 440-1177 | WWW.BALLETDESMOINES.ORG

How would you describe your organization?

As Iowa's professional resident dance company, Ballet Des Moines strives to inspire a diverse audience through professional, powerful dance performances and meaningful education programs. We bring dancers and choreographers from around the globe to the Greater Des Moines area to ensure we're championing world-class ballet.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Des Moines has this incredible energy around networking and lifting each other up in its nonprofit and arts communities. Our rich artistic collaborations have included the Des Moines Art Center, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Civic Music Association, Iowa PBS and Winefest Des Moines.

What are your company's guiding principles?

We believe that dance speaks to everyone, no matter your age, culture or background. Whether you are drawn to grace and fluidity, strength and athleticism, thought-provoking contemporary dance, or beloved, traditional storytelling, dance connects us all. Our mission is to enrich lives across our community through inspiring dance performances, inclusive education and outreach programs, and innovative community partnerships.

What is a fact about your organization others may not know?

Our annual Nutcracker production at Hoyt Sherman Place brings together nearly 400 young dancers from over 40 studios across the region. In addition to professional performances, our Nutcracker school shows allow more than 2,000 local students the opportunity to experience a condensed, narrated version of the classic holiday ballet, the perfect introduction to live theater.



Tiffany Nagel Spinner

THE FACE OF **DES MOINES ART CENTER** TIFFANY NAGEL SPINNER

4700 GRAND AVENUE | DES MOINES, IA 50312 | (515) 277-4405 | WWW.DESMOINESARTCENTER.ORG

How would you describe your organization?

The Art Center is so much more than the museum, school and Pappajohn Sculpture Park! We are a true community resource, free and accessible for members of our community, as well as for people around the world—thanks to our new virtual tours.

What do you love about your career?

I feel so fortunate to be a small conduit in helping individuals, corporations and foundations realize their philanthropic goals and visions—for themselves and for the broader community. Development is all about relationships and matching the right people with the right mission, at the right time.

What is a fact about your organization others may not know?

We partner with more than 50 other organizations every year, providing free outreach programming in the form of more than 130 different classes. In addition to art making and education, these programs provide critical life-skills and confidence building for underserved youth, refugees, teens and adults.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I genuinely feel like I've had the best career of anyone I know! I get to work with an organization and donors that I'm deeply passionate about. COVID-19 has presented significant fundraising hurdles, but I know that the people of Des Moines care deeply about keeping the arts alive in our community.

AUTOMOTIVE



**Greater
Des Moines'
quality of life
is world class.”**

SCOTT POLITTE

President, Stivers Ford Lincoln



Scott Politte

THE FACE OF **STIVERS FORD LINCOLN** SCOTT POLITTE

1450 E HICKMAN | WAUKEE, IA 50263 | (515) 987-3697 | WWW.STIVERSFORDIA.COM

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

I've lived here 30 years now, after growing up in St Louis, Dallas and New Jersey. Greater Des Moines' quality of life is world class, with recreation options, entertainment options, quality of venues and dining excellence.

How did your company get started?

Our dealership was established as Stivers Lincoln Mercury in 1980 by Ed Stivers, Jr. and my father, Don Politte. Through various expansions, contractions and additions, Stivers Ford Lincoln today is still a family-owned and operated dealership.

Who do you consider a mentor and why?

My father Don Politte. He started in the car business in 1970 and managed to excel in all aspects, eventually starting his own dealership with his partner Ed Stivers. He was a master marketer and held high expectations of everyone in his organization. Those two qualities are a great foundation.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

Stivers Ford Lincoln is much more than Iowa's No. 1 Ford Lincoln dealer. We have a vast selection of used vehicles. Our commercial, government and fleet department delivers thousands of vehicles each year across Iowa. Our service department is open until midnight. Our collision center operates in its own state-of-the-art building.

“

**I tell new lenders
to be straight with
their customers:
good, bad or
indifferent.”**

BRIAN VAHLE

President, Vision Bank, Grimes location

BANKING

“

I am privileged to
work with so many
who care about
our mission.”

KURT GIBSON

President & CEO, Community State Bank



Kurt Gibson

THE FACE OF **COMMUNITY STATE BANK** KURT GIBSON

1640 SW WHITE BIRCH CIRCLE | ANKENY, IA 50023 | (515) 331-3300 | WWW.BANKCSB.COM

How would you describe your company?

Our core focus and what we are most passionate about is “building trusted relationships with greater purpose.” That means we hire people who are passionate about helping customers reach their goals. We provide creative solutions that allow businesses to support the metro’s workforce and economy, and we work really hard to be purposeful and genuine in every relationship—something that can be lost in our world today.

What do you love about your career?

People! I am privileged to work with so many who care about our mission. With community banking there is always a new challenge or opportunity and you wear many hats.

How did you get started in your career?

I was fortunate to work as a bank teller in Durant, Iowa, when I was 16. It was my first experience interacting with customers. The opportunity to combine my love of numbers and form relationships with customers was meaningful for me. I knew I wanted a career in banking.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

People in Central Iowa are eager to help improve the quality of life for others. This year in particular, I am proud of the approach taken to listen to issues in our community around diversity, equity and inclusion. We are blessed to live here.



Brian Vahle



Lynn Ricke

THE FACES OF **VISIONBANK**

925 SE GATEWAY DR | GRIMES, IA 50111 | (800) 574-8123 | WWW.VISIONBANK.COM

BRIAN VAHLE

How would you describe your company?

VisionBank can be summed up like this: Our communities are our business. Their success is our goal as a bank.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

The Greater Des Moines metro area provides most of the amenities and entertainment possibilities of large cities, but you can still get almost anywhere in about 20 minutes. That combination is hard to find.

What are some guiding principles you've used in your career?

I tell new lenders to be straight with their customers: good, bad or indifferent. Most people respect that, and at the end of the day you can look yourself in the mirror and feel good.

LYNN RICKE

What are some guiding principles you've used in your career?

We will always face roadblocks or negative people who tell you to do something a certain way. Have confidence in yourself to look at things from a different angle and work through those roadblocks.

What do you love about your career?

I love that every day is different. I love going to work and dealing with the day's challenges and know I am making a difference for a business or individual. I also love learning from my customers. I certainly couldn't do what I am doing without their trust and support. I truly want to better understand their business so I can provide solutions.

DEVELOPMENT

“

Do the right thing,
help people and
the communities
we live in.”

RUSSELL CAREW

President, Graphite Construction Group



Russell Carew

THE FACE OF **GRAPHITE CONSTRUCTION GROUP** RUSSELL CAREW

3401 106TH CIRCLE | URBANDALE, IA 50322 | (515) 278-9446 | WWW.GRAPHITEGRP.COM

How would you describe your company?

Graphite Construction Group emphasizes cost-efficient and quality-driven commercial construction solutions. We partner with individual business owners and government entities to help build a better tomorrow. Our portfolio of work includes retail, industrial, office, multifamily, mixed-use, sports and educational facilities.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

Graphite has successfully been low bid on 67% of all projects pursued over the last two years, equaling \$160 million of construction in Central Iowa. This is a testament to our preconstruction consultation staff and subcontractor relationships.

What are your company's guiding principles?

Team: Internally or externally, we take a personable family approach to business.

Integrity: Do the right thing, help people and the communities we live in.

Experience: Our leadership team alone carries over 100 years of combined knowledge in the industry.

Communication: Transparency is key, we work with you as a team to bring forward innovative solutions.

Anything else you'd like to add?

As Central Iowa's fastest growing commercial contractor, Graphite will open the doors to its new office in May 2021. To our partners and clients, we want to say thank you for your relationship! We look forward to many more years of providing for Central Iowa!



**I love the craft,
the team we work
with, and the
others we meet
along the way.”**

KYLE DOYLE

President, Iowa Distilling Company

**EAT, DRINK
& ENTERTAIN**



**Our community
is fantastic
about supporting
locally owned
businesses.”**

SARAH PRITCHARD

Owner, Table 128



Sarah Pritchard



Lynn Pritchard

THE FACES OF **TABLE 128** LYNN AND SARAH PRITCHARD

12695 UNIVERSITY AVE, SUITE 140 | CLIVE, IA 50325 | (515) 327-7427 | WWW.TABLE128BISTRO.COM

How would you describe your company?

We are a locally-owned casual fine dining restaurant located in Clive with a focus on fresh, chef-crafted cuisine that is approachable but elevated.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Our community is fantastic about supporting locally owned businesses, affording our community an abundant and diverse restaurant community. We feel so lucky to be a part of that culture!

How did you get started in your career?

Lynn is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, and always dreamed of having his own restaurant.

What do you love about your career?

The people we work with and get the pleasure of serving and sharing our passions: food and wine!



Kyle Doyle

THE FACE OF **IOWA DISTILLING COMPANY** KYLE DOYLE

4349 CUMMING AVENUE | CUMMING, IOWA 50061 | (515) 981-4216 | WWW.IOWADISTILLING.COM

How would you describe your company?

Iowa Distilling Company is a small group of amazing people who are making things for Iowans. We bottle eight different spirits in our 100-year building. As the owner of Iowa Distilling, I am humbled by the talent. It is truly something you can only find in Iowa.

What do you love about your career?

I love the craft, the team we work with, and the others we meet along the way. It is satisfying to watch people enjoy our spirits in the craft cocktail lounge or hear from them after they've enjoyed a cocktail or bottle at home. If we're not having fun, we are doing something wrong.

Who do you consider a mentor?

My dad. He started a company here in Des Moines as a transplant from Minnesota with my mom. He instilled in me how lucky we are to be in Iowa. We have the opportunity to work with amazing people.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

Iowa Distilling Company spirits are currently available in over 90+ counties in Iowa. We made a commitment that we wouldn't sell our spirits outside of the state until we were in all 99 counties.

FINANCIAL



**[Des Moines]
has the feeling
of a small town,
where everyone
knows everyone,
but elements of a
bigger city.”**

LOREN MERKLE, CFP®, CFF

Owner, Merkle Retirement Planning

THE FACES OF **MERKLE RETIREMENT PLANNING** TEAM MEMBERS

1860 SE PRINCETON DRIVE | GRIMES, IA 50111 | (515) 278-1006 | WWW.MERKLERETIREMENTPLANNING.COM

How would you describe your company?

We are innovative, client-focused, and guided by our purpose of helping pre-retirees and retirees make their retirement dreams come true.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

It has the feeling of a small-town, where everyone knows everyone, but elements of a bigger city, with an amazing culture scene.

How did your company get started?

Our company was founded on the idea that pre-retirees and retirees deserved a place where they could have their retirement mapped out and a full team of professionals on their side through the next phase of their lives.

What are your company's guiding principles?

Merkle Retirement Planning's purpose is to bring your retirement vision to life by creating retirement plans and lifelong relationships built on a foundation of trust, transparency and a warm heart.



Top (L-R): Loren Merkle CFP®, CFF; Chawn Honkomp CFP®, CPA®, RICP®, CFF; **Bottom (L-R):** AnnaMarie Morrow; Abby Huntrods, RICP®, CFF



Listen! Listen to patients, listen to parents and listen to nurses.”

DR. LUKE ESPELUND

Medical Director, MercyOne Des Moines
Pediatric Emergency Care

HEALTHCARE



I have learned more from the patients I have been blessed to have worked with than they will ever know.”

DR. AMANDA GERST

Doctor, Woodard Hearing Centers

THE FACES OF WOODARD HEARING CENTERS

2328 ROCKLYN DRIVE | URBAN DALE, IA 50322 | (515) 276-6122 | WWW.AMPLIFYYOURLIFE.COM

TRICIA VEIK

What do you love about your career?

What I love most about my career is building long-term relationships with my patients and getting to know them in-depth on a personal level while maintaining professionalism. This helps me to provide an advanced level of care and enhance my patient's quality of life.

DR. CAITLIN MCKENNEY

What are some guiding principles you've used in your career?

I treat my patients like I would one of my family members. I think it is a huge benefit to myself and my patients to stay up-to-date on new information and provide comprehensive audiological services to patient.

TODD MAAS

How would you describe yourself or your company?

Woodard Hearing Centers has been a family owned and operated full-service hearing care provider, dedicated to helping the community for over 70 years.

DR. AMANDA GERST

What do you love about your career?

I love the patient interaction. I have learned more from the patients I have been blessed to have worked with than they will ever know. I will forever be grateful for the life lessons so many have shared with me.



Top (L-R): Tricia Veik, Todd Maas; **Bottom (L-R):** Dr. Caitlin McKenney, Dr. Amanda Gerst



THE FACES OF **MERCYONE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL** DR. LUKE ESPELUND

1111 6TH AVE | DES MOINES, IA 50314
WWW.MERCYONE.ORG/DESMOINES



How would you describe yourself?

A constant learner who is always trying to find new and better ways to do things for the benefit of our patients. I also consider myself very empathetic and always try to show grace and compassion to others.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Everything! Friendly people, wonderful restaurants, a perfect-sized zoo for young children, lots of outdoor activities and minimal traffic.

What do you love about your career?

I love helping others and I love children, so what better career to choose than pediatric emergency medicine? As the medical director of the Pediatric Emergency Department at MercyOne Des Moines, I help provide, direct and improve the care of children who are sick or injured. We are always looking at ways to improve the care of our patients and are pushing the boundaries so we can stay at the cutting edge of medicine.

What are some guiding principles you've used in your career?

Listen! Listen to patients, listen to parents and listen to nurses (fun fact: My mother was a nurse). I spent nine years in medical school and residency learning how to care for sick and injured children, but a parent is still the expert when it comes to their child. I always listen to parents and take their concerns seriously.



(Top to Bottom): Drs. Luke Espelund, David Hockmuth, Samuel Maurice

HOME



Investing in real estate is one of the largest financial decisions people make in their lives, and we get to help them through that!”

TASHA GARLICK

Realtor, The Garlick Team at RE/MAX Precision



Tasha Garlick



Tricia Parker

THE FACES OF **RE/MAX PRECISION – THE GARLICK TEAM** TASHA GARLICK

2202 WOODLANDS PKWY | CLIVE, IA 50325 | (515) 360-8068 | WWW.THEGARLICKTEAM.COM

How would you describe your company?

Our team is approachable, honest and dedicated to doing the right thing. We keep our clients as the top priority when negotiating deals, and we work on building great relationships with our peers. Our team specializes in residential real estate, new construction homes and investment properties.

How did your company start?


The Garlick Team began in 2015. In 2018, we expanded our team to better serve our clients. I was seeking a career that was challenging and rewarding. Investing in real estate is one of the largest financial decisions people make in their lives, and we get to help them through that!

What do you love about your career?

We're passionate about advancing our skills. We stay up to date on the ever-evolving market, so that we can best serve our clients in every facet of our business: negotiations, pricing homes, and getting the best deal for our buyers.

Who do you consider a mentor and why?

I have been able to surround myself with many amazing people who've pushed me out of my comfort zone, challenged me, and showed me what being a true real estate professional is. It's about being ethical in every part of the deal, keeping your clients top of mind, asking the right questions, and being a master problem solver to get a win-win for everyone involved.



**Des Moines has
all the ingredients
to keep pushing
forward and
the best is yet
to come.”**

COREY KAUTZ

Owner, Greenland Homes



Corey Kautz



Corey Pruismann

THE FACES OF **GREENLAND HOMES**

1680 SW ANKENY ROAD SUITE 2A | ANKENY, IA 50023 | (515) 528-8115 | WWW.GREENLANDHOMESIOWA.COM

COREY KAUTZ

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

I love that we are surrounded by forward thinkers, innovators and risk takers. Des Moines has all the ingredients to keep pushing forward and the best is yet to come.

How did you get started in your career?

I built my first home in 2006. It was the best self-teaching experience I could have asked for. I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it. I had no idea that 15 years later I would be making a living doing what I love.

COREY PRUISMANN

Who do you consider a mentor and why?

My dad—without question. He is the hardest-working, best person I've ever met. He's helped so many and never asks for anything in return. He never complains. Words aren't enough.

How would you describe your company?

Greenland Homes is a small group of blue-collar grinders. Our staff works tirelessly in an ever-changing environment to help people achieve their home ownership dreams.



The sense of community is great. [Des Moines has] a big-city and small-town feel happening at the same time.”

LUCAS HERRICK

Owner, Modern Touches



Lucas Herrick

THE FACE OF **MODERN TOUCHES** LUCAS HERRICK

1980 NW 94TH STREET, SUITE E | CLIVE, IA 50325 | (515) 745-6853 | WWW.MODERNTOUCHES.COM

How would you describe your company?

We are a full-service design, build and remodeling company with the ability to execute everything from whole home remodels and additions to smaller-scale kitchen and bath remodels. We manage the entire project and guide the client through every step. Our in-house design team also helps you visualize the work before on-site work begins, simplifying the process.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?


The sense of community is great. We have a big-city and small-town feel happening at the same time. Also, the amenities Des Moines has to offer are wonderfully diverse and impressive.

Who do you consider a mentor?

My dad, Roger. Growing up, he dabbled in construction and built everything from pinewood derby cars to houses. He's always been my inspiration to work hard to deliver a quality product and top-notch service throughout building projects.

What are your company's guiding principles?

While some of our designs and projects can be contemporary, some of our values might be considered somewhat old-fashioned. A handshake (in pre-pandemic times) and word-of-mouth referrals are timeless and dependable. We feel strongly that consistent, transparent communication and timely responsiveness are vital in building rapport and maintaining trust in client relationships.



I enjoy finding the perfect design and functionality that meet the needs of each buyer.”

KIM O’CONNOR

Realtor, Iowa Realty



Kim O'Connor

THE FACE OF **IOWA REALTY** KIM O'CONNOR

165 S JORDAN CREEK PKWY #155 | WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | (515) 249-0009 | WWW.IOWAREALTY.COM

How would you describe your company?

My business has expanded over the past 29 years due to hard work, determination, honesty, ethics and quick responses. I work hard for my clients and absolutely love my job. My goal is to make the process fun! With a robust digital marketing team, we craft strategic marketing plans for your property, focusing on social media, video, a strong website presence and e-mail marketing.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

I love watching Des Moines grow in such a positive way. We have everything here that other metro areas have, plus more! We have art festivals, farmers' markets, plays, concerts, great education, and a community involved in making this the best place to live.

How did you get started in your career?

Before real estate, I was an interior designer and sold office furniture for Sheppard's Business Interiors out of Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska. With the encouragement of the Knapp family and others, I decided to take the plunge into real estate. I found the perfect fit and have loved it ever since!

What do you love about your career?

I genuinely love people! I enjoy finding the perfect design and functionality that meet the needs of each buyer.



The people in
Des Moines are
so great. We
love how the city
has grown and
changed over
the years.”

MELISSA GARRETT-NELSON

Director of Kitchen and Bath Design, Royal Flooring



Top (L-R): Melissa Garrett-Nelson, Johnnie Kennell, Scott Sullivan
Bottom (L-R): Kyle Heatherington, Nick Fiala, Lynsy Anderson

THE FACES OF **ROYAL FLOORING** TEAM MEMBERS

11801 HICKMAN ROAD | URBANDALE, IA 50323 | (515) 957-9738 | WWW.SHOPROYALFLOORING.COM

How would you describe your company?

We are a locally owned home finishing store that provides everything for your home from the floors up. We offer design services, in-home measures and sample drop offs. Our product lines include flooring, cabinets, countertops, appliances, window treatments and decor.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

The people in Des Moines are so great. We love how the city has grown and changed over the years. It's been especially exciting to see how much the home construction industry has grown and developed over the years.

How did your company get started?

Royal Flooring actually started as a flooring and paint store with a small group of people. Now our company has grown to more than 50 employees, and we sell flooring, cabinetry, countertops, appliances, window treatments and decor.

What do you love about your business?

We love helping our clients create their dream homes. Whether it's a bathroom remodel or a new construction project, we love making their homes exactly what they want and need—especially during the pandemic.



We love helping homeowners create the perfect spaces where they can make memories.”

CARRIE NORRIS

Owner, Grand Homes & Renovations



Carrie Norris



David Kruse

THE FACES OF **GRAND HOMES & RENOVATIONS** CARRIE NORRIS AND DAVID KRUSE

1910 NORMANDY DRIVE | CARLISLE, IA 50047 | (515) 967-6195 | WWW.GRANDHOMESIOWA.COM

How did your company get started?

We started our company in 2006. While driving through the grand neighborhoods of older Des Moines, we decided that our company should be as special as these homes. We like bringing life and character to any home.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?


We love that our city opens up its arms to everyone. Des Moines has always been an inviting and exciting city with new opportunities. That's why we love giving back to local organizations like Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Family Cancer Network and Dress for Success Des Moines, among others.

What do you love about your career?

We love meeting people. We enjoy bringing families together, whether it be by adding a large island to a home or adding that special space in the basement where everyone can get together. We love helping homeowners create the perfect spaces where they can make memories.

Who do you consider a mentor and why?

I think we would both say that Teresa Choi (co-founder of Dress for Success Des Moines) is our mentor. Teresa was a client back in 2012. Teresa helped us grow not only within our company but as individuals. She knows what hard work means.



“It’s not in our nature to sit back until a problem arises. Instead, we focus on helping our customers do more.”

MIKE MCCOY

CEO, NCMIC

INSURANCE



Top (L-R): Lisa Logan, Mary Young, Phetlavy Baccam
Bottom (L-R): Molly O'Neill, Tara Burnside

THE FACES OF **NCMIC** TEAM MEMBERS

14001 UNIVERSITY AVENUE | CLIVE, IA 50325 | (515) 313-4500 | WWW.NCMIC.COM

How would you describe your company?

At NCMIC, we operate with the vision of “We Take Care of Our Own,” which includes our customers, our employees and our community. During the past 75 years, we’ve adapted to ensure that we keep this vision relevant. It’s important that we bring this vision to life through the work that we do, the communities we serve and by offering a top workplace for our employees.

What are your company’s guiding principles?

It’s not in our nature to sit back until a problem arises. Instead, we focus on helping our customers do more. We put partnership and customer service at the heart of our work. And that makes it easier for our team to make the right choices, the ethical choices that ultimately benefit our customers, employees and our community.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

In 2021, NCMIC is celebrating a milestone anniversary. For 75 years, we’ve been at the center of our community, tirelessly working, endlessly giving. This anniversary, we’re not just looking back and celebrating. We’re focusing on the future—on Iowa and on better days ahead. And on how—together—we can all start taking the path forward.

Anything else you’d like to add?

We know our employees’ expertise and forward thinking are key attributes to NCMIC’s future success.

NONPROFIT

“

It is a tremendous honor to be able to accompany patients and their families on their journey toward healing.”

DR. RICHARD DEMING

Founder, Above + Beyond Cancer



Dr. Richard Deming

THE FACE OF **ABOVE + BEYOND CANCER** DR. RICHARD DEMING

1915 GRAND AVENUE | DES MOINES, IA 50309 | (515) 770-1426 | WWW.ABOVEANDBEYONDCANCER.ORG

How would you describe yourself?

I am the founder of Above + Beyond Cancer, a nonprofit organization dedicated to elevating the lives of those touched by cancer. I've led cancer survivors on inspirational mind-body-spirit pilgrimages to destinations around the world.

How did your organization get started?


What started off for me as a career in medicine has become a ministry of healing. Interacting with patients authentically as a person who cares about people has great therapeutic benefit for the patient. It's also true that this type of doctor-patient relationship is tremendously healing for the physician.

What do you love about your career?

I love the opportunity to help people. It is a tremendous honor to be able to accompany patients and their families on their journey toward healing.

What are some guiding principles you've used in your career?

None of us is as good as all of us. Adversity leads to personal growth. Challenge yourself. "Not knowing" can be a source of curiosity and creativity. Live today with passion. If diamonds were as plentiful as grains of sand, they would be worthless. It's because we don't live forever that makes today so valuable.



[We love Des Moines'] giving community and the willingness to volunteer for nonprofits.”

KIMBERLY HANSEN

Executive Director, Rebuilding Together



Top (L-R): Kimberly Hansen, Angela Connolly, Linda Westergaard
Bottom (L-R): John Irving, Dustyn Curran, Michelle Kinney

THE FACES OF **REBUILDING TOGETHER** KIMBERLY HANSEN

1111 9TH STREET, #265 | DES MOINES, IA 50314 | (515) 280-1807 | WWW.REBUILDINGDM.ORG

How would you describe your organization?

Rebuilding Together is the leading volunteer organization that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the homes of veterans, older adults, people with disabilities, and families with dependent children. There is no cost to qualified families for the services provided.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines helps on average over 250 families per year! We are also celebrating our 25th year anniversary helping those in need.

How did your company get started?

Since our first Rebuilding Together Day in 1995, local volunteers have been renovating the homes of low-income homeowners and nonprofit facilities. To date, we have revitalized over 3,750 homes and non-profit facilities using over 300,000 hours of volunteer time and delivering nearly \$8.9 million in market value. The benefit is that in the process, we transform lives.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Our giving community and the willingness to volunteer for nonprofits.



There aren't many organizations where you can say you are truly saving lives every single day."

STACY SIME

President & CEO, LifeServe Blood Center



Top (L-R): Dr. Alex Smith, Medical Director; Falisha Benson, Phlebotomist; Sue Kasperbauer, Blood Donor & Recipient
Bottom (L-R): Stacy Sime, President & CEO; Reggeany Friesen, Lab Technician; Steve Pringle, Blood Donor & Volunteer

THE FACES OF **LIFESERVE BLOOD CENTER** TEAM MEMBERS

431 E LOCUST | DES MOINES, IA 50309 | (800) 287-4903 | WWW.LIFESERVEBLOODCENTER.ORG

How would you describe your company?

Your blood. Your hospital. Your neighbors. LifeServe Blood Center is your community blood center and the sole provider of blood to more than 120 hospitals right here in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Our mission is to collect the right blood product from the right donor at the right time.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Giving local matters! Many of our generous blood donors, chairpeople, volunteers, and team members live in Greater Des Moines. Being a community blood center is important to us and the people who support our mission.

How did your company get started?

LifeServe Blood Center was founded to ensure our local hospitals have access to lifesaving blood products at all times. There is no substitute for human blood, so our work is critical to the health of the community. We work directly with first responders every day to help save lives.

What do you love about your career?

We love what we do. There aren't many organizations where you can say you are truly saving lives every single day. By partnering with our local first responders and medical centers, LifeServers know our work is essential and people are being impacted by transfusions every day.

“

I get to live out my passions each day in an industry I truly adore.”

JANA VAN POLEN

Owner, Serenity Couture Salon & Spa

WELLNESS



Top (L-R): Jana Van Polen, Owner; Doug Van Polen, Owner; Shelby Rauch, Valley West
Middle (L-R): Libby Heinz, Valley West; Jen Truit, West Glen; Tracy Hills, Valley West
Bottom (L-R): Sam Watson, North Park; Mariza Masters, Valley West; Kristen Malanaphy, West Glen

FACES AND LOCATIONS OF SERENITY COUTURE SALON AND SPA JANA AND DOUG VAN POLEN

1551 VALLEY WEST DRIVE | WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | (515) 223-6204
6505 S PRAIRIE VIEW DRIVE | WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | (515) 309-6782
2801 GRAND AVENUE | AMES, IA 50010 | (515) 956-4545
WWW.SERENITYCOUTURE.COM

How would you describe your company?

We are passion seekers. A believer in people, in the pursuit of dreams and in the power of touch. Our companies embody all of this. We fulfill dreams through the art of beauty and wellbeing. We strive to exceed the dreams of our employees, our guests and our community.

What do you love most about Greater Des Moines?

Des Moines is the No. 1 city for business, careers and raising a family. We love the culture, music, the art scene, local restaurants and shopping. We have and attract big-city talent while keeping a small-city feel, with everything no further than a half-hour drive.

How did you get started in your career?

Born and raised in Iowa, I always wanted to help people look and feel good. Over a 20-year period, my love for the industry and Doug's love for business helped us grow one salon into multiple locations, including other salon and spas, retail stores and premium award-winning Aveda Institutes.

What do you love about your career?

There's no career quite like it. We work in an industry that embraces diversity, unique artistic talent, energy and excitement. We love that we can help people feel better about themselves. We get to live out our passions each day in an industry we both truly adore.

What is a fact about your company others may not know?

We pride our team on being recognized through multiple local, national and international awards and publications. We're also proud of servicing Des Moines and surrounding areas for 21 years, and we look forward to the years to come. Here's to a healthy new year and a healthy new you.

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