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Achieving the Dream

WRITTEN BY DAVE DANIELSON



When it comes to helping your clients achieve their homeownership dreams, it's good to know that you have a partner on your side like Planet Home Lending.

Planet Home Lending has built a reputation as a company dedicated to helping people achieve their dreams of homeownership. As a direct lender, the company operates with minimal overlays and underwrites loans true to guidelines, ensuring a

smoother process for buyers. Planet Home Lending also services over 90% of its loans, offering a level of consistency and trust that many other lenders cannot.

Tradition of Excellence

Michelle Crubaugh, the Branch Manager, has been with Planet Home Lending for seven years and has over 20 years of experience in the mortgage industry. She previously worked as an Underwriter, Processing Manager, and National Operations Manager before finding her home at Planet

Home Lending. Michelle's passion is helping people, particularly those who never thought homeownership was possible. She emphasizes the company's commitment to service, stating, "We work when agents work—nights and weekends. This is not my team; it's our team. Every member of our branch is valuable and has earned their seat at the table."

Leadership in Action

This dedication to service and community support has been further enhanced by the addition of Anabella Ruiz, who joined the branch in September 2023. Anabella has played a crucial role in expanding the company's outreach to Hispanic homebuyers, a segment that has historically faced challenges in securing mortgages. Since her arrival, the percentage of Hispanic buyers working with the branch has increased by 400%, now accounting for nearly 30% of the total volume.

Anabella's success is rooted in her personal experiences and deep connection with her community. Born and raised in Peru, she moved to the United States at the age of 15, determined to build a better future. She worked full-time to pay for her tuition while earning a bachelor's degree in business from Wichita State University. As an immigrant, she understands firsthand the challenges faced by those pursuing the American Dream.

"I personally know the challenges that we encounter every day and how hard we work to reach the American Dream. There were many

sacrifices and many tears when doors were closed, but God helped my family and me through every obstacle we encountered and opened new doors," Anabella shares. "I have always had a passion to help my community. If I knew how to help someone go to college or find a better job opportunity, I was going to help them."

Passion for the Work

Her work at Planet Home Lending has allowed her to extend that passion to the housing market. She specializes in working with clients from diverse backgrounds, including those with DACA status, refugees, self-employed individuals, and seasonal employees. Many of her clients work in construction, an industry that experiences seasonal slowdowns, and others take extended leaves to visit their home countries. By thoroughly documenting these scenarios and working closely with underwriters, Anabella has maintained a 100% loan approval and closing rate.

Her attention to detail and dedication to in-person client service have set her apart. "Many of my clients prefer in-person meetings. They look to their agents and loan officers as trusted advisors," Anabella explains. "I spend many weekends and after hours meeting with them and their agents to gather income and asset documents upfront and issue solid pre-approvals." Michelle Crubaugh acknowledges the significant impact Anabella has had on the branch. "It has been a learning experience for all of us, but I have been fascinated by this

"FOR ME, THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A JOB—IT'S A PURPOSE THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME."

part of our business," she says. "Our underwriting staff consistently praises Anabella's thoroughness and how well-documented her files are. She previously struggled getting her loans done at another company, but not here. With her knowledge and expertise, she is making homeownership a reality for so many who once thought it was out of reach."

Future Wins

Looking ahead, the team at Planet Home Lending is excited about the future. The National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) predicts that in the next decade, 55% of new

homeowners will be Hispanic. Additionally, the National Association of Realtors recently reported that Hispanic Americans posted the largest increase in homeownership in the last ten years, with a 5.8% rise, while other demographic groups have either declined or remained stagnant.

Beyond her professional achievements, Anabella is deeply involved in her community. She and her husband actively serve at their church, Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Jerusalem, particularly in the children's ministry. They recently welcomed their daughter, Ruth, into the world, which has given

them a new perspective on life and strengthened their commitment to their work and faith.

"I believe if we keep working together, we can continue building trust in our community and help more families achieve the American Dream," Anabella says. "For me, this is more than just a job—it's a purpose that God has given me."

Glenda Flores, one of the top Hispanic real estate agents, also recognizes the vital role Anabella plays.

"Her dedication and genuine care for her clients make all the difference. She ensures every detail is covered, giving her clients confidence throughout the homebuying process. She's truly a blessing to our community."

With a strong team, unwavering commitment to service, and a clear vision for the future, Planet Home Lending continues to pave the way for homeownership, particularly for those who have historically faced barriers.



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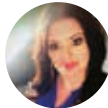
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Total Home Lending

SCORING WITH TEAM SPIRIT

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER RUGGLES
WRITTEN BY DAVE DANIELSON

Each day you strive to create wins for your clients. Luckily, you have Loan Officer Grant Peterson and the team at Total Home Lending on your side ... helping you score with true team spirit.

For Grant, it's the people behind those numbers that drive his passion. With a background as a state math champion and Mensa member, Grant has found a way to merge his analytical skills with his deep-rooted desire to help people achieve homeownership. His story is one of persistence, faith, and a commitment to making a difference.

A Unique Path

Originally from North Dakota, Grant's path to the mortgage industry was anything but conventional. After completing his studies at the University of Michigan in actuarial and financial mathematics, a conversation with a friend opened his eyes to the world of mortgage lending. He quickly saw the potential to use his skills in a meaningful way, and six months into his mortgage career, life threw him an unexpected opportunity—coaching.



The head coach of the University of Michigan cheer team reached out, inviting him back to coach. For eight years, Grant dedicated himself to mentoring student-athletes while also continuing his work in the mortgage industry. Then, in a twist of fate, he met his son's mother at an NCAA tournament. She was from Wichita, and after hitting it off, Grant decided to make the move to Kansas, where he would continue his mortgage career and build a life in a new city.

A Passion for Helping Homebuyers

For Grant, being a loan officer is about much more than processing paperwork and crunching numbers. It's about providing hope.

"I have a number of clients who may have been turned down from another bank," he explains. "Talking with them and giving them hope and attention is important to me. Sometimes it's something we can work on right away, or we may be six months or a year out. Either way, I like doing what I can to help."

This philosophy of connection and encouragement is central to his approach. He takes the time to educate his clients, ensuring they understand their financial situation and the steps they need to take to secure a home loan. It's this personal touch that sets him apart.



Excellence in Service and Communication

Total Home Lending prides itself on customer service, and Grant is a shining example of this commitment.

"I share my cell phone number with everyone," he says. "Communication and building relationships with agents are key steps. Whether there's good news or an issue to work through, communication is really important in the relationships we build."

Grant ensures that every client and real estate partner knows they can reach out to him at any time. His dedication to transparency and proactive problem-solving has earned him a stellar reputation in the industry.

A Tailored Approach to Lending

Every homebuyer's journey is different, and Grant understands that a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work in mortgage lending. At Total Home Lending, he has access to a variety of loan products beyond just new construction.

"We have a lot of niche programs and VA loans," he says. "Each person's situation will be unique. We are tailored to the individual buyer as opposed to an investor. That said, we also have great products for investors."



With a team that includes a dedicated processor and five underwriters, Grant ensures that every client gets the attention and solutions they need to achieve homeownership.

A Life of Faith, Family, and Community

Beyond his professional life, Grant is deeply rooted in his faith and community. His son, Myles, is at the center of his world, and together they share a love for Legos—something they both consider an addiction.

Grant also leads two different faith-based groups. One is a weekly church group that represents six or seven different churches, which he hosts at his home. Sunday mornings are

filled with church activities, and he even plays pickleball regularly with friends to stay active and connected.

His faith journey took on even greater significance after a challenging period in his life. Following a difficult breakup, he found solace and purpose in leading a Sunday school class for first to third graders.

“I was searching for a place where Myles could do Sunday school,” he recalls. “I felt spoken to and started teaching. Seeing how God worked through people and lifted them up was transformative for me.”

This deep faith has shaped Grant’s approach to both life and business. “I



hope that people see the love of Jesus in the work I do,” he says. “My life has been transformed and lifted up in all areas since doubling down on my faith.”

A Mortgage Experience to Remember

For Grant Peterson, being a loan officer is about creating a positive and lasting experience for his clients. Whether it’s helping someone who has been previously denied a loan or ensuring seamless communication with real estate partners, he is committed to excellence.

Contact Total Home Lending Today!
Grant Peterson: 701-730-6332

“I share my cell phone number with everyone. Communication and building relationships with agents are key steps.”





Jennifer RUGGLES

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Christina Mae MOORE

Pursuing Her Potential

PHOTOS BY ALLIE HENWOOD
WRITTEN BY DAVE DANIELSON



For Christina Mae Moore, real estate was not a childhood dream, nor was it an obvious career choice. Instead, it was a journey that evolved over time, shaped by her experiences, passions, and a deep-rooted commitment to helping others.

Now a dedicated agent with LPT Realty and a member of the Urban Cool Homes Team led by Steven Meyers, Christina thrives in the fast-paced world of real estate, combining her love for homes with her background in hospitality to provide unparalleled service to her clients.

A Journey from Hospitality to Real Estate

Christina spent 22 years in the hospitality industry, a career that nurtured her love for meeting people, understanding their needs, and providing top-tier service. However, her fascination with homes and architecture gradually pulled her in a different direction. “I like looking at homes,” she says. “I’m fascinated by construction and different layouts. Seeing clients’ reactions in person—how their expressions tell the story—is something you can’t get from looking at pictures online.”

Her first step into real estate came in 2016 when she obtained her license in Colorado, focusing on the Keystone and Frisco area. The scenic mountain homes and ski town properties were vastly different from what she would later encounter in Kansas, but the experience laid the foundation for her passion in the industry.

In 2018, Christina and her family made the decision to move back to Wichita to be closer to loved ones. She obtained her Kansas real estate license in 2019 but initially treated real estate as a side venture while maintaining a full-time job. It wasn’t until after the COVID-19 pandemic that she made the leap to becoming a full-time real estate agent—a decision that would redefine her career path.



Embracing the Urban Cool Homes Team

Real estate, Christina quickly learned, is about continual growth. She knew she wanted to learn from those who had already achieved success, and she sought mentorship from experienced professionals in the field. “I just want to continually learn from people who have been successful before me,” she explains. “I like picking their brains and figuring out a way to be where they are.”

Her drive for learning and growth led her to join the Urban Cool Homes Team, where Steven Meyers and his leadership have been instrumental in keeping agents at the forefront of the industry. “Steven does a great job of keeping us on the leading edge so that we, as agents, can be out there selling more,” she says.

Expanding Horizons: Real Estate in Oklahoma

Never one to stay stagnant, Christina recently obtained her Oklahoma real estate license, expanding her ability to help clients in new markets. Her family often vacations in Grand Lake, Oklahoma, and she saw an opportunity to extend her expertise to a place that holds personal significance. Whether working in Kansas or Oklahoma, Christina remains committed to making the home-buying and selling process seamless and rewarding for her clients.

A Passion for Veterans and VA Loans

Christina’s work extends beyond traditional real estate transactions. She is an active member of the Kansas Chapter of Our Nation of Patriots, an



organization dedicated to supporting veterans. Her passion for working with veterans has also led her to specialize in navigating VA loans, ensuring those who have served receive the best possible guidance when purchasing a home. “I love working with veterans and working with the ins and outs of VA loans,” she says.

Family: The Driving Force

At the heart of everything Christina does is her family, including her husband, OJ, son, Owen, and her two bonus daughters—Ashley and Sammie.

As she says, “They are the biggest part of my driving force.”

Her brother, Will Harmon, played a pivotal role in her real estate journey. Having built a successful career in commercial real estate, he encouraged her to get her license—a push that ultimately led her to where she is today. “My brother had gotten into real estate



**“DON’T
GIVE UP.”**

on the commercial side, and I was envious of him,” Christina recalls. “He said, ‘Why don’t you get your license?’ And he was right.”

Beyond her brother’s influence, Christina is also motivated by her desire for freedom—both financially and personally. She cherishes the ability to control her own schedule, ensuring she never has to “punch a clock” again. Real estate provides her with the flexibility to spend time with family, pursue her passions, and continue growing in her career.

Life Beyond Real Estate

When she’s not showing homes or negotiating deals, Christina enjoys the simple pleasures of life. She and her husband enjoy entertaining guests and sharing great food. Outdoors, she finds joy in hiking, camping, and is learning how to hunt.

**Words of Wisdom for
Aspiring Agents**

For those considering a career in real estate, Christina offers straightforward but invaluable advice: “Don’t give up.” The road to success in the industry is not always easy, but perseverance and a commitment to learning make all the difference.

Building a Reputation of Trust

More than anything, Christina wants to be remembered as a trustworthy, honest, and reliable real estate professional. She understands that buying or selling a home is one of the most significant decisions in a person’s life, and she takes that responsibility seriously. Her clients know they can count on her to provide expert guidance, unwavering support, and a commitment to their best interests.

From her early days in hospitality to her flourishing real estate career, Christina Mae Moore has built a profession centered around people, passion, and persistence ... in turn, pursuing her potential.





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Janiece ERBERT

PHOTOS BY
KIM STIFFLER
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DANIELSON

Success doesn't just happen automatically. It takes commitment, vision and follow-through ... the kind of attributes that Janiece Erbert puts to work each day for those around her.

Janiece never set out to become a real estate agent. In fact, her journey into the industry began not in an office, but in the midst of dust, paint, and renovation projects.

"My husband and I started flipping homes, and it all began with our very first house," Janiece recalls. "We bought it with the intent of fixing it up gradually, but when he got a job offer in another state, our slow-and-steady plan turned into a two-week sprint to get it ready to sell. We had to do a quick flip, and we loved it."

That first experience sparked something in Janiece and her husband, Darrin, and soon they found themselves flipping more homes. The process was exciting and fulfilling, and along the way, they sold a few of their own personal properties. Seeing the success they were having, Darrin suggested something that would change the trajectory of Janiece's career forever: "Why don't you get your real estate license?"

A CAREER TRANSITION THAT STUCK

In 2015, Janiece took his advice and officially became a licensed real estate agent. What started as a way to streamline their personal investment projects quickly evolved into a full-fledged profession. "At first, I thought it would just be something I did on the side, part-time," she says. "But then I joined a BNI group, and before I knew it, I had seven transactions. Suddenly, what I thought would be a part-time gig turned into a full-time career."

It wasn't long before Janiece found herself completely immersed in the world of real estate. Her ability to see potential in homes and her hands-on experience with renovations made her a valuable resource for clients looking to buy or sell. "I love working with both buyers and sellers, but my favorite thing is helping homeowners maximize their investment," she says. "A lot of people know they need to do some work on their home before selling, but they're not sure where to start. I love giving them pointers on what they can do to get more back when they close. Even though I don't have the time to

flip homes myself anymore, I still get to be involved in that way."

MAKING AN IMPACT

Since diving into real estate full-time, Janiece has made a name for herself in the industry. She's been a part of the Masters Circle, an achievement that reflects her dedication and success in the field. Her deep knowledge of the Andover area has also made her a go-to agent for buyers looking for the perfect home in that community. "I know the area very well, and that helps me guide my clients to the best options for them."





But beyond accolades and numbers, Janiece is driven by something much more personal: her family.

“Real estate works so well for me because I have four children,” she shares. “Ayden, my son, is 18. Then I have my daughters—Addi, who’s 16, Aspen, who’s 13, and Avery, who’s 11. Being in real estate has allowed me to balance my career and my family in a way that I wouldn’t have been able to in a traditional job.”

Her husband, Darrin, is also a licensed real estate agent, making their household one that truly understands the demands of the industry. Despite their busy schedules, they make it a

priority to spend time together as a family. “Our free time mostly goes to sports with the kids, but we also love the outdoors. We did our first hike to a 14,000-foot summit recently, and we really enjoyed that experience.”

Giving Back

Janiece’s passion for helping others extends beyond her real estate career. She is actively involved in Wichita’s Littlest Heroes, a local organization dedicated to supporting children battling serious medical conditions. “It’s important to me to give back to the community,” she says. “I want to make a difference, whether it’s through my work or through supporting causes that matter.”



Words of Wisdom

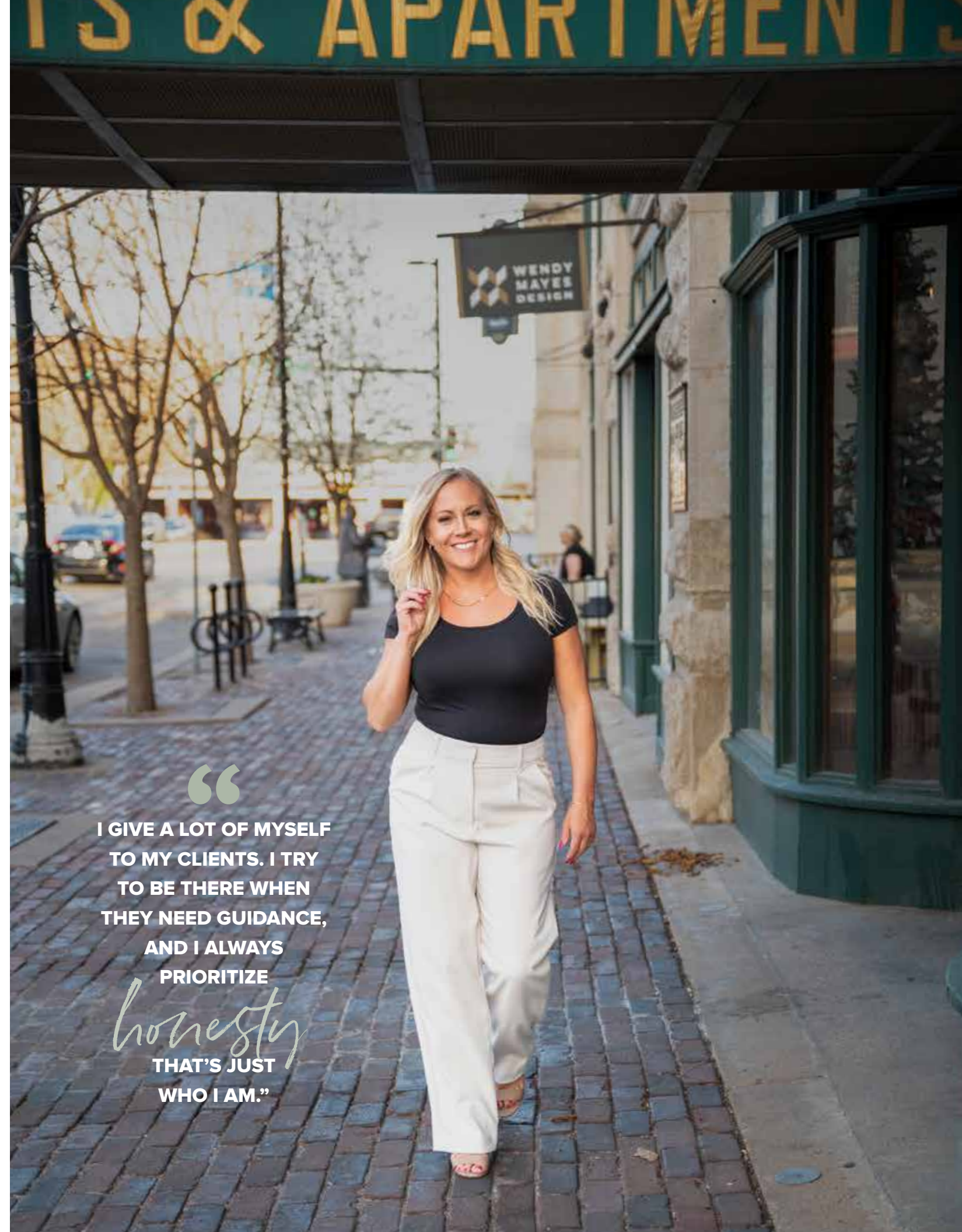
Looking back on her journey, Janiece has some valuable advice for those considering a career in real estate.

“Never look at it as a part-time job,” she says firmly. “You should always be available. Real estate can be a 24-hour job, and I try to keep myself readily available at all hours. That’s been a big part of what’s allowed me to be successful.”

But being successful isn’t just about being available—it’s also about being willing to do the work. “Don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty,” Janiece advises. “I’ve done a lot of hands-on work with my clients, and I think that’s helped me stand out. Whether it’s helping them stage their home or giving them guidance on renovations, being involved in the process makes a huge difference.”

A Lasting Impression

At the core of it all, Janiece’s business philosophy is simple: be there for people when they need help. “I give a lot of myself to my clients,” she says. “I try to be there when they need guidance, and I always prioritize honesty. That’s just who I am. I’m very family-oriented, and I bring that same level of care into my work.”



“
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Awards Gala *Recap*

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A Night to Remember: The 2025 Wichita Real Estate Awards Gala

The inaugural Wichita Real Estate Awards Gala was a night filled with celebration, recognition, and unforgettable moments! This exclusive, elegant event was something Wichita's real estate industry has never experienced before—a night dedicated to honoring the top-producing agents, industry leaders, and community trailblazers who make a lasting impact.

From the excitement of the awards ceremony to the high-energy after-party on the casino floor, the evening was nothing short of spectacular. Guests enjoyed delicious food, live entertainment, an epic balloon drop giveaway, a 360° photo booth, and dueling pianos that had the crowd on their feet!

As we look back on this incredible evening, we Gala Girls can't help but feel grateful for everyone who

made it possible—our sponsors, our attendees, and, of course, the rockstars of the Wichita real estate community! And if you thought this year was amazing, just wait until next year... because we're already planning something even bigger and better! Stay tuned, and enjoy reliving the magic through these party pics!

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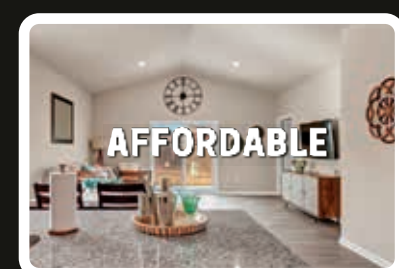
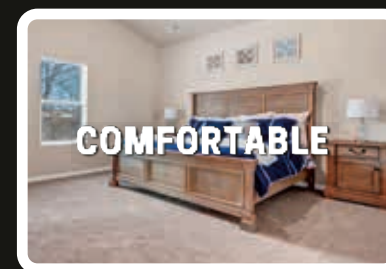
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Bree Russell

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PHOTOS BY KIM STIFFLER • WRITTEN BY DAVE DANIELSON

The drive to serve is something that stands at the forefront of success. Bree Russell is a prime example of that, because each day she drives home real value for those she serves.

For Bree, real estate runs in the family. “I grew up in the business,” she says. Her parents, Jay and Pamela Russell, started a homebuilding company the year she was born, and expanded to residential real estate development in 1987. Watching them work, Bree initially

found herself drawn to architecture, but her curiosity for international business and Spanish led her down a different path—one that eventually brought her back to her roots in real estate.

Bree’s journey took her far beyond her hometown with a handful of abroad studies. Upon college graduation, she explored international real estate in El Paso, Texas, with a company that operated in both the U.S. and Mexico. This pivotal moment lead her to get started in commercial real estate

with the Grubb & Ellis office, under the guidance of Steve Martens. Her early career focused primarily on commercial properties and leasing.

To gain more experience, Bree transitioned into working with her family’s business, handling marketing and agent relations. During this time, she also gained success in network marketing osteopathic wellness products. After the birth of her first son, she realized it was time to fully re-engage in commercial real estate,

TO GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE, BREE TRANSITIONED INTO WORKING WITH HER FAMILY’S BUSINESS, HANDLING MARKETING AND AGENT RELATIONS. DURING THIS TIME, SHE ALSO GAINED SUCCESS IN NETWORK MARKETING OSTEOPATHIC WELLNESS PRODUCTS.



this time at Landmark Commercial Real Estate with friends and mentors. When the recession was in full effect, she took her career to Occidental Management, focusing on retail leasing, and finally landing at J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc. in 2012 where she spent over a decade honing her skills in commercial investments, land, leasing, and apartment sales. “My family had been encouraging me to get my Broker’s license, and by the end of 2023, it was time,” she says.

Launching Russell Real Resources

With 23 years of experience, a CCIM designation, and strong industry connections, Bree launched Russell Real Resources in the spring of 2024. “I knew I could help people differently, and I wanted to make the process of buying, selling, and managing residential or commercial real estate as seamless as possible,” she explains.

Russell Real Resources is more than a brokerage—it’s a concierge real estate consulting group focused on function, financial freedom, and innovation. “We are a resource for all things real estate,” Bree says. Her team specializes in helping people downsize, house hacking by living in one side of a duplex while renting the other, and finding cost-efficient, low-maintenance residential options.

The company also brings together Bree’s commercial expertise and her family background in home construction and development. The team collaborates with general contractors to design and build functional homes that meet the lifestyle needs of today’s generations.

“We help people pivot and transform their lifestyle,” Bree says. “Whether it’s financial independence, downsizing, or just finding your ideal space—we’re here for it.”

The Team Behind the Mission

Russell Real Resources is powered by a skilled and passionate team:

- **Lauren Carter:** Licensed Administrative Assistant and



“IF I DON’T KNOW THE ANSWER, I KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.”

Martin, through their construction firm PenUltimate Properties.

Aligned by Values

Authenticity, ethics, logic, and facts are the pillars of Bree’s approach. Her brand is grounded in being REAL—Real Estate, Real Resources, Real Results. She combines an edgy, classy, and far-out aesthetic with deep local roots and decades of experience.

Bree believes that being a connector is a key part of her work. “If I don’t know the answer, I know where to look,” she says. “Our goal is to connect clients with the right information, people, and solutions.”

A Legacy of Real Estate

Bree’s passion is fueled by a lifelong immersion in the industry. Her family’s company, JRussell Communities, has developed 70 neighborhoods around Wichita. From sweeping houses at age 12 to mowing empty lots during

summers, Bree was raised with a strong work ethic and a firsthand understanding of development. Even though her father initially discouraged her from residential real estate due to the demanding schedule, Bree forged her own path—one that blends commercial, residential, and innovative real estate strategies.

Beyond Real Estate

Bree’s entrepreneurial spirit doesn’t stop at real estate. In 2024, she launched **Pivot**, a cold pressed juice infused craft kombucha, non-alcoholic brew designed as an alternative to soda and alcohol. “It is about transformation,” she says. “Just like in real estate, Pivot is about creating better, healthier choices.”

She lives what she sells—an intentional, growth-minded lifestyle. Bree is passionate about exercise, travel, design, and continual self-development. Her brand message is clear: pivot, transform, level up, and do what you’ve always dreamed of doing.

Advice for Aspiring Agents

“Get on a team that offers training and mentorship,” Bree advises. “Wichita has a fantastic CCIM chapter, and continuing education is key. Always keep growing.”

She also encourages new agents to dream big. “Put your Broker’s license on your radar. It opens doors and elevates your professionalism.”

What Sets Bree Apart

Bree brings unmatched authenticity and heart to every deal. She’s not just selling homes or managing properties—she’s helping people build wealth, transition lifestyles, and discover financial freedom.

“Our mission is to be the trusted real estate resource for our community,” she says. “Whatever your needs or dreams, we want to help you get there.”

From land deals and leasing to duplex design and development, Bree Russell is changing the real estate landscape—driving home real value, one client at a time.



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Few professionals embody dedication and adaptability quite like Kim Braungardt. A seasoned broker, general appraiser, and owner of both Braungardt Real Estate Services and Braungardt Appraisals, Kim has built a career defined by hard work, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to her clients. But beyond the contracts and property valuations, her journey is one deeply connected to her family, her values, and the drive to create a fulfilling life.

The Path to Real Estate Success

Kim's entry into real estate was almost predestined. Raised on a farm near Latham, Kansas, she grew up watching her parents thrive as brokers. However, her initial career path took

a different turn—she earned a degree in accounting and spent two years working at Raytheon. It wasn't until she became pregnant with her first child that she began considering a change. Even though Raytheon had generously offered her a part-time position, it was a conversation with her father about the financial opportunities in real estate that set her on a new course.

"I gave myself six weeks to make it work," Kim recalls. "In my first 30 days, I had five houses under contract. I was hooked."

Since earning her real estate license in 1998, Kim has spent the past 27 years refining her expertise. Her career has included time at her parents' brokerage, a stint with JP Weigand, and years

with what is now PenFed Realty. But her ambitions didn't stop there. Throughout most of that time, she was also diversifying her skills by obtaining her first appraiser's license in 2003 and then the General Appraiser's License in 2007, a credential that sets her apart in the industry. "It's a very difficult license to obtain, but it completely elevated my career—both in appraisals and sales."

Building Braungardt Real Estate Services

After 17 years of focusing more heavily on appraisals, Kim made another bold move—she launched her own brokerage. "I liked appraising because it was predictable and reliable, but last year, I partnered on a rural subdivision project, and it reignited my passion for sales."

Now, she leads Braungardt Real Estate Services alongside John Kumar, a top-producing agent. While she's open to growth, Kim is mindful of expanding too quickly. "I want to make sure we maintain our values and level of service," she explains. "This industry is fast-paced, and I believe real estate is a lifestyle rather than just a career."

A People-First Approach

For Kim, real estate is more than transactions—it's about relationships. "I love getting a deal together and seeing people excited about a new chapter in their lives," she shares. "Some of the best friendships I have today started with helping clients buy or sell a home."

That commitment to people extends to her role as a mentor. Along with her parents, she credits Connie Zwahl, Dave Sundgren, and Lewis Simmons for shaping her professional growth, and she now strives to provide the same guidance to others.

Balancing Career and Family

If there's one thing that has defined Kim's journey more than real estate, it's her role as a mother. A single mom for over 20 years, she built her career around her children—Tristan, Tanner, and Taylor. "Every decision I made was based on what was best for them at the time," she says. "This career didn't just provide financial stability; it gave me time with them."



Even as they've grown into adulthood, Kim remains deeply connected with her children. Whether traveling, or just grabbing a coffee, she cherishes every moment.

A Legacy of Integrity

When asked how she wants to be remembered, Kim takes a moment to reflect. "I hope people see me as

ethical, loyal, and honest," she says. "If my clients trust me, I'll move Heaven and earth to meet their needs."

This dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. With honors such as the President's Club and Masters Circle, she's established herself as a leader in the industry. But for Kim, success isn't measured in accolades—it's

about waking up each day with purpose and joy.

Looking Ahead

Kim's love for real estate remains as strong as ever. She's excited about the future, eager to continue growing her brokerage and expanding her expertise. And while she's grateful for the opportunities the industry has provided, she's even

“
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AND
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more thankful for the people she's met along the way.

"I've been so blessed in my profession, but most of all as a mother. That role has defined my entire life—including the years I stepped away to manage my son's crazy YouTube career. Looking ahead, I'm excited for the next chapter, both in business and in life. And who knows—maybe one day, I'll get to add 'grandma' to my title."

Words of Wisdom

For those entering the real estate world, Kim offers this advice: "Real estate is a lifestyle. If you embrace it, it will reward you in countless ways. But you have to be willing to put your clients first—because if you don't, someone else will."

With her unwavering work ethic, deep-rooted integrity, and passion for people, Kim Braungardt continues to leave an indelible mark on the real estate industry ... making an undeniable, positive impact for those around her.







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WHEAT STATE REMOVAL

When Sean Costa decided to launch his own business in July 2020, the world was deep in uncertainty—but for Sean, the moment felt right. Armed with a dream, a strong work ethic, and an unshakable faith, he took a leap of faith and started Wheat State Removal, a junk hauling service based in Kansas.

Today, just four years later, Wheat State has grown into a full-scale remodeling and demolition company—trusted by homeowners, businesses, and entire communities to get the job done with heart, hustle and integrity.

“What started as a simple junk removal service has now become something much bigger,” says Sean, founder of Wheat State Removal. “We’ve expanded into cleanouts, demos, and full-scale remodels. We’re now the company people call when they need something done right.”

Powerful Purpose

From the beginning, Sean approached the business with a powerful purpose: growth—not just of the company, but of the people within it. “When I prayed about starting the business, I wanted to create a place where everyone could be accepted and given the opportunity to grow,” he explains. “We don’t do complacency. My job is to help push my team out of their comfort zones so they can develop, not just as workers, but as people.”

Wheat State’s 12-person crew is divided into three remodeling teams and a five-man demolition unit—referred to by Sean with pride as “the juggernauts of demo.” Their projects range from

tearing down barns and commercial buildings to handling large-scale residential remodels. “When the tornadoes came through Andover, we took seven homes down to the foundation,” Sean recalls. “We’re not afraid to jump in where we’re needed.”

Exceeding the Need

What truly sets Wheat State apart, though, is the level of care and thoughtfulness they bring to every project. Whether it’s clearing out a home or giving it a complete makeover, Sean and his team aim to exceed expectations at every turn.

“I love being out there with my guys, walking side by side with them, and seeing them grow and excel,” Sean says. “On the remodel side, there’s nothing better than delivering that wow factor. And on the demo side, I enjoy helping people wipe the slate clean and build their vision from the ground up.”

That attention to people—both team and clients—is what drives Sean every



A FORCE FOR GOOD

PHOTOS BY AARON PATTON
WRITTEN BY DAVE DANIELSON



day. “I want every person who works with us to feel like it was smooth, simple, and maybe even a little fun,” he adds with a smile. “We streamline everything, and we overdeliver every time. That’s what I want to be known for—when in doubt, call Sean.”

Foundation in Faith and Family

Sean’s passion for leadership and service doesn’t stop at the job site. At home, he’s a proud husband and father. His wife, Kendra, is his rock and the “backbone” of their family. “She holds everything together while I’m out building the business,” he says with deep appreciation.

The couple has four children: sons Fasano and Legend, and daughters Lexus and Amelia. The Costas are an outdoors-loving, sports-obsessed crew who spend their free time with their dogs, playing ball, and exploring nature. Sean says one of his greatest joys is watching his kids grow and guiding them in their faith.

“I want to raise my kids in the likeness of Jesus Christ,” Sean says. “Teaching them about God, about life, about how to be productive, strong, and compassionate—those are the moments that matter most to me.”

As for the future of Wheat State Removal, Sean has no intention of slowing down. In fact, the best is yet to come. “We have grit. We have drive. And we’re only getting better,” he says. “A lot of people have seen our growth, and I’m excited to keep going. This business has already changed so many lives—including mine.”

Whether it’s a large-scale remodel, a complete demo, or a simple cleanout, Sean Costa and his team are known not just for getting the job done—but for doing it with integrity, excellence, and heart. Wheat State Removal is more than a service—it’s a mission, a family, and a force for good.



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