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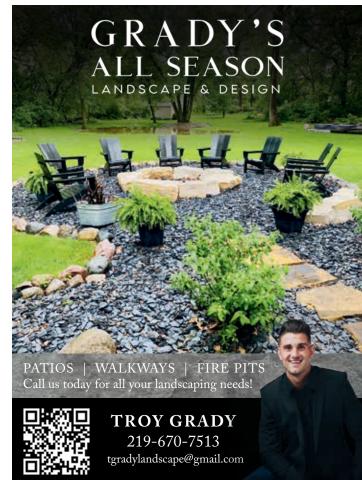
Rising
Star:
Christina
King
Rogers



Cover Story: Dawn Collins









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If you are interested in contributing or nominating REALTORS® for certain stories, please email us at **colt.contreras@n2co.com.**

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST ISSUE OF NORTHWEST INDIANA REAL **PRODUCERS!** We are delighted to introduce the newest preferred partners who have joined us in supporting our community: Everwise Credit Union, Grady's All Season Landscape & Design, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, and TradeWinds Print Shop. Together, we look forward to enhancing our readers' experience with their valuable services and commitment to excellence.

In this issue, we feature stories of remarkable individuals who exemplify dedication, compassion, and innovation in their respective fields. Common threads weave through their narratives, emphasizing resilience, community impact, and a steadfast commitment to service.

Tai and Christopher Crayton of Caring Transitions Crown Point lead with empathy and expertise, guiding families through challenging transitions with care and understanding. Their blend of social work and entrepreneurial spirit underscores their deep-rooted commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors across Northwest Indiana. Christina King Rogers, a standout in real estate, intertwines excellence with ministry, embodying a unique approach that resonates deeply with her clients. Her journey from renovation business to top-performing realtor is a testament to faith, resilience, and unwavering dedication to her community. Dawn Collins, a trailblazer in Valparaiso's real estate scene, shapes her career with a blend of innovation

and community service. With over three decades of experience, she continues to redefine success by prioritizing integrity, client satisfaction, and active community engagement.

As you delve into their stories, you'll discover how each of these individuals not only excels professionally but also enriches the fabric of our community through their generous spirits and impactful contributions.

We are thrilled to extend a special invitation to our inaugural event! Our Launch Party, sponsored by Wendy Krischke of Cross Country Mortgage, will be on August 20th from 1-3pm at Innsbrook Country Club in Merrillville. Our social events are FREE for REALTORS®, with food and door prize giveaways for everyone in attendance. The events are designed to increase social connections between top agents and top affiliates so that the best of the best can grow their business together. Join us for an afternoon of celebration and networking as we kick off this new chapter together!

Thank you for being a part of the NWI Real Producers community. We hope you enjoy this issue filled with inspiring stories and valuable insights. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and features in the months to come!

COLT CONTRERAS

Owner/Publisher colt.contreras@n2co.com (219) 309-7142



NORTHWEST INDIANA REAL PRODUCERS LAUNCH PARTY



TUESDAY, AUGUST 20TH 1:00-3:00PM

You are invited to the exclusive Northwest Indiana Real Producers Launch Event!

Innsbrook Country Club $6701~\mathrm{W}$ Taft St Merrillville, IN 46410

This invite-only event is dedicated to celebrating the top 300 REALTORS® and teams in the Region, along with our esteemed preferred partners. Get ready to mix and mingle with top real estate professionals, enjoy delicious food and drinks, and have a chance to win fabulous prizes from our partners.

This event is sponsored by Wendy Krischke of CrossCountry Mortgage and is FREE to Realtors!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- * A networking happy hour with the top real estate professionals
- * Appetizers, desserts from Great Harvest Bakery, and a cash bar
- Engaging conversations with our local preferred partners
- Celebration of our June, July, and August featured agents and partners
- Opportunities to win giveaways--bring your business cards to enter drawings that will occur throughout the event!

















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>> partner spotlight

AND

CHRISTOPHER

OF CARING TRANSITIONS CROWN POINT

By Giavonni Downing • Photography by Melinda Nicole Photography

NAVIGATING TRANSITION TOGETHER

Tai and Christopher Crayton help families navigate change with a unique blend of compassion and expertise. Together, they own and operate Caring Transitions Crown Point, which specializes in senior relocation service for families across Northwest Indiana. Founded in 2006 and expanded locally three years ago, Caring Transitions supports seniors through various life transitions, from downsizing and estate sales to relocation and decluttering.

With a background in engineering and organizational leadership, Christopher and Tai, a licensed clinical social worker, bring a unique blend of skills to their roles as certified

relocation and transition specialists. "Our work isn't transactional; it's people-oriented," Tai explains, emphasizing the importance of their social work background in understanding and meeting client needs.

Their journey into entrepreneurship began with a desire for a family-based business. "We wanted something that aligned with our skills and could benefit the community," Christopher reflects. After thorough research and deliberation, they chose Caring Transitions, driven by Tai's leadership abilities and shared commitment to service.



EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION
IS CRUCIAL IN MANAGING
OUR BUSINESS AND
CLIENT INTERACTIONS.

Their approach extends beyond business metrics; it's about building relationships. "People want to work with someone they know and trust," Christopher points out, highlighting their emphasis on establishing client connections.

Throughout their 15-year marriage, the Craytons have learned to nurture their relationship while building a legacy for their children through business and community impact. They support charitable causes like St. Jude's and Compassion International.

Operating as a husband-and-wife team comes with its challenges and rewards. "We understand each other's strengths and weaknesses," Tai notes, describing how their familiarity enhances their collaborative efforts. Christopher adds, "Effective communication is crucial in managing our business and client interactions."

Their vision for the future is bright. "We aim to create a business that allows us to make a meaningful impact and provide flexibility to support causes we care about," Tai shares. This aspiration reflects their goal of leveraging their success to benefit others through disaster relief efforts or ongoing community support.

Despite the challenges of entrepreneurship, including the steep learning curve and the need to balance work with personal life, the Craytons remain focused on their mission. "Helping families navigate stressful transitions and seeing the relief in their faces—that's what drives us," Tai concludes, echoing the heartfelt dedication that defines Caring Transitions.

As they continue to expand their footprint in the region, Tai and Christopher Crayton exemplify how a blend of passion, expertise, and relational focus can redefine success in senior care services.





has bloomed authentically, reaching 2 million in her first two years as a realtor.

Developments, helped Christina gain hands-on experience leading to invaluable insights into the industry. "We've been renovating homes in the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana areas, both residential and commercial," she shared. This background has been instrumental in her real estate career, allowing her to offer clients practical advice on preparing their homes

Before becoming a licensed realtor, Christina and her husband were immersed in the renovation business. Their business, Whole International

for sale.

Her husband believed that becoming a realtor was a natural transition for Christina.

Her husband encouraged Christina to leap into real estate during the pandemic. "It took me two years to feel led in that direction," she recalled. Once she committed, her success was swift. Passing all her exams on the first try was a clear sign that she was on the right path. "The doors started to open, and I knew this was the path for me," she said.

Christina's ability to balance her roles as a mother, wife, and realtor is rooted in setting boundaries. "I have a cut-off time for work to ensure I'm present for my family," she stated. This balance is crucial given her busy household with four children. Systems and support, including an accountability partner at Better Homes and Gardens, help her manage her growing business without compromising her family life.

With her business brand expanding rapidly, Christina King Rogers Realty Group is now focused on leveraging success by building a team. "I have multiple deals in Illinois and Indiana, so I need

help to maintain and continue to grow," she explained. She recently added a client care coordinator and a buyer's agent to Christina King Rogers Realty Group, allowing her to focus on strategic growth.

Christina's unique approach to combin-

Christina enjoying

a meal, prayer,

and solitude at Gamba Ristorante

ing ministry with real estate sets her apart. "I have married ministry and marketplace together," she says

proudly. This approach has built a deep level of trust with her clients. "We pray over the homes before we leave," she shares, highlighting how her faith plays a central role in her business. Christina has turned pain into purpose and now helps others through her organization, Be Made Whole Ministries.

Christina's journey has been challenging, but she sees every obstacle as a learning opportunity. "Every deal doesn't make it to the closing table, but it has shown me my resilience and dedication," she says. Her definition of success is rooted in endurance. "Success to me is being able to endure. It comes from many failures and a refusal to give up."

focuses on being an asset to her family and community. "Real estate provides security and shows my children that you can stand on your own two feet," she said. She models hard work and proves that it can lead to big opportunities. The producers of HGTV's House Hunters discovered Christina on social media and will feature her on the show this summer.

As Christina grows her business, she

When Christina has downtime, she likes to dine out alone. She relishes the solitude and silence, using her meal as fuel for shopping, another activity she enjoys.

While Christina has accomplished a remarkable amount, her journey proves that authenticity, faith, and a spirit of excellence are the true markers of success.





a lifelong passion. Encouraged to pursue real estate, Collins swiftly transitioned from a fitness enthusiast to a licensed agent with a thirst for new challenges.

>> cover story

DAWN COLLINS

SHAPING REAL ESTATE AND SERVING COMMUNITY



By Giavonni Downing

In the vibrant heart of Valparaiso, Indiana,
Dawn Collins makes a big impact through real
estate and her commitment to the community.
With over three decades of experience, Collins has
navigated changing markets and evolving trends,
earning her a reputation as a leader and
innovator in her field.

Photography by Melinda Nicole Photography

Her journey into real estate began unexpectedly, sparked by a twist of fate and a keen eye for opportunity. "I started out teaching fitness classes," she reminisces, reflecting on her early career in education and fitness. Little did she know that a chance encounter with a local builder would set her on a trajectory toward

Armed with a fresh perspective and a cell phone that was then a rarity among agents, Collins embraced the burgeoning opportunities of the real estate market in the 90s, diving headfirst into a world of open houses and client negotiations.

Collins' career trajectory soared as she moved from an independent agency to prominent corporate entities like Coldwell Banker and Century 21, where she thrived and honed her skills. Her decision to purchase a Century 21 franchise in 2006 marked a pivotal moment in her career, driven by a desire to chart her course amidst an impending recession. "I achieved early success, in part because I had the privilege of representing many of the area's top builders and developers," she reflects modestly, attributing her success to strategic partnerships and a knack for identifying market trends.

Specializing in high-end properties and new developments, Collins differentiated





markets. Embracing digital platforms and modern marketing strategies, Collins continues to innovate while preserving the core values of integrity and personalized service that define her brand.

Collins shows no signs of slowing down. With a legacy built on resilience and client satisfaction, she remains committed to expanding her influence and nurturing the next generation of real estate professionals. "I've been able to develop an excellent client base over my 30-year career," she remarks humbly, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and community engagement in sustaining long-term success.

Beyond her professional achievements, Dawn Collins is deeply committed to serving her community. Her involvement with the Valpo Chamber of Commerce and YMCA reflects her dedication to enhancing local business and community wellness initiatives. Each

herself with impeccable customer service and a commitment to building lasting relationships. "Repeat referral business is almost exclusively what I serve now," she explains, underscoring the trust and loyalty she has cultivated over the years. Her client-centric approach and a deep understanding of industry nuances have solidified her as a trusted advisor and a sought-after figure in the local real estate scene.

Collins remained ahead of the curve as the industry landscape evolved with technological advancements and shifting consumer behaviors. "My son Aaron has helped me stay current," she shares proudly, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of her son, an interior designer and social media maven. Aaron Collins, a partner in Team Collins, is licensed in 3 states: Indiana, California, & Florida. He currently splits his time between Valparaiso and Tampa, where he actively sells real estate in both







year, she dons the role of Mrs. Claus at the local breakfast with Santa, spreading joy and warmth during the holiday season.

Collins' philanthropic efforts extend beyond seasonal festivities. She participates in fundraisers such as the YMCA Annual campaign, serving with her husband Dave as Chair and Co-Chair for the past three years, and organizes fashion shows for causes such as Make a Wish Foundation and Housing Opportunities. She actively supports organizations like Toys for Tots, Go Red For Women, and VNA Hospice, embodying her belief that "charity starts at home." Her



MY FAMILY MANTRA HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO HONOR OUR **COUNTRY, FAMILY,** FAITH, AND COMMUNITY.



contributions resonate throughout the community, where she organizes fundraisers and spearheads initiatives that foster unity and support among neighbors.

Her home is a testament to her patriotism, adorned annually with Memorial Day neighborhood flag displays and a grand 20-foot flagpole. It's a hub of holiday joy, especially during Halloween and Christmas, where festive decorations and community gatherings thrive under her guidance.

"My family mantra has always been to honor our country, family, faith, and community," Collins

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ALL ABOUT

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A: The top 300 agents in

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crop. Just to be included in this group
is an accomplishment that testifies to
your hard work, dedication,
and proficiency.

Q: DO REAL ESTATE AGENTS HAVE TO PAY FOR MAGAZINES OR EVENTS?

A: NO! The magazine and events are FREE to agents and funded by the partners who advertise.

Q: WHAT KIND OF CONTENT WILL BE FEATURED?

A: This is all about you. We'll do personal and unique stories on members in the community, providing you with a platform to inspire others. As we grow, we'll add fresh content focused

entirely on you. It costs absolutely nothing for a REALTOR® to be featured. We are not a pay to play model; we write real stories, about Real Producers, and we're always accepting nominations. We will consider anyone brought to our attention-- we don't know everyone's story so we need your help to learn about them!

Q: WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

A: Anyone listed as a "Preferred Partner" in the front of the magazine is funding and fueling this community and is an essential part of it.

They are the top professionals in their industry. They will have an ad in every issue of the magazine and attend our events. One or many of you have recommended every single Preferred Partner you see in this publication. Our goal is to create a powerhouse network, not only for the best REALTORS® in the area, but the best affiliates as well, so we can grow stronger together.

Q: DOES Real Producers HAVE EVENTS?

A: Yes! Along with the magazine, we will host quarterly events exclusive to this community, where you —the best of the best—get together at local venues to socialize, mastermind, deepen our connections, and better our businesses. We will communicate about events through the magazine, via email, and on social media.

Q: HOW CAN I RECOMMEND A BUSINESS OR FEATURE STORY?

A: If you are interested in contributing, nominating REALTORS® to be featured, know of top-notch affiliate partners who you believe should be a part of our community, or would simply like to network; email or call us. I look forward to hearing from you!

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