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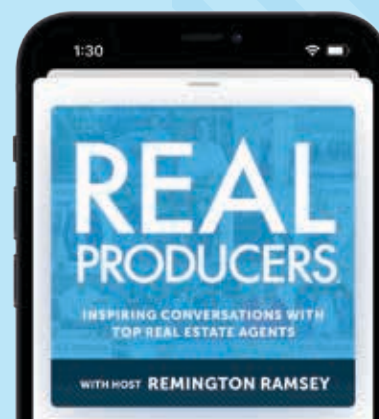
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HAVEN HOMES of Detroit

A Shared Vision for Helping Others

Aaron Short and Kristen Detweiler Short have been married for 20 years, and together, they share a common bond for helping others. Both of them had exposure to people caught in human trafficking through their involvement with local nonprofits, and their belief that all people deserve support and encouragement led them to form Haven Homes of Detroit.

Haven Homes of Detroit (HHD) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that seeks to provide safe, secure housing for women in Detroit facing housing insecurity after leaving human trafficking. “Our mission is to buy properties in the Metro Detroit area, renovate them and provide housing for three to four women for 12-24 months,” Kristen explained. “There is a significant need for proper housing for women who have been caught in substance abuse, addictions or human trafficking. For victims of human trafficking, these things usually go together.”

One barrier to leaving human trafficking is a lack of housing and a safe, clean community after they leave rehabilitation, which leaves them vulnerable to returning to the very same situation they have worked hard to leave. When the women are ready to make their next step toward independent living, HHD provides resources that will help them choose a different life than returning to addictions and human trafficking. “We have an in-home support person who will protect security at the home, offer assistance with job interview preparation, give emotional and mental support, provide financial management training and teach life skills,” Aaron said. “Along with safe housing, we strategically partner with other nonprofits and local agencies to offer hope and encouragement against real barriers such as securing a job, maintaining ongoing sobriety





support, and learning other practical skills of daily life.”

HHD was formed out of a strong belief that all people matter, have dignity and deserve the opportunity to make positive life choices if they desire. In 2015, Kristen was involved with Love Runs, which is a running group that supports local nonprofits in Michigan that are committed to serving people caught in human trafficking. “I had a sense in my heart that there was more for me to do with this cause,” she recalled. “One morning, while praying, I had a vision of Aaron and I taking care of people on the streets of Detroit. At the time, I wasn’t sure what that would look like, but it was clear that the details and timing would present itself when it was right.”

In 2020, Aaron had a moment when he saw the same vision Kristen had five years earlier. He was passing out food and hygiene products with All Worthy of Love (AWOL) when a woman who had left trafficking a month previously was back at her usual spot. “The spot serves as a home to people in human trafficking, but it’s really a motel that rents by the week,” Aaron shared. “I remembered that when this woman left, she had said she really wanted to stay clean

this time. She didn’t have anywhere she was comfortable going after she left rehab, and she ended up staying with a family member who was using drugs. It wasn’t long before the woman started using again and was back with her pimp who was trafficking her for access to drugs.”

In that instance, Aaron wondered if she had a different place to go when she left rehab, or had an environment that could support her efforts to stay clean, would the woman have a chance to change her situation?

One year later, Aaron and Kristen established HHD. Aaron, who has owned and operated Axe & Hammer Home Designs LLC for three years, is the general contractor who handles the rough and finish construction on the homes. Along with Kristen, they run all the board meetings, coordinate fund-raising and organize outreach services with local agencies.

“Our work with HHD continues to be inspiring to us,” Kristen said. “It has been so rewarding to connect with nonprofits that are working on similar missions. It’s easy to find negativity with all of the world events that are going on, so to find similar people who are committed to using their skills and passions to improve the lives of others motivates us to keep moving forward.”

HHD not only provides safe, reliable housing for women but also impacts the community it shares. This occurs through outreach and improvement opportunities in the immediate area for local companies, businesses and organizations. “Partnering with local organizations provides new and untapped opportunities to engage and bring awareness,” Aaron said. “There’s a huge need for transitional housing. Women have expressed interest in changing their circumstances, but resources are limited from where they see it, and improved housing situations seem bleak to them. Trust is often an issue as disappointment and hollow promises are woven into their mindset.”

HHD has found amazing corporate support through the subcontractors working with Axe & Hammer Home Designs LLC. “We have been fortunate enough to partner with

Wallside Windows, Efficient Electric, Phil Klein Insurance Group (PKIG), Go Green Contracting, Detroit Junk Busters and No Leak Home Improvements through their generous donations and/or discounted work,” Aaron said. “Additionally, Domino’s Pizza, The Packer Group and Huron Capital have been amazingly generous with their support.”

On June 1, 2022, the group hosted their first annual golf outing at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center in Plymouth on the Golden Fox course. They also have plans to host a formal gala in the fall.

Aaron has an interdisciplinary degree with concentrations in education, psychology and business. He worked at a Children’s Home as a program coordinator in Indiana. After moving, he began working with disabled adults as a program coordinator, placing them in community vocational settings. He then went on to pursue his master’s degree in kinesiology and worked as a collegiate strength and conditioning coach for 10 years. Due to changes at home, Aaron stepped away from strength and conditioning and started his renovation and home design business, Axe & Hammer. Now, as the president and co-founder of the HHD board, he is using all of these jobs and experiences daily.

Kristen has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has worked at Mayo Clinic in oncology and in the pediatric intensive care unit. She earned her Master of Science degree as a family nurse practitioner, where she continued her care of oncology patients. When they moved to Michigan, Kristen continued working as a nurse practitioner at the University of Michigan Rogel Cancer Center. In 2014, she worked as a clinical nurse educator for a pharmaceutical company and now works as a director for sales strategy, communications and innovation.

Haven Homes of Detroit welcomes the opportunity to share its mission with local businesses. They are on the verge of launching their house and are currently fundraising for operational costs for 2023. HHD is also in the process of hiring a director of residents & programming to stay in the home to provide support to the women living there. For more information or to help support HHD, visit havenhomesofdetroit.org or email havendetroit@gmail.com.



ROBERT SHERMAN

RE/MAX PLATINUM
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PROBLEM SOLVER,
NATURAL LEADER,
AND ENTREPRENEUR

“Each transaction is different, and I love navigating those challenges. It allows me to be creative and innovative, figuring things out and helping my agents reach their goals.

“As a military kid, I moved around a lot, but I always found space to create my own adventures – and a little mischief,” Robert Sherman says with a laugh. “When I was 8, I wanted to be an astronaut.” From an early age, Robert’s ambition and drive were clear, always striving to achieve the highest goals and be the best version of himself.

“I graduated at 16 and started a construction company,” he comments. Although he thought about college, it didn’t make sense. “I was making \$80,000 a year as the foreman for a construction company. I wasn’t going to go to college to make \$40,000 a year for IT.” Instead of going to college, he went full steam ahead in his construction company.

“I had 25 employees, but as my company grew, it was hard to keep everyone busy.” Instead of letting people go, Robert came up with a better plan.

“I started buying houses to be renovated. Crews started renovating houses when there was downtime,” he comments. As Robert discovered, there was a lot of money flipping houses. Following the money, he started flipping and renovating houses more and more.

“It took off,” he smiles. “I was paying a guy 6 percent to list my properties. After 10-12 properties, I knew I could do it instead.” Robert got his license 8 years ago and soon discovered a new career. “I found out I really enjoyed selling real estate,” he smiles.

After closing his construction company, Robert transitioned into full-time real estate, concurrently overseeing multiple investment properties. His recent achievement of obtaining a broker’s license last year marked a pivotal step towards advancing his career in the industry.

“Earlier this year, the perfect opportunity presented itself, and I seized it,” he reflects with heartfelt gratitude.

Leading the Way

Today, Robert Sherman serves as the



Managing Broker of RE/MAX Platinum Ann Arbor, where his primary focus is to provide leadership and support for his 42 agents and his office staff. “I’m excited to lead the way with all the recent changes in real estate and help agents build their businesses,” he shares. “I want each of them to find their ‘why,’ the reason they work so hard, because there’s long-term motivation in that.”

Robert’s leadership is rooted in leading from the front. “You have to be the guy in the trenches,” he emphasizes.

Whether he’s helping agents close deals or offering a motivational boost, Robert is always hands-on. His brokerage fosters a career-oriented culture. “There are a lot of flash-in-the-pan real estate companies,” he notes, but Robert envisions a future where agents build lifelong careers in real estate. “My goal is to see the same REALTORS® thriving 30 years from now.”

Real estate also feeds Robert’s passion for problem-solving. “I can get bored easily,” he admits. “Each

transaction is different, and I love navigating those challenges. It allows me to be creative and innovative, figuring things out and helping my agents reach their goals.”

Making A Difference

Beyond real estate, Robert’s passion for making a difference extends to his charitable work. He and his wife, Stacy, co-founded a charity a decade ago focused on raising funds for individuals with special needs. As former directors of Special Olympics, they’ve raised over \$140,000, funding everything from tournament participation to equipment like hockey helmets.

Robert’s connection to Special Olympics began decades ago, when his mentor, Albert Gutierrez, invited him to attend a basketball practice. “I’ve always loved sports and Al helped me find a place to merge that with my passion to give back,” he says, reflecting on how the opportunity to help led to a lifelong commitment. “Twenty-two years later, I’m still helping out,” he smiles.

Family + Fun

Despite a busy professional life, Robert values his time with family. Recently remarried to Stacy, a leadership coach and strategic consultant, Robert is also the proud father of his daughter, Emily, and a happy stepfather to Abigail. His love for working with his hands still thrives, and in his spare time he can be found remodeling his home or working on his property. “I’m always tearing something apart,” he jokes, recalling last year’s kitchen and living room renovations.

Final Thoughts

From building his own construction company to building a stellar real estate brokerage, Robert is a natural-born leader. Whether building homes or building careers, Robert Sherman continues to lead by example, empowering those around him and making a lasting impact both in real estate and beyond.

“

You have to be the guy in the trenches. My goal is to see the same REALTORS® thriving 30 years from now.

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A large, bright living room with a striped sofa, a wooden coffee table, and a dining area in the background. The room features a large window with a patterned curtain, a ceiling fan, and a dining table with chairs. The kitchen area is visible in the background with dark wood cabinets and a white countertop.



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Bunn WARREN

& Associates

In the fast-paced world of real estate, Bunn Warren & Associates (BWA) has emerged as a standout team in Southeast Michigan. What makes this team so remarkable isn't just the leadership of its founders, but the collective dedication of its 30 real estate agents who work together to achieve extraordinary results.

How It All Began

Jim Bunn's path to real estate began in 2018. With his wife being a mortgage professional for over 20 years, Jim was no stranger to the world of real estate. After years of being a stay-at-home dad and coaching high school football, Jim decided to dive into the industry himself. "I wanted to make my own schedule and build my own business," Jim reflects. His leadership background in coaching naturally extended into his real estate career, where he focused on training and mentoring others. "I would not be the husband, father and successful team leader without the support from my amazing wife and family."

Meanwhile, Mark Warren started his journey in real estate in 2013. While still in college at Central Michigan University, Mark worked as an unlicensed intern. After



A TEAM BUILT ON COLLABORATION AND SUCCESS



Photo by AP Photography

earning his business degree, Mark became a licensed REALTOR® in 2015 and has been thriving ever since. For Mark, real estate provided the challenge he sought. “I enjoy the challenging deal structures and watching people succeed in reaching their goals,” he explains.

Building a Strong Foundation Together

The team’s journey started during the challenges of the 2020 pandemic. While the world slowed down, Jim & Mark used the time to focus on building a solid foundation. They developed strategies and systems that would set them apart from other real estate teams. By May 2020, when the market reopened, the team’s dedication and hard work

paid off as they began to grow rapidly, attracting talented agents and expanding their reach.

A Culture of Collaboration

At the heart of Bunn Warren & Associates is a strong team culture rooted in three pillars: competitiveness, accountability, and training. Each member of the team contributes to an environment where success is shared, and growth is fostered. Training is a central part of their approach, with dynamic sessions led not only by the team leaders but also by top agents. This allows for continuous learning and mentoring, ensuring that every agent, whether new or experienced, has the opportunity to develop their skills and reach their goals.

A Focus on Agent Success

What truly sets Bunn Warren & Associates apart is their unwavering commitment to the success of their agents. The team has created an environment where every individual can thrive, whether they are just starting out or are seasoned professionals. The team’s collaborative spirit, along with a focus on retention, helps agents realize their professional dreams while maintaining a sense of community. Jim & Mark’s ability to pivot and adapt ensures that the team remains innovative and ahead of market trends. The team also benefits from veteran administrative staff, providing the crucial support needed for seamless operations.

Systems, Strategy, and Accountability

At Bunn Warren & Associates, success

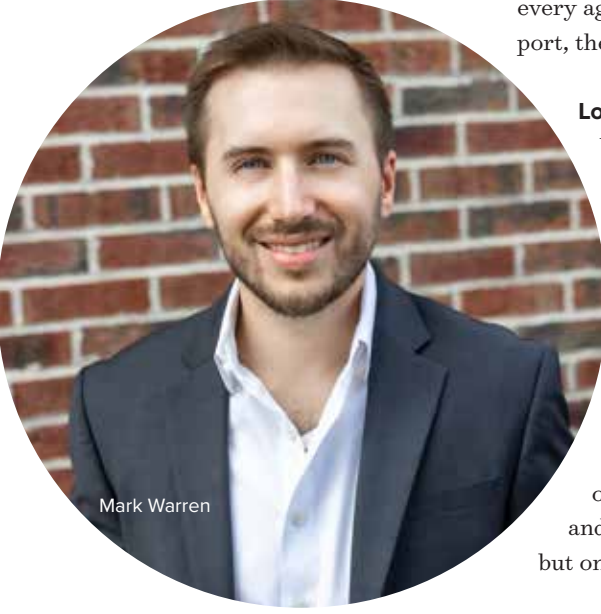
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 ”



Jim Bunn

is built on a solid foundation of culture, accountability, and well-designed systems. The team places a strong emphasis on creating systems that streamline the lead generation process, giving agents access to high-quality leads.

Accountability is woven into the fabric of the team, with regular check-ins and support to ensure that everyone stays on track. Strategic planning plays a key role, allowing the team to set clear goals and continuously refine their approach. Jim Bunn explains the team’s philosophy: “At BWA we want to attract 10s. We’ve built a team surrounded by winners that are always trying to push each other while encouraging each other’s success. I feel this is one of the reasons when other agents struggle on their own or on another team, they find success here.” By creating an environment where every agent is held accountable while still receiving ample support, the team has created a winning formula for success.



Mark Warren

Looking Toward the Future

With their collective strengths and shared vision, Bunn Warren & Associates is poised for continued growth. The team is focused on becoming a top real estate team not just in Michigan, but on a national level. By building a supportive, success-driven environment, they are making a lasting impact not only on their clients but on the entire industry.

At Bunn Warren & Associates, it’s the combined efforts of each team member that drives the success of the whole. Together, they continue to grow, innovate, and create a team that’s not only focused on real estate but on building futures.

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