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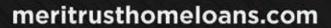
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If you are interested in contributing or nominating REALTORS® for certain stories, please email us at samantha.lucciarini@realproducersmag.com.

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# PUBLISHER'S 110

#### **HAPPY 2021, FRIENDS!**

I think we are all welcoming this new year with open arms and eager to leave the bizarre parts of 2020 in the history books. My hope for you agents is that your real estate remains busy and strong throughout this year, no matter what comes along.

I'd like to welcome a few new team members and business partners. Please welcome our lovely new editor, Andrea Hoffman, our new talented photographer, Kelly Remacle, and another spectacular writer, Lindsey Wells. These three individuals have all come greatly recommended and we are thrilled to strengthen our stellar WRP family!

We also would like to extend a warm Wichita welcome to our newest business partners. Kansas Secured Title and Blaine Rodman with Cutco Closing Gifts are names that have come up from top producers time and time again. Remember, we only meet with a business after a Top 300 REALTOR® has recommended them. We then extensively

vet them to ensure we can confidently endorse them to the real estate community.

If you know of an agent with a great story that we should meet with, or a wonderful local business that might be a good fit for the best agents, we would love to hear from you. REALTOR® nominations and vendor recommendations make our world go 'round.

As soon as we can safely gather again, we will have our next big REALTOR® appreciation party! Those private invitations will come to you through MailChimp, so please keep this in mind if you choose to unsubscribe...we would hate for you to

miss the next event.

Sincerely your Friend, Publisher, and REALTOR®,

SAMANTHA LUCCIARINI 316.258.4855





#### What is the primary purpose of Real Producers?

Our primary mission is to **unite** the REALTORS® in the local community by helping you connect with other top-producing agents on a deeper level. We accomplish this through our monthly publication and our quarterly parties and events.

#### Who is the magazine distributed to?

Only the top 300 producing agents will receive the physical publication each month. The top 300 varies each year based on MLS sales volume from the previous year, so there are no guarantees you'll make the list next year. Keep working hard!

#### How will you be receiving the magazine every month?

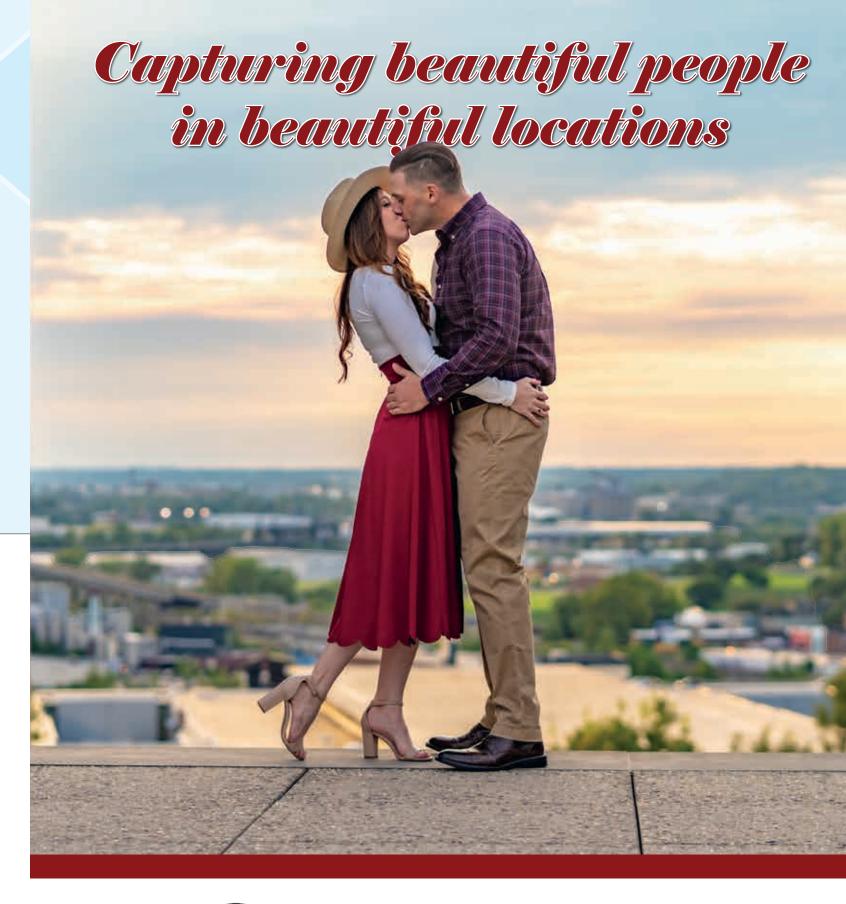
We will be shipping your copy of the magazine to your office with your name on the back, so keep your eyes open for it every month! We will send out a monthly email with the digital version of it as well. Any RSCK REALTOR® can be on the email distribution list...it's important to us to provide a platform for all agents to connect.



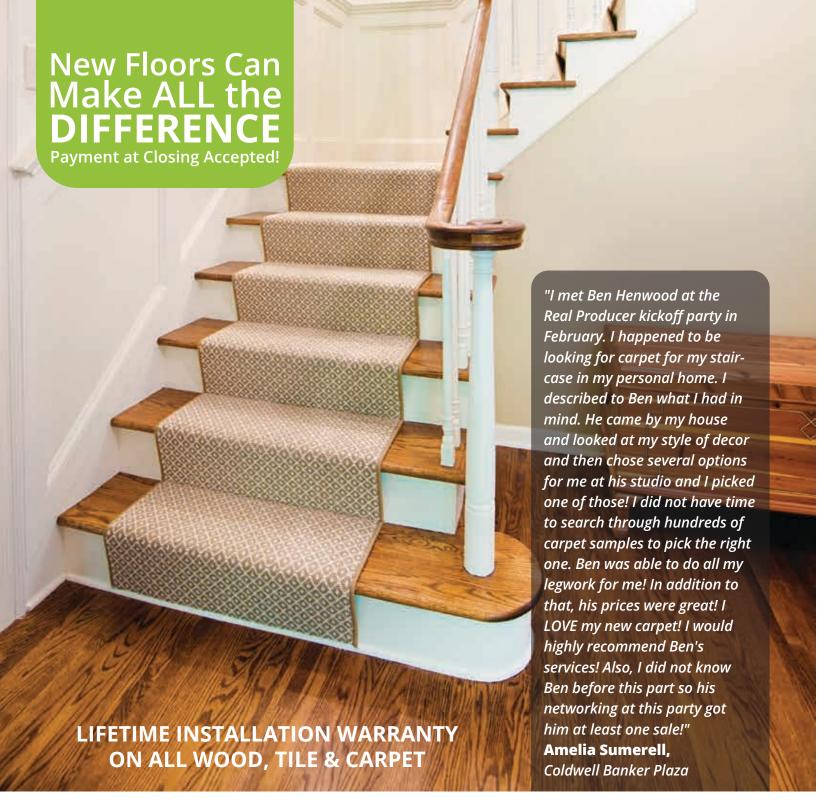
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#### FINDING SUCCESS IN NOT ONLY ACHIEVING BUSINESS GOALS, BUT PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GOALS TOO

rom the time she was a child, Carla
Phillips was fascinated by homes. Not just
the houses themselves, but the process of
searching for and finding the perfect one.
Even before she considered real estate as a career,
Carla was her family and friends' go-to person
if ever they were in the market for a new place
to call home. She would scour the city and its
neighborhoods for houses or apartments for rent
and conduct business with landlords on behalf of
her loved ones. So, it's no surprise that almost 15
years ago, Carla thought to herself, "Why not get
paid to do my dream job?"

Now a REALTOR® with Collins & Associates Real Estate Professionals, Carla earned her license in August 2006 and sold real estate part-time while simultaneously working full-time in retail. "I always said that when my kids were grown and I didn't have to have them on my health insurance anymore, that's when I would do real estate full-time," she said. Although she loved her retail job, Carla eventually found herself being overworked and opted for a less demanding job in property management before going full-time in real estate in 2018.

After just one conversation with Carla Phillips, three things are abundantly clear: she loves Jesus, she loves her family, and she loves real estate. She defines success by achieving her goals; not just her business goals, but her personal and spiritual goals, too. "I work on my spiritual and personal goals day and night," she said. "My spiritual goals are what I really focus on because I'm a firm believer. I try to stay humble and give everything I've got to God, because I know if I follow Him, everything else will fall into place for me."

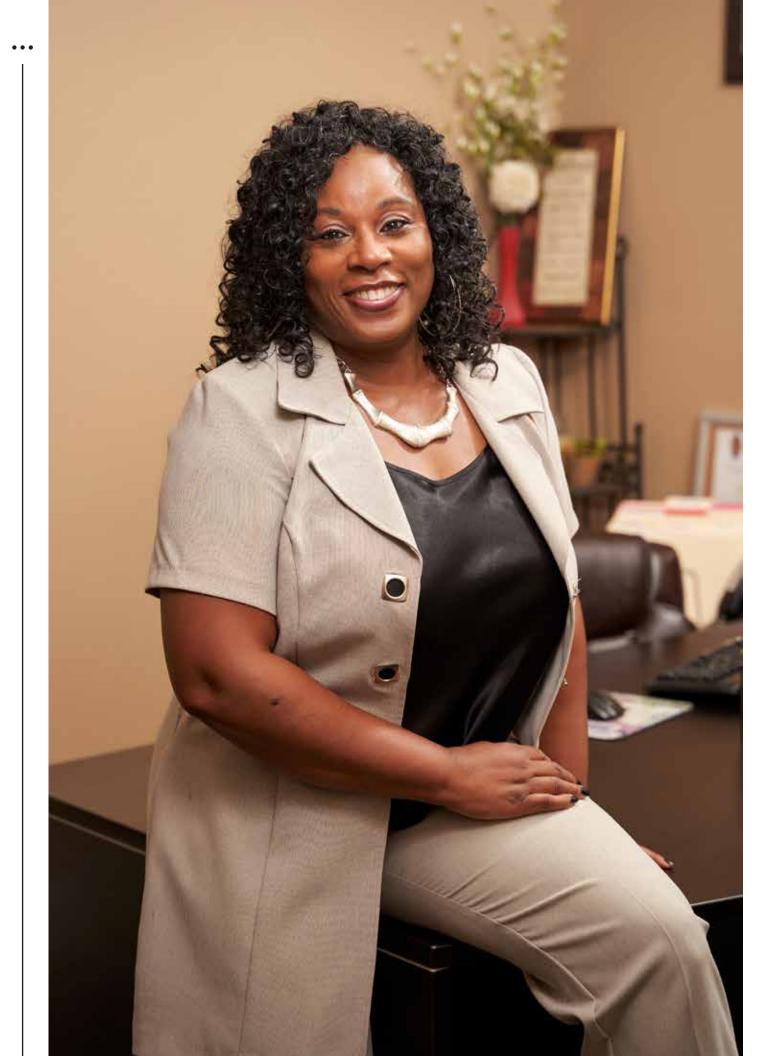
When she isn't working, Carla can usually be found shopping or spending time with her family or husband, Kendall, with whom she will celebrate 19 years of marriage in 2021. Now that all three of her adult children out of the house, Carla and Kendall can enjoy their "us time," which usually consists of hanging by the pool or working in the flower bed during summertime, doing Bible studies together, watching movies, or spending time with their grandkids.

In real estate, Carla is especially passionate about working with first-time homebuyers. "I love taking the extra time with them to explain the process,"



I WANT PEOPLE TO ALWAYS REMEMBER
ME AS BEING SOMEBODY WHO ACTUALLY

PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE.





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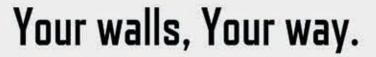
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TO TREAT EVERYBODY THE
EXACT SAME WAY,

AND I'M PROUD OF THAT.

99

she said. A quick online search for Carla's reviews left by past buyers and sellers certainly reflects the positive experience she strives to give each and every client. Reading the kind words left by her past and present clients have a way of breathing life back into Carla whenever she is feeling discouraged. "Those reviews just light me up. I always say that I will sell a \$100 house just like I would sell a \$1 billion house. Either way, I am going to treat everybody the exact same way, and I'm proud of that. I always want to be that person. I want people to always remember me as being somebody who actually cared about others and who put a smile on their face. Everything I have, I appreciate. I will never get too big that I can't appreciate the things I have."





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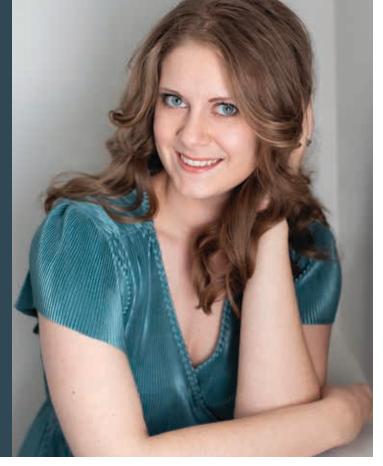




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"Success in business is never a destination," Ryan says. "It's a path and a process. At Phelps Tax and Financial Services, Inc., we help people find success on their journey. We specialize in taxes, but I also love sitting down with entrepreneurs and helping them get started on the right foot or getting them back on the right track. Generally, people just need a little guidance, but we take as much off their plates as we can."

REALTORS®, in particular, can benefit from Ryan's expertise. "Agents are constantly on the run, putting out fires, and working hard to grow their businesses," Ryan says. "Taxes and financial planning often fall through the cracks, and that can end up costing people a lot of money. We can free REALTORS® up to do what they love, which is selling, marketing, networking, and getting deals done."

As an investment property owner himself, Ryan has a unique understanding of real estate's complex issues, and he has some key pieces of advice. "First, get organized," he says. "Know what you're spending and track income and expenses. You can't properly maximize your deductions if you don't have all of the data. Nobody wants to pay more in taxes than they should! It's much easier to let a professional firm take over the responsibility and do your books."

For REALTORS® just getting started, Ryan has even more detailed advice. "Form a business entity and get a federal ID number," he says. "It will legitimize your business and offer protection. Use that number to open a bank account for your business that is separate from your personal account, and use it for all of your deposits and expenses. Then form a relationship with a tax expert. Most people don't have the experience that they need to do their own business taxes. We can also help with other questions that come up."



For more established REALTORS® with LLCs, there are other strategies that can be employed, including requesting S-Corp taxation. "You can request to be taxed like a corporation without changing your business structure," he says. "That way, you can maintain the flexibility of an LLC while reaping the savings of a corporation's tax structure."

The first step is a conversation about where your business is and where you want it to go. "I enjoy having those conversations with my clients and figuring out the best way to help them succeed. We really are serious about being partners for the long term, and as new challenges arise, we want to be there with the right solution to keep your business moving forward."





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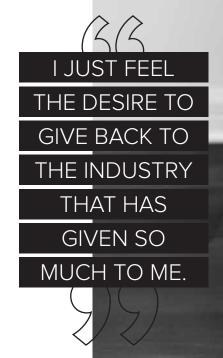
One of the best ways to move efficiently from point to point in any walk of life is by streamlining the process — getting rid of those things that can create unnecessary detours.

That's a principle Natalie Moyer applies through her day-to-day work.

As a REALTOR® with ReeceNichols, Natalie makes a difference for her clients each day with more gains and less guesswork.

"The way I am is just very straightforward. You're never going to wonder what I'm thinking," Natalie smiles.

"One of my clients who I worked with when she relocated here maybe described me the best when she said, 'I should call you the no-BS REALTOR®.' Through my work, I just want to be open with people, so they know they're getting my best."





Listening to Her Friends' Advice

Natalie earned her license in August 2008.

Before that, Natalie's friends could have sworn that she was already in the business.

"That was because I think I became known as my friends' favorite unlicensed REALTOR®," she laughs. "I have a group of friends I would run with each morning, and I was always talking about real estate. I'm a fourth-generation Wichitan, so I know the city very well, especially the College Hill neighborhood. I remember people telling me, 'You should get your real estate license."

At the time, Natalie was a Litigation Paralegal, a role she perfected for 20 years. Whenever her friends would encourage her toward real estate, she would politely avoid it.

And yet there was something to their advice, it seems.

"I realized that there was a clear pattern with me and the newspaper," she remembers. "You know how some people will go right for the sports section or the automobile listings? Well, I would open up that paper and go right to the real estate section every time. I always loved watching the market."

During her 40th birthday, Natalie came to a conclusion.

"I thought, well, you get one shot at life. Am I doing what I really want to do? So I said I'm going to give real estate a shot," Natalie recalls. "I was working part-time as a paralegal, and I thought if I could leave the law firm after a year, that would be a success, and it would be nice to have more time to spend with the kids."

#### **Moving Forward**

As it turns out, success came faster than expected. By March that year, Natalie left the law firm and jumped full-time into her real estate journey.

The transition was eased by her experience.

"I'm detail-oriented. I know the documents inside and out, I understand confidentiality and fiduciary duties from my legal background. So the legal profession ended up being a nice segue into real estate for me," she says. "I was involved with litigation, and that really helped with negotiations. In legal, you never knew who your clients would be next. It's just like what I do as a REALTOR®. You have to be a chameleon to an extent. You have to very quickly figure out a person's personality and motivation and assess whether it's going to be positive for both of you. For that reason, I don't work with everyone that I meet."

The signs of Natalie's success continue to mount. In addition to her production, she gives back to the industry, serving as one of only 700 Board Directors for the 1.4 million-member National Association

of REALTORS®. She also serves on the REALTOR® Political Action Committee, where she is literally invested ... contributing a significant amount to support the industry.

"I'm truly an advocate for the industry. I'm an advocate for affordable and attainable housing. I've served two terms on the Board of Directors for our local association, and will be the Kansas state president in 2021," Natalie says. "I want to protect our industry so that, should my daughter decide she wants to be a REALTOR® someday, this industry will still be strong. I just feel the desire to give back to the industry that has given so much to me."

#### Light of Her Life

Away from work, Natalie's children are her pride and joy. Her 22-year-old son Peter, who she calls her "pride," and her 20-year-old daughter, Paige, who Natalie calls her "joy."

Free time starts early each day for Natalie. At 4:45 a.m., she hits the door and heads to the gym. She also is catching up on her game of golf, which she loves if time allows. Travel is also a favorite diversion for her, as is cooking and spending time hosting friends for dinner and parties.

In keeping with her theme of supporting real estate and all it does for people, Natalie also served on the local Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors for three years. It's a theme she plans on carrying to the next level as President of the state association ... supporting affordable and attainable housing.

Those who know Natalie know exactly where she stands — as a dedicated champion for them ... someone who helps others make gains in their lives ... with a lot less guesswork.



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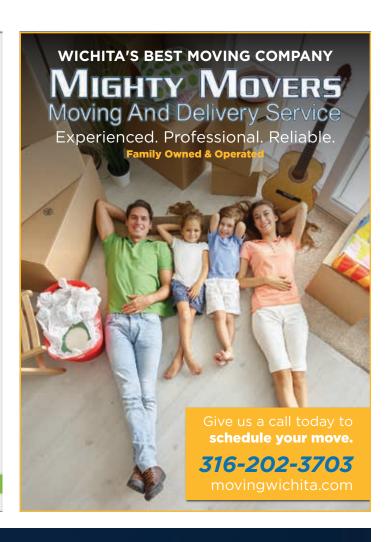
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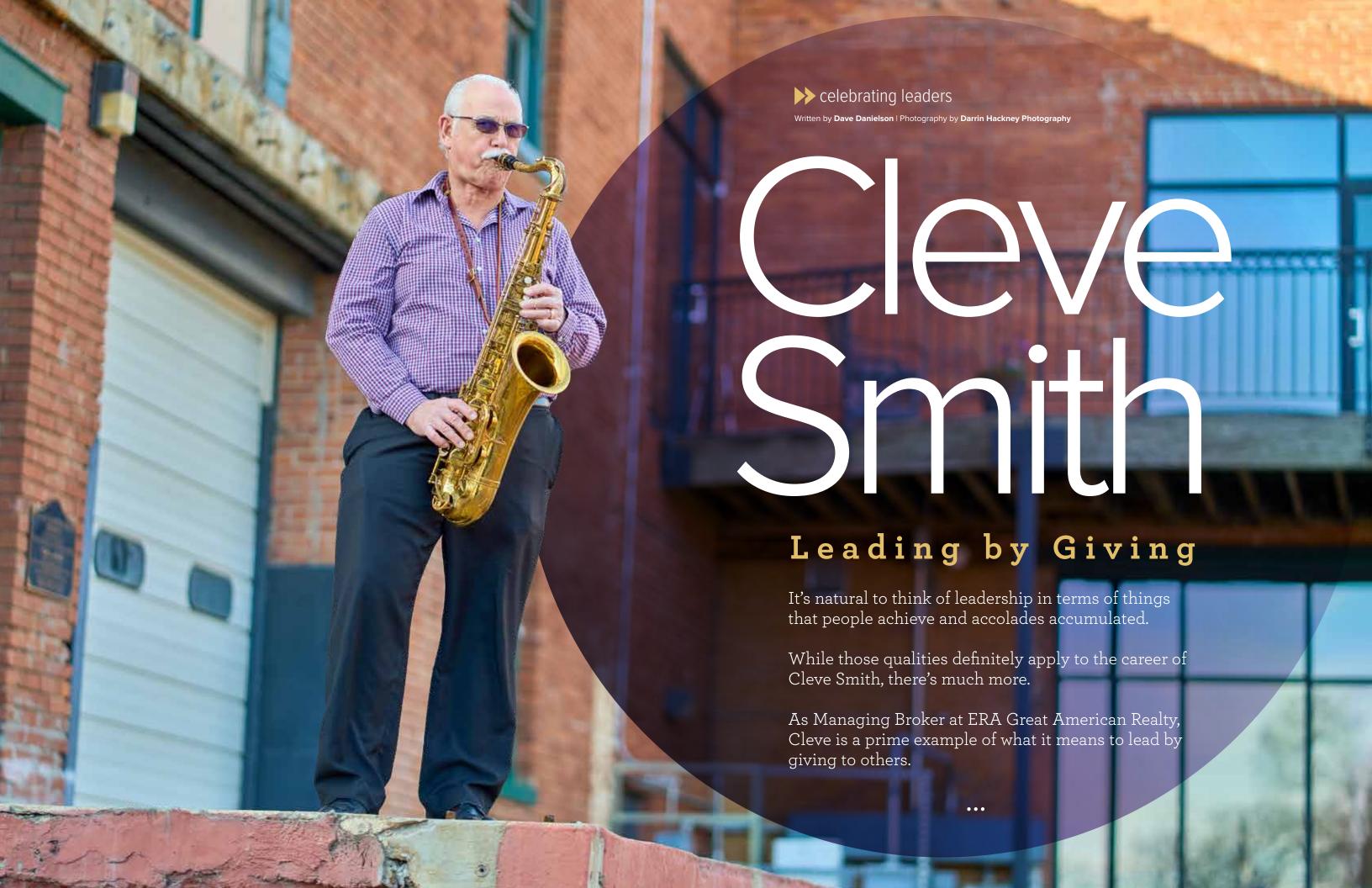
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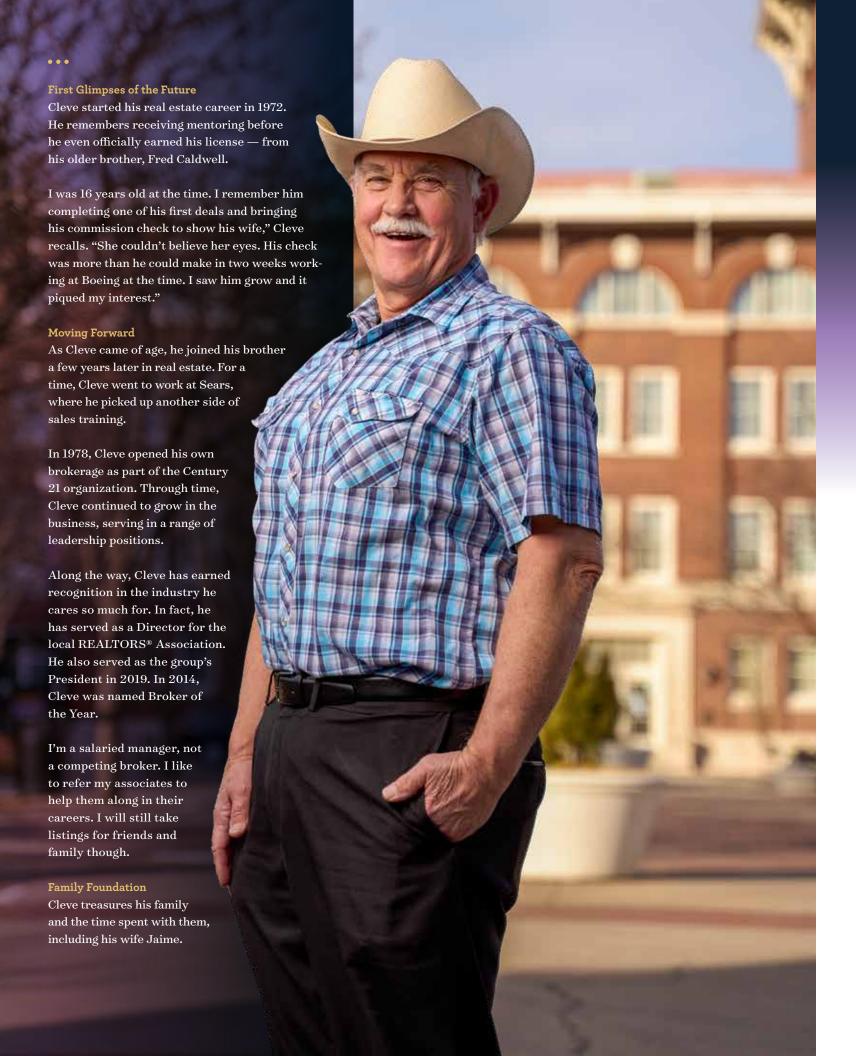
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I really thrive on seeing people develop and grow and helping them along in their careers.

I have had so many great mentors in my career who helped me through any

As Cleve says, "Without Jaime, I just wouldn't be able to do what I do in this career."

Cleve and Jaime have a blended family and have raised five children. Cleve had the pleasure of mentoring two of them in real estate. Kendra Smith-Bowman, and a son, Timothy Smith. Both have contributed to real estate in their own right, as well. Tim worked for a time in the business before moving into the aerospace field at Airbus in North Carolina, while Kendra has a successful real estate career in Georgia. Their son, Justin Smith, is a Department Manager at Walmart, their daughter, Kelsey Palan is an Air Force wife and home schools her three children, and daughter, Andrea Deschaine is the owner of Fueled by Spaghetti Productions, LLC, coordinating art, entertainment and various events.

In his free time, Cleve shares his musical talents. He plays tenor saxophone in the Brothers in Blue Prison Ministry Praise Band.

As he says, "We perform several times a year in local prisons where we model church for inmates. Our group's leader, Joe, jumps up and down when we perform. So they nicknamed us 'Jumping Joe and the Cleve-a nators.' When we perform, inmates are invited to play with us."

#### Wide-Open Possibilities

Cleve and Jaime also have a ranch where they enjoy their horses and wide-open spaces on their land that's located close to the edge of the Flint Hills area.

"Jaime has a business called Cross Country Horse Boarding. The business supports people who are transporting horses across the country who need a place to stop and rest. People who work with Cross Country Horse Boarding can leave their horses with us here, while they camp or stay in a hotel and get rested up for the next leg of their journey."

Today, Cleve manages the East branch of ERA Great American Realty, an organization that has about 114 local real estate professionals on its team.

"My favorite part of what I do is growing and mentoring Broker Associates and Salespeople doing their day-to-day work ... answering their questions and working through risk assessment," Cleve emphasizes. "I really thrive on seeing people develop and grow and helping them along in their careers. I have had so many great mentors in my career who helped me through any issue I was facing."

It's a favor Cleve gladly returns through his work as a mentor and leader each day.

"I just have a real love for people," he smiles. "The main thing I enjoy is that mutual love and respect I get to enjoy with the people I work with."

That's what leading by giving looks like.

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#### Introducing Craig Sharp Homes' newest model, the **Gunnison**

A welcoming stepped covered entry flows into the inviting foyer, with focal entry wall and custom stair railing, revealing views of the spacious great room, dining room, and desirable luxury outdoor living space beyond. The well-designed kitchen is equipped with a large center island with wine bar, plenty of counter and cabinet space, and sizable walk-in pantry. The outdoor lanai - which is accessed through the 20' stacking glass door extending across the back of the home - is the show-stopper of this home and allows for year-round indoor/outdoor living.

The bright master bedroom suite is enhanced by a generous walk-in closet and deluxe master bath with dual-sink vanity, luxe glass-enclosed shower, and private water closet. Spacious secondary bedrooms feature ample closets and a shared jack-n-jill bath. Additional highlights include a centrally located laundry, guest powder bath, and additional storage throughout as well as a fully finished walkout basement with wet bar, two additional bedrooms, hall bath, and powder bath.





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- 2. Sonja Seidl
- 3. Jessica Ball Dibble
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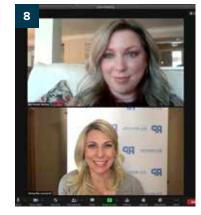


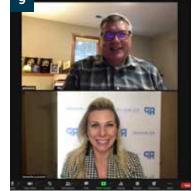
























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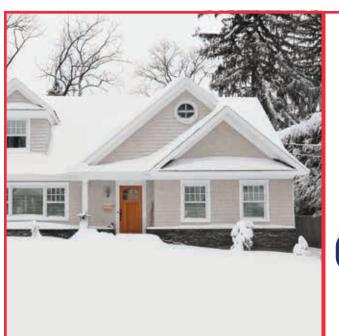
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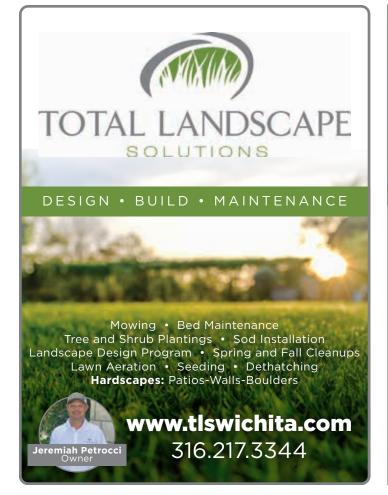
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## SHARON WEST

#### **NEVER FORGETS A CLIENT...OR A BIRTHDAY**



Hers is a name widely recognized in the Wichita real estate market for her stellar reputation and longevity in the business. You'd be hard-pressed to remember an interaction with her in which she didn't have a beaming smile on her face. And, for those that have yet to meet Sharon West of Coldwell Banker Plaza Real Estate, it's certain when you do, she'll leave an impression.

Sharon's story begins in Iola, Kansas, where she was born and raised until relocating to Wichita after high school. After furthering her education at Wichita Business College and Wichita State University, Sharon worked several office jobs trying to find her place in the professional world. "I had at least 12 jobs in offices but became bored with the routine at one place and quickly changed to the next one," she recalled.

While a career in real estate was never on her radar, her interest in the industry was piqued when a friend suggested she give it a shot. "She suggested I should be a REALTOR® because they only work when they want to and go to see lots of nice homes," Sharon said of her friend's advice. "Well, that was partly true. Since every listing and every buyer was like a different job, I never got bored in this profession." Over four decades later, Sharon said she

loves her job just as much now as she did when she first began. Although as of last year she is no longer actively selling or listing, Sharon is still very involved in the goings-on at her company and assists the management administration when needed.

Licensed as an agent in 1977 and a broker in 1984, Sharon has dedicated 43 years of her life to the real estate industry. She worked for two companies before joining Plaza Real Estate in 1982 and has been with the same company ever since. For over 30 years, Sharon was the Broker and branch manager of the West office and now holds the title of the company's Senior Vice President.

Sharon recalls the real estate industry before lockboxes were used and the World Wide Web was heavily relied upon. "Being one of the first to hire an assistant and get a car phone was really exciting for me," she added. Early on, Sharon attended lots of seminars where she gathered ideas on being successful in real estate and met several top producers across the country, many of whom she is still in touch with today.

Perhaps her success in real estate can be credited

in part to Sharon's desire to provide nothing less than top-notch personalized customer service to every client. She knows small gestures can sometimes mean the most, which is why she sends out over 700 birthday cards each year to family, clients, fellow agents, and friends. Each card is personalized with a comic, joke, or story hand-selected for each person. Sharon also makes it a point to call someone she knows every day, some of whom she hasn't seen since high school. "Yes, that does add more names to my birthday list," she said, laughing.

Sharon served as President of the Wichita Area Association of REALTORS® in 1992, followed by Zone-VP for the Kansas Association of REALTORS®. In 1984 she was awarded the Designated Salesperson of the Year for Wichita, and in 1988 was Salesperson of the Year for Kansas.

Sharon has been married to the love of her life, Rex Custer, for 33 years. Rex was an engineer with Southwestern Bell until retirement when he joined Sharon as a Realtor. Sharon's youngest son, Jason, and his wife, Sydney, both worked at her real estate company and are now thriving Realtors in Kansas City. Her oldest son, Greg, works for a Google company in Phoenix, Arizona.

She knows small gestures can sometimes mean the most, which is why she sends out over 700 birthday cards each year to family, clients, fellow agents, and friends. Each card is personalized with a comic, joke, or story handselected for each person.

When she can enjoy downtime, Sharon enjoys reading, mostly new bestsellers, and the daily newspaper. Although life B.C. (before COVID) seems like a distant memory to most of us now, Sharon and Rex used to enjoy going to the movies each week and made travel a priority. "Now, we watch several movies a week on Netflix or HBO," she

> said. They also support many theaters, holding season tickets to several, and heavily support the local entertainment.

When asked what she wants to be remembered for. in true Sharon West fashion, she said, "I want people to remember that I was kind and always smiling. You'll

never, ever see me without a smile, even if things aren't great. If you can't tell, I have lots of fun-why else would I send people jokes

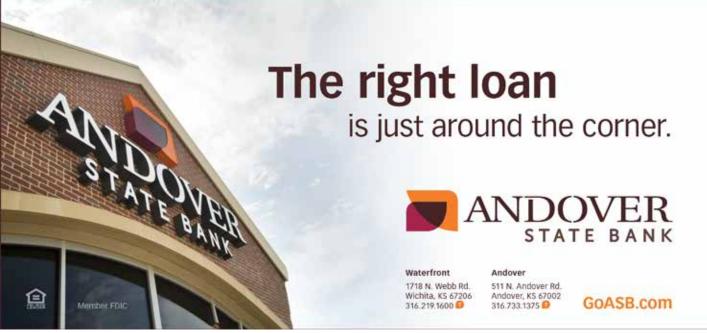
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# Flooring

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#### 10 Questions to Ask Before Buying Flooring

#### 1. WILL YOUR NEW AND EXISTING FLOORING COORDINATE?

Consider how the new flooring will complement your interior style and decorating scheme. Blending materials may solve your design dilemmas.

#### 2. WILL YOU HAVE TO REDECORATE?

Color is a major consideration when buying flooring because it impacts the entire room. Lighter can make rooms feel larger but show stains and reveal wear. Darker can make rooms feel cozy but show dust and hair. Neutral tones making it easy to change your home décor down the road.

#### 3. WHERE IS THE ROOM LOCATED?

Ground-level and basement spaces are more susceptible to moisture than those upstairs, so consider the impact on your flooring choice.

#### 4. WHAT IS THE TRAFFIC LEVEL IN THE ROOM?

If it is an entry area or a play area for pets and kids, look for flooring that can handle wear.

#### 5. DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOME HAVE ALLERGIES?

Hard-surface flooring collects fewer allergens. Add warmth and visual interest with easy-to-clean rugs.

#### 6. DO YOU HAVE, OR PLAN TO INSTALL, A HEATED FLOOR?

Not all flooring options are compatible with subfloor heating. Consult a flooring expert for help exploring the options best for you.

#### 7. WHAT LEVEL OF FLOOR CARE IS REQUIRED?

Ask what is involved in cleaning and upkeep and factor things like refinishing and steaming into your decision.

#### 8. CAN YOU REFINISH YOUR EXISTING FLOOR?

You may be able to bring your floors up to date with a new stain.

#### 9. CAN YOU INSTALL THE NEW FLOORING YOURSELF?

New flooring installation is more than lining up boards and tiles. Know how to safely dispose of the old flooring and if you can return unused boxes or pieces to the store. Some flooring may require professional removal.

#### 10. WHAT IS YOUR CLIMATE?

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iconic agent

Written by Dave Danielson

Photography by Kelly Remacle Photography

Like most entering the business, she worked through a challenging transition.

"It seemed overwhelming in the beginning. It was

• • •

"I was a teacher and worked with Home Bound

children for five years," she says. "My husband

at the time worked at a bank and they were in development and building houses. He thought

real estate would be better for me."



intense," she says. "I had younger kids at that time. It was always a challenge. Then you start working with people and make them happy and move forward."

#### EXPERIENCE AND EXCELLENCE

Marsha draws many parallels between her time as a teacher and her role as an agent.

"It's a people business ... listening to them to determine what they need and figure out solutions to help them. You have to be a communicator and self-directed and be responsive," Marsha explains. "It flowed very well for me moving from teaching to real estate. As a teacher, you figure out what the kids need and how to get to the end and you do the same with real estate."

Marsha has a true passion for the profession.

"I'm a people person. I really like being with the diverse group of people I get to meet and helping them with the biggest monetary investment they make," she says. "It's the place where they spend the bulk of their lives. You spend more time in your home than you do anywhere else, so it's very critical to your day-to-day. That's rewarding to be part of

that. Plus, I like to be busy. I don't sit well. I have to be on the move and I love seeing all the different houses and I always have."

#### FULFILLING LIFE

Away from work, Marsha's world revolves around her family, including her husband of 25 years, Bob, who retired from Boeing. Marsha and Bob enjoy moments spent with their children. Marsha has two children — her daughter, Jeramie, and her five children; and her son, Scott, and his two children. Bob has two children — his son, Jason, and his daughter, Jami, who has two children.

In her free time, Marsha is very active. In fact, you're likely to find her at the gym at least five days a week. She also loves the ocean, including time spent kayaking. Hiking is another favorite pastime for her, as well.

Giving back is central to her life, as well, with involvement in the community foundation, the historical museum and Rotary.

"I like to volunteer. I strongly feel you need to give back to your community because they give so much to you. I feel a strong obligation to make my community a better place however I can," she says. "It just makes you feel good that you're doing something for everyone."

There have been many signs of Marsha's success through time, but she hasn't achieved them through meticulous goalsetting.

"While goalsetting is great for some people, it hasn't been for me. I feel very strongly that my focus has to be on people," she says with a smile. "This is a wonderful profession. We get to do great things for people every day."

Each day, Marsha continues making a difference by focusing on the need.

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# FREE TO PURSUE HER DREAMS BOLDLY. Last fall was also the first time GOTR offered a virtual option. "It was a

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Last fall was also the first time GOTR offered a virtual option. "It was a brand new way of doing things, and it worked!" smiles Christy. "We do a group Zoom for the first 45-minutes to stretch, set goals, and do a fun activity. Then girls spend the next 30-40 minutes at home being physically active with a family member. They can choose from a variety of activities, like running, riding bikes or doing jumping jacks. Goal sheets help them track their progress so they can see how they get better and faster over time."

Coaches are needed for both in-person and virtual options this spring. "Our season will start mid-March when the weather should be warm enough to run outside," Christy says. "Our goal is to have three or four coaches on each team, and we need community members to volunteer. It's an eight-week commitment, and girls usually meet twice a week. I coach, and can honestly say it's one of the most rewarding things in the world. It's amazing how much adults can get out of a program designed for elementary schools. Women need to hear these positive messages, too!"

To learn more about volunteering or to register a girl to run, please visit https://www.girlsontherunks.org.

#### >> non-profit spotlight

Written by **Heather Pluard**Photography by **Darrin Hackney Photography** 

## CHRISTY THOMAS

#### **SUPPORTS GIRLS ON THE RUN**

Get ready to run! Registration is now open for the Girls on the Run (GOTR) spring season. This year, with both in-person and virtual options, GOTR is a fabulous way for 3rd-8th grade girls to safely engage with their peers while becoming healthier, joyful, and more confident. But that doesn't happen without coaches. GOTR is currently looking for adults in the Wichita community to volunteer, even if they aren't runners.

"This program is for everyone and can accommodate anyone," says GOTR Executive Director Christy Thomas. "Our goal is to create a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to pursue her dreams boldly. We use a fun, experience-based curriculum that's

5% about running and 95% about teaching girls life lessons on things like how to be healthy, strong, confident, kind, and responsible."

Typically an after-school program, GOTR has found creative solutions to keep kids active even though most area schools are now online. "We'll meet at recreation centers, churches, and parks this spring," Christy says. "It gives us a lot more flexibility, and we can work around any group's schedule. We're also limiting team size to 12 girls. That makes it easier to socially distance and allows everyone to engage more and get to know each other better. We switched to these small groups last fall, and so many girls said it was the best season ever."

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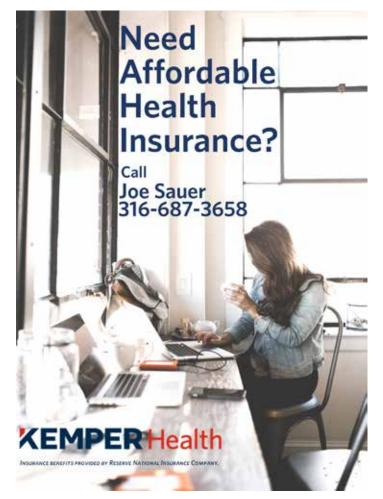


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