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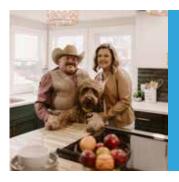
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If you are interested in contributing or nominating REALTORS® for certain stories, please email us at **samantha.lucciarini@realproducersmag.com.** 

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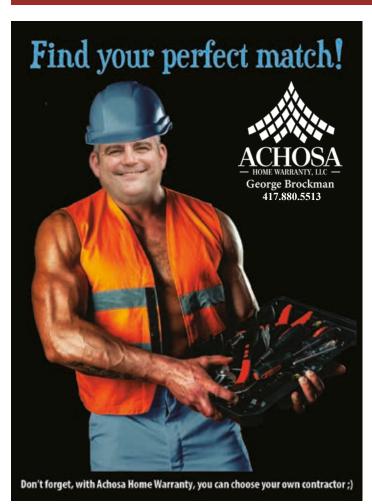


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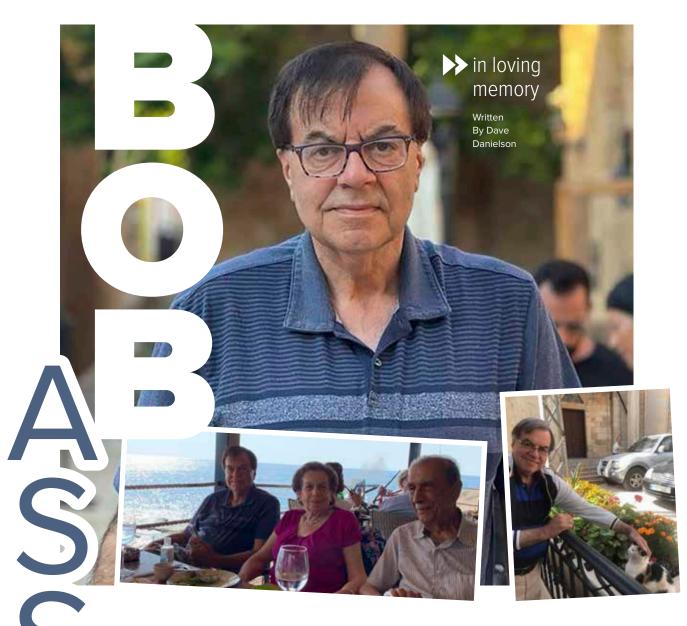
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Richer For Having Known Him

hose who knew Bob Assaf tended to share one very important attribute with each other. No matter where they were in life when they met him, they could each say that they were better off for having the experience of knowing him.

Bob's recent passing is being marked by the lives he touched across the region. He served as Broker of Park Plaza Realty, a role he proudly carried out with his team, including his daughter, Alyson, at his side.

#### **Iconic Impact**

His real estate career spanned well over 30 years. After starting in 1992 with Realty Executives, he went on to steadily serve the needs of others. In 2014, he earned his Broker's license and started Park Plaza Realty.

The extent of his success can most definitely be measured in human terms.

"He found a lot of joy in helping people realize the dream of homeownership," Alyson emphasizes. "He was a man of solutions. If there was a possibility to do something, he would find a way to do it. There were people who never thought they could qualify for a house, but my dad would show them how to do it."

#### **Genuine and Supportive**

Alyson remembers her father's kind, genuine and supportive nature. His leadership and gentle guidance were attributes she experienced firsthand when it came to her career, as well. She had earned her college degree in Political Science and Psychology. As she pondered her next steps, Bob had an idea.

"I had a meeting with my dad and he said why don't you come work with me and see if you like it. I didn't think that would be what I would do next. I enjoyed working with him so much because he was such a good mentor," she remembers. "He made me feel it was possible. I ended up liking it for the same reasons he did ... I loved working with people and working with my dad."

That feeling of encouragement and support was something that many people have experienced from Bob through time.





Bob had faced serious health conditions in his life, including extensive surgeries. Yet he shared a strong light with others.

"If you had a problem, you knew you

could help you through and make you

he hadn't seen before. He could help

me get out of any jam that I was in," Alyson says. "He did that for the other

agents in our office. He taught me a lot

him. I'm really thankful for his wisdom and carry that over into my career."

in the eight years that I worked with

should bring it to him. Because he

feel better. There wasn't anything

"He was an extremely spiritual man. His spiritual journey started in the 1980s. He offered to pray for other people. He carried out a healing ministry to lift people up and he tried to be a positive influence in their lives," Alyson says with a smile. "So many people considered him to be like family. At the same time, he was very thoughtful and loving. My husband and I were talking about him and he trusted people and gave them a chance to prove themselves and do good things."

Truly, the Wichita community is far richer for having known Bob Assaf.







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"I have to say I look up to my husband when it comes to real estate," Ashton says. "He has taught me everything I know and has told me to take the knowledge and make it mine. He doesn't compete with me, he is only supportive and loves to see me succeed in what I do."

#### **Family Foundation**

Family makes life much richer for Ashton. She and her husband cherish time with their children— Megan, David and Bailey.

As she says, "Family is my focus and my business allows me to make that the center of my life instead of a sidebar."

In their free time, Ashton and her family enjoy soccer. They are also active in NewSpring Church.

Other favorites include playing ping pong and Marvel movies. Ashton also enjoys shopping, along with playing piano and guitar. Success means something unique to each of us. For Ashton, she looks at it as knowing that she did everything she could.

"Sometimes that means it doesn't work out, but even if it doesn't, I did what I could. You don't know until you try! I don't believe in failure," Ashton says. "I believe in gaining experience. It's cliche, but success is not quitting and learning to pivot!"

Those who know Ashton appreciate her friendly nature and the way she is quick to smile and laugh. Those traits reflect her kindness.

"There is so much hatred and unhappiness in the world. I don't want someone's day to ever be ruined because of me. It takes zero dollars to be kind," Ashton points out.

Each day, Ashton brings this sense of positivity to those in her world as she puts her purpose to work in the world around her.

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Those who find success in the world for themselves and those around them are open to new possibilities. They embrace new opportunities.

Brandy Yarnell personifies this spirit as a REALTOR® and Investor with Keller Williams Signature Partners.

#### Opening a New Chapter

Brandy was born in Alva, Oklahoma, and grew up in Valley Center, Kansas. After raising her family, she felt the time was right to pursue something that had been on her mind through time.

"I homeschooled my kids for 18 years and when the last two were about to graduate, I decided the time was right to pursue real estate. I had always been interested in it, and we had a good friend who flipped homes, so I shadowed him and eventually started to run projects for him."

Brandy had also pursued the Business Administration and Real Estate track at Wichita State.

"The investor I was working with said why not just get your real estate license and do what you want to do," Brandy says. "He paid for my classes and license."

#### **Active Pursuits**

One large and ongoing element of life in the business for Brandy has been flipping properties. In fact, she has been involved in completing more than 100 flips.

Tyson had a career in nursing for 20 years but decided to join Brandy in the business in 2020. Together, they sold 7 flips in 2023 and have 4 more in process.

A big passion that Brandy has is interior design and staging. She enjoys



business together. She also enjoys
working with first-time buyers.

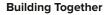
"I'm an educator at heart. I love
educating people on the home-buying

working with her youngest daugh-

ter on interior design and a staging

educating people on the home-buying process and taking away some of their fears by arming them with knowledge," Brandy says.

"It's also very rewarding to work with Tyson on all of this. We work really well together. We've known each other our whole lives and have been married for 23 years. Where my weaknesses are he is strong and vice versa. We complement each other very well."



In addition to the flips that she does, Brandy also continues to build her retail real estate business. In fact, in 2023, she recorded 38 closings, placing her in the lofty Master's Circle. In addition, her production levels in 2022 placed her among the top 1.5% of REALTORS® in the U.S. Through her career, she has recorded nearly 170 transactions.

Away from work Brandy and Tyson treasure time with their six children and eight grandchildren, with another grandchild on the way.

"Our family is a mixture of biological, step and adopted, so family is very important to us. We love to spend time together as a family, having family dinners and playing games together," she says.

In their free time, one of the areas that Brandy and Tyson have enjoyed staying engaged in the community is helping to plant Antioch Wichita church locally, beginning around 15 years ago. They also are in the worship band, with Tyson playing the



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drums, and Brandy singing. As part of that, they enjoy conducting mission work overseas through Acts of Mercy.

"Our big why is Acts of Mercy and the missions trips we do. Our biggest trip has been with the war between Russia and Ukraine," Brandy says.

"At the beginning, we went to Poland and we were going back and forth across the border helping people out of Ukraine."

#### Leading by Example

As she considers her past, she also offers helpful tips for others who are getting their start in the business.

"For new agents, and those who are building their business, attending as many trainings as possible, as well as seeking out agents who are doing what you want to do for advice is essential to growth," Brandy says. "Goal setting is vital, as well. If you don't know where you're going, you'll never get there!"



Day by day, it's clear that Brandy makes a tangible impact on the lives of those around her. It's a very fulfilling aspect of the work she does.

"I love helping others grow and be successful. I don't think I'm successful unless I help others be successful as well," she points out. "Our business is God and family-centered. Everything we do is focused toward creating a foundation that our kids, and generations after, can build upon."

Congratulations to Brandy Yarnell for her contributions to her clients and community.











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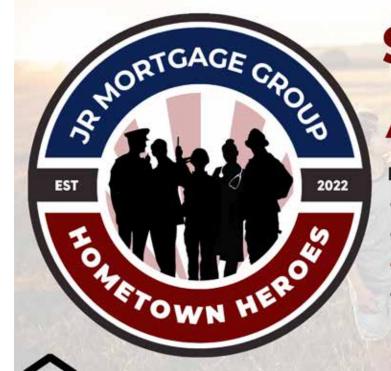
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#### With teamwork, possibilities become reality. Indeed, more than one set of hands can lighten the work.

Yet the power of teamwork isn't dependent on having a large team. In fact, teamwork can be very powerful when it begins with just two people.

One tangible example of that is Jimmy and Alisha Davis with Heritage First Realty, who have been married for 22 years.

#### **A Natural Progression**

Alisha had originally earned her license in 2011, with Jimmy joining her in the business in 2014.

"We can trace our start in the business back to an interest that we had in real estate. I started investing and we bought properties and Alisha got licensed. I had been in sales all of my career, and a few years later I got my license. Alisha is very personable. She was in healthcare before this. She has that naturally caring nature," Jimmy says.

"Right out of the gate we started a big team. Since then we have scaled it back to just work together as REALTORS®. We love working together toward the same goal. We have been married 22 years and we are best friends."

#### **Gratitude for What They Do**

When you talk with Jimmy and Alisha it's clear that they have a strong passion and appreciation for what they do.





"I love working with move up buyers or first-time homebuyers. I love that part of it, making everyone happy," Alisha says. "Buying a new house should be a happy experience. I work more with buyers and Jimmy works more with sellers. We love helping our clients win."

#### **Family Foundation**

Away from work, Jimmy and Alisha feel blessed to have a solid family foundation in place. They treasure their children — their daughter, Destiny; their son, Jaiden; their daughter, Averey; their daughter, Mia; and their son-in-law, Isaiah, who was lost in a car accident.

In their free time, Jimmy and Alisha have a love for time spent with their family. They also like to get outdoors whenever they can. One of their favorite pursuits is going on walks. They also like to stay active with exercise at the gym.

#### Leadership in Action

The ebbs and flows of life and business can be difficult to navigate. As Jimmy and Alisha reflect on their success and hopes for the future, they offer helpful advice for others who are getting into the business themselves.



"I think one of the most important things you can do to ensure your success in the business is to have a passion for it. You better love it," Jimmy says. "You better love people and you better not be in it for the money. But, as we all know, this isn't an easy business."

As Alisha says, it's vital for people who get into the business to keep in mind that there is a lot more that goes into success than what appears on the glamorous surface.

"It's a very stressful business, but also rewarding when you are helping your clients that turn into your friends," Alisha. "Sometimes people think we are experts in various areas of life."

Those who have had a chance to benefit from the experience and expertise that Jimmy and Alisha provide are quick to attest to their strengths.

people see that we are down to earth and loyal," Jimmy says. "We are here to make a real difference in the lives of people."

> Winning teams definitely come in all forms. With that in mind, Jimmy and Alisha Davis show the power of teamwork that begins with two ... a committed husband-and-wife team that dedicates their efforts to serving the best interests of their clients.

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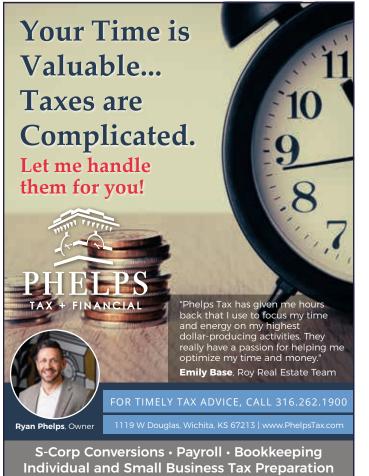
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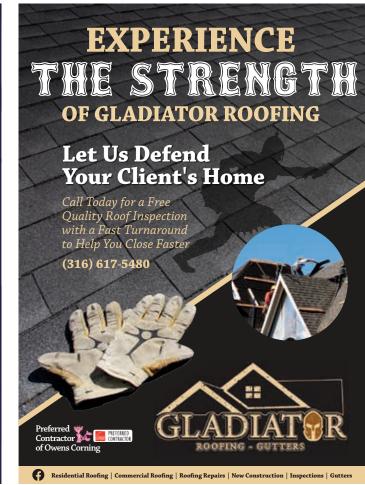
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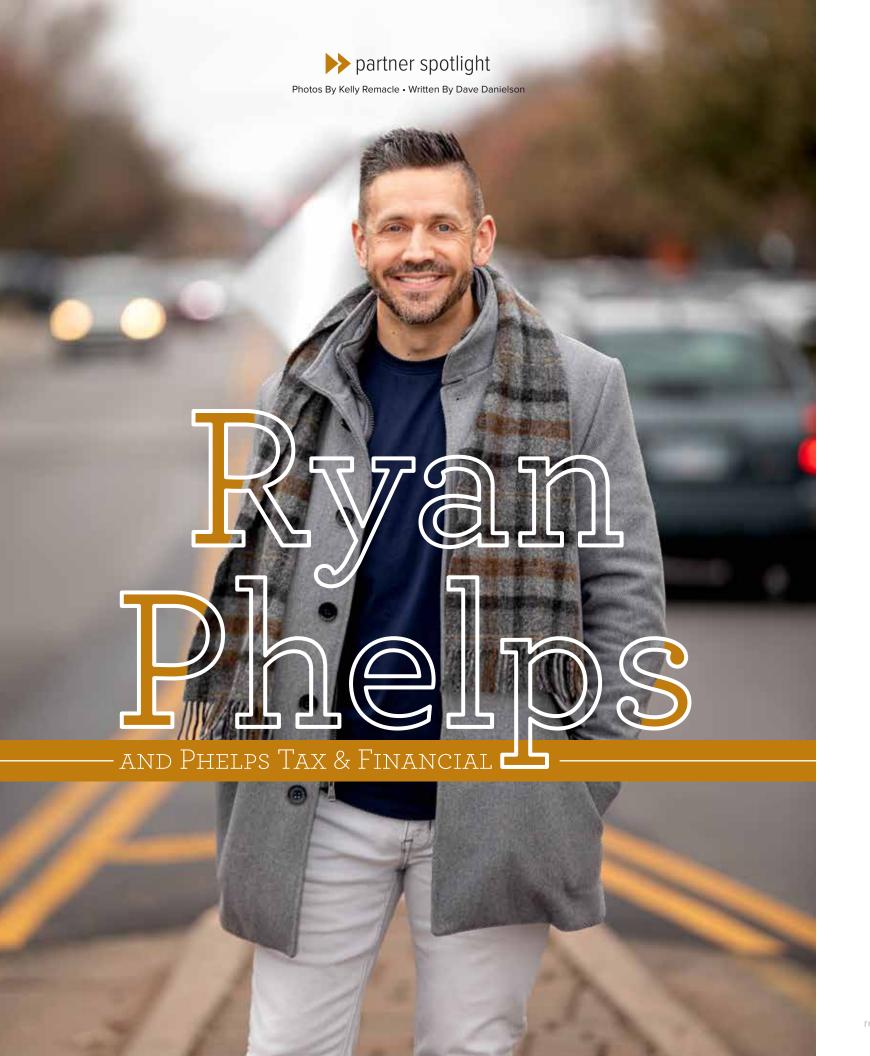


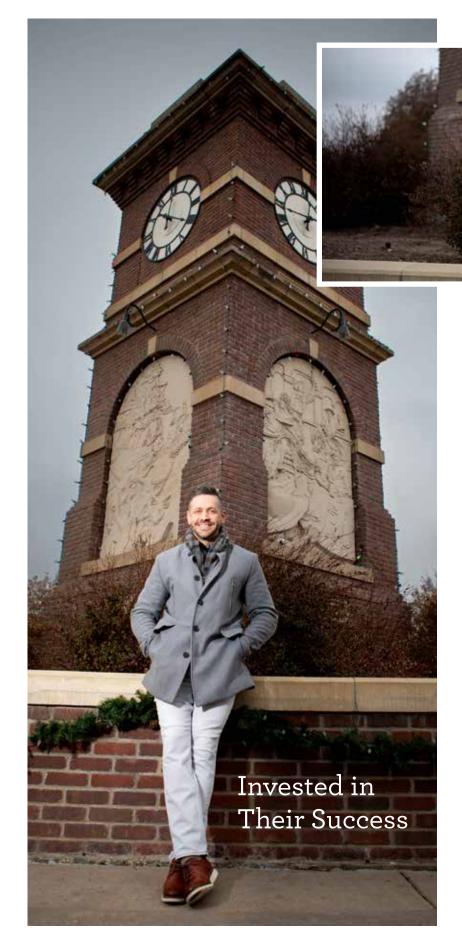
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It becomes immediately evident when you meet someone who is totally immersed in the needs of others.

That's the feeling you get when you talk with Ryan Phelps.

As a tax specialist with Phelps Tax + Financial, Ryan is truly invested in the success of those around him.

"I love interacting with the business owners that I work with, and REALTORS® are my biggest book of business. They have a particular set



of demands due to the nature of their work. I like being able to help relieve some of their financial burden so they can focus on what they do well and what they enjoy," Ryan says.

#### **Engaging Excellence**

"Engaging my clients regularly helps me to better meet their needs. I enjoy seeing them in person at the office or talking with them on the phone to see what we can do to help them reach their goals."

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A few of Ryan's primary objectives are helping his clients understand the deductibility of expenses, the importance of timely filings, and record-keeping methods. But the conversation could still grow from there.

"It could even involve forming an LLC and electing S-Corp taxation. I can help to facilitate that process for them," Ryan says.

#### Continuing a Tradition of Results

Ryan has continued and built on the legacy of the family business that his mother began in 1992. He joined the company in 2011 and rebranded it as Phelps Tax + Financial at that point.

As he remembers, "When I joined the family business, I brought with me some understanding of the financial world. I had worked in both consumer and commercial lending for various local financial institutions and was able to adapt the skills I honed there to my new role in the accounting world."

Today, Ryan has six full-time employees, along with four team members who work remotely and seasonally for a total of 10 team members.

You'll find Phelps Tax + Financial in the historic Delano District.

"We love being anchored here," he smiles. "This building was built in 1900. We have owned the building since 1992 and have renovated it a couple of times, most recently in the fall of 2020. We love our neighborhood, and we are proud to call Delano our home."

#### **Ensuring Understanding**

Ryan is the consummate professional who brings a deep understanding of his clients' situations to his interactions and problem-solving with them.





"I know that my REALTOR® partners spend a lot of time on the phone in constant communication with other agents, lenders, inspectors, and appraisers. They are also driving long

distances to meet clients and show houses. Amid all of that, the back-end financial things can get neglected," he acknowledges.

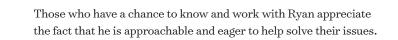
"Let us take from your plate any stress and responsibility of bookkeeping or tax planning. We can do all that for you so you can focus on what you enjoy."

#### Wonderful World

Away from work, Ryan looks forward to time with his family, including his wife and their two children.

In his free time, Ryan enjoys mixing cocktails for his friends, trying new bourbons and whiskeys, and frequenting his many favorite local watering holes.

Financial Relief



Let us take from

your plate any stress and responsibility of

bookkeeping or tax

planning. We can do all

that for you so you can

focus on what you enjoy.

"I spend a lot of time consulting with my clients to make sure they have a good understanding of their financial picture. Equipping my clients with the necessary tools to make informed decisions is paramount to me," Ryan says. "And my ultimate hope is that my clients feel that I'm very invested in their best financial interests."

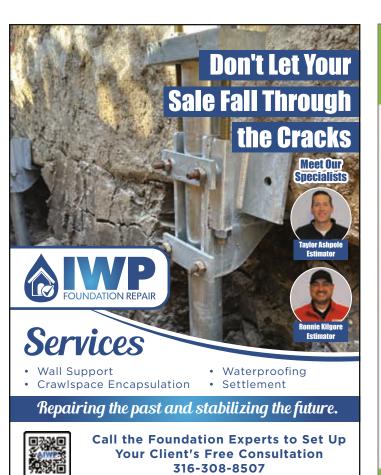
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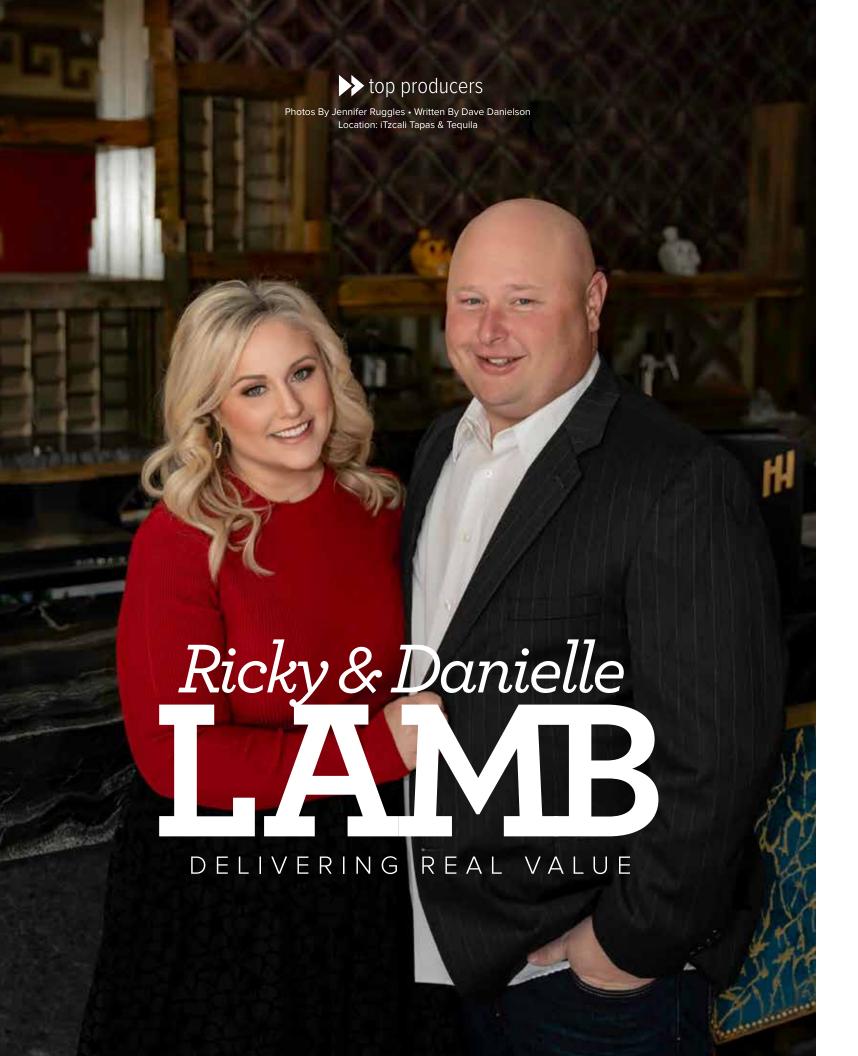


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When you work with someone who provides you with genuine guidance based on their experience and expertise, you receive true value.

That's exactly what those who work with Ricky and Danielle Lamb get.

#### All-In Approach

As a thriving husband-and-wife team, Ricky and Danielle deliver real value each day.

"Our hope is that our clients feel we are a great team to work with and that we focus on buyer and seller education. It's not for us to say that they should buy something or not, we always tell our clients that the house will sell itself. If you have to convince yourself it's probably not the right house for you," Danielle says.

As Ricky says, it's about building relationships. We like to make ourselves available and approachable and encourage our buyers and sellers."

Ricky has been in the business for nearly 20 years, and Danielle earned her real estate license in 2017.

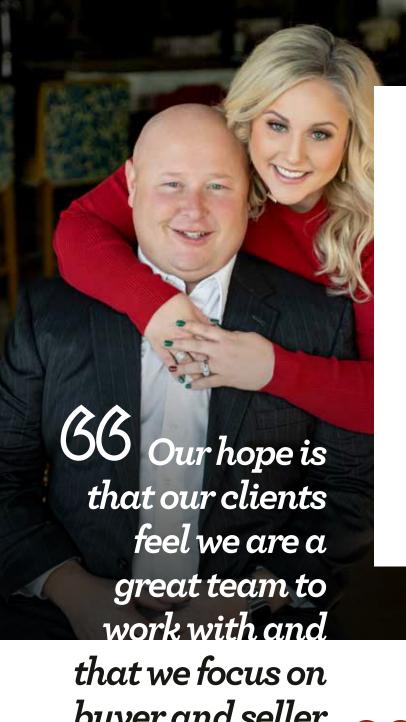
#### First Steps

Ricky remembers how he first got his start in real estate.

"My family had Jot-Em Down Appliances for nearly 45 years. We always had landlords and people who would buy appliances for their properties. My mother had her real estate license and worked part-time doing a few transactions with friends and family each year," he says.



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"For me, I didn't have an a-ha moment. My first job was selling life insurance and I told people that they needed life insurance. In real estate it was flipped the other way. People would come and ask for my help and that resonated with me. I really enjoy helping buyers and sellers navigate through the process."

As Danielle says, "When I got my start, I was really only helping Ricky when he was really busy. Then he continued to get busier. And in March 2020, just two weeks before the start of a global pandemic, I left my job with benefits to join him full-time. It was scary to say the least but, in the end, it was the best decision we've ever made."

Ricky and Danielle feel honored to share the same path in life and business.

"We really enjoy working together. It works for us," Ricky says. "As part of that, our kids have seen more houses than most adults have. We have a good balance between us."

Ricky and Danielle appreciate the variety they experience each day.

buyer and seller education. 99





"Real estate is one of those professions where you don't have the same day twice. We might have a schedule in our head, but then a house pops up and our day is completely changed. But that's what we love about real estate, and what appeals to both of us," Danielle says. "It's always something different and every house sale and purchase are different and that keeps it fun. It's not an office job where you are going in and doing the same thing every day."

As Ricky adds, "We are always on call and work a lot of off hours We pride ourselves on being available for our clients. Even if we're on vacation, we figure out a way to serve our clients, because we truly enjoy what we do."

#### Signs of Success

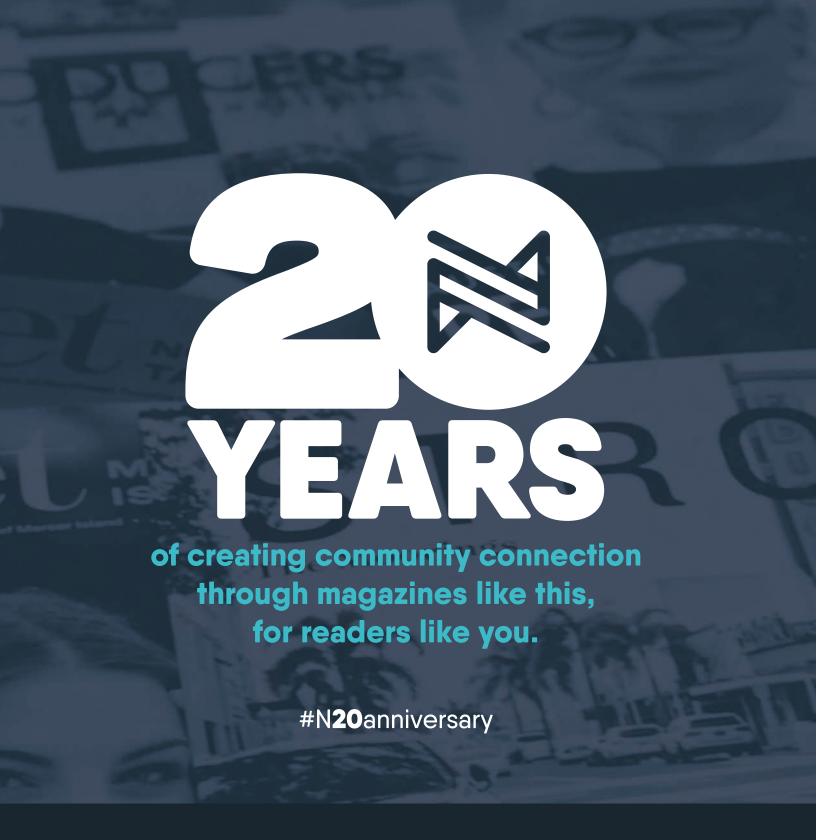
Ricky and Danielle have continued to grow forward through time. In 2023, they accounted for 40 transactions representing over \$9 million in sales volume. In their career, they have recorded 434 transactions representing over \$72 million in Family is at the heart of life for Ricky and Danielle. They treasure time with their children-6-year-old son, Nolan; and almost 2-yearold daughter, Vivianne.

In their free time, they are both alumni of Wichita State and are avid fans of the school's basketball program. They also look forward to spending time with their family, going on fun vacations and hanging out with friends.

When it comes to giving back, Ricky and Danielle have volunteered with the American Heart Association and they are also big animal lovers supporting Beauties and Beasts. Danielle has also been a Junior League of Wichita member for the past eight years.

When you do the right things consistently over time, you find success. And that's what Ricky and Danielle have done for those around them by delivering real value.

















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### **TITLE INSURANCE 101**

#### WHAT IS TITLE INSURANCE?

The most accurate description of title is a bundle of rights in real property. A title search is the process of determining from the public record what these rights are and who owns them. A title search is a means of determining that the person who is selling the property has the right to sell it and that the Buyer is getting all the rights to the property that he or she is paying for.

#### WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT CLOSING?

On the day of closing, all documents pertinent to the transaction are signed, checks are disbursed and the legal documents are sent to the courthouse for official recording. Your Escrow Closer will provide a thorough overview of the Settlement Statement and closing documents. Kansas Secured Title is a disinterested third party to the transaction

#### WHY DOES THE SELLER NEED TO PROVIDE TITLE INSURANCE?

Title insurance provides the Buyer evidence that the Seller owns title to the property and is free of title defects. The title insurance policy that a Seller provides to a Buyer is a guarantee that the Seller is selling a clear title to the real estate, un-encumbered by any legal attachments that might limit or jeopardize ownership.

#### WHY DOES THE BUYER NEED TITLE INSURANCE?

Title insurance provides the Buyer protection against:

- · Errors in the public record
- · Hidden defects not disclosed in the public record
- Mistakes in examining the title of your new property
- · Bankruptcies, divorces, estates, mechanic's liens and even forged deeds are common title defects.

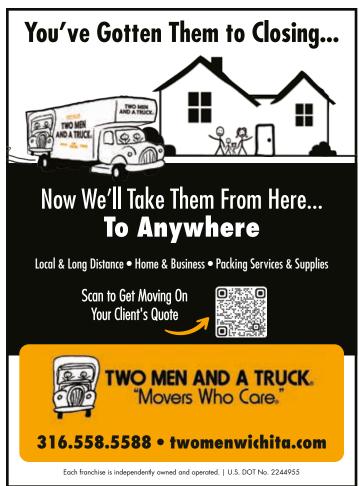
In addition to the Buyer's Owner's Policy of Insurance, the Lender will require a policy that guarantees its first lien position on the

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