

# 40 UNDER BOULDER VALLEY

UNDER BOULDER VALLEY

2015

What they do & what they love



TR Swanwick of Wright Kingdom Real Estate received the most votes in our Facebook 40 Under Forty poll.

**BizWest**

# Celebrating the Boulder Valley's young pacesetters

On behalf of BizWest publishers Christopher Wood and Jeff Nuttall, welcome to 40 Under Forty for 2015, our program that recognizes emerging young leaders in Boulder and Broomfield counties who make a difference in their companies' industries and communities.

After honoring 40 emerging Boulder Valley entrepreneurs in 2010 and 2011, the program is back with a new crop of the area's best and brightest

under age 40. We've also been hosting these recognitions for 11 years in Northern Colorado.

As always, we are grateful to our corporate sponsors for 2015, including the Boulder Chamber, Boulder Young Professionals, Boulderopolis, Court Appointed Special Advocates, GrafXGroup, Hazel's Beverage World, Home State Bank, Kendall Koenig & Oelsner PC, Flatirons Bank and Left Hand Brewing Co.

New this year to the program in

the Boulder Valley is a social-media component, where people could vote for their favorite honorees on the 40 Under Forty Facebook page. The voting took place over three weeks, and TR Swanwick of Wright Kingdom Real Estate, having received the most votes, dominates the cover of this special section.

Elizabeth Gold wrote the profiles of our award winners based on information they supplied. Chad Collins took their photos and designed this

section, and Chase Miller was responsible for the online presence. Year-round access to the digital edition of this supplement can be found via a link at fortyunderforty.com.

We at BizWest and our sponsors salute the winners for their enthusiasm and dedication in helping enhance the Boulder Valley's reputation as a great place to live.

– Dallas Heltzell

40 Under Forty special-section editor

## Brought to you by these Sponsors

Thank you for helping the 40 Under Forty Class of 2015 celebrate their success!



## Past Winners

### 2010

Chris Barge  
Jason Berv  
Tyson Brawley  
Lynn Brewer  
Michael Christie  
Dan Condon  
Brook Eddy  
Connie Eyster  
Matt Galligan  
Justin Gold  
Katherine Gregory  
Brooke Gunn  
Gillian Hamburger  
Carly Hare  
Quayle Hodek  
Blake Jones  
Keith Kanemoto  
Matt Kolb  
Neil Littmann  
Ann Livingston

Arron Mansika  
Kristin Macdonald  
Kimball Musk  
Ari Newman  
Warren Ng  
Joshua Onysko  
Christy Orris  
Brigette Paige  
Omar Postigo-Martell  
Lisa Pedersen  
Wendy Reynolds  
Morgan Rogers  
David Rubin  
Lisa Severy  
Nathan Seidle  
David Sinkey  
Heather Smith  
Tracy Taylor-Sea  
Luke Vernon  
Todd Walsh

### 2011

Ingrid Alongi  
Philip Anson  
Jennie Arbogash  
John Arnold  
Rustin Banks  
Scott Brown  
Joe Buczkowski  
Nicole DeBoom  
Paul DesRosiers  
Jennifer Emich  
Jessica Emich  
Jill Emich  
Gretchen Fapore  
Helen Gemmill  
Kyle J. Heckman  
Curtis Hilty  
Stephanie Iannone  
Darren Johnston  
Jeff Knobel  
Beth Krodel

David Marks  
Timothy McMurray  
Kevin Menzie  
Jay Millard  
Sarah Noe  
Eric Olden  
Eric Olson  
Claire Pearson  
Molly Rector  
Niel Robertson  
Amanda Rubino  
Jessica Rubino  
Kelli Rucker  
Isaac Saldana  
Brad Schoenfeld  
Lee Shainis  
Jeanine Snyder  
Brendan Synnott  
Brady Van Matre  
David Wolf

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Laszlo Law  
Little Yoga Studio  
Metzger Albee Public Relations  
Patriot Boot Camp  
Peak Asset Management  
Social Venture Partners  
Sancho's Mexican Resturant  
Wright Kingdom Real Estate

## Shawn Camden

*Co-founder*

Intercambio Uniting Communities



Shawn Camden serves up multiple ways for people to come together.

As co-founder of Intercambio Uniting Communities, he unites native-born Americans and immigrants through language learning, resource education and intercultural events.

As founder and owner of the Spanish Institute, he levels the playing field for people to learn Spanish by offering affordable classes.

And as founder and owner of Sancho's Mexican Restaurant, he sets the table for people who are hungry for a taste of authentic Mexican cuisine.

According to Camden, the majority of his community service is spent with the 15-year-old Intercambio Uniting Communities. He credits the organization with touching the lives of thousands of immigrants and volunteers yearly.

Classes range from English and citizenship to financial literacy and living in the United States. Benefits for students include increased self-reliance, increased opportunities for jobs and salary increases and increased ability to be involved in their children's education.

Through the Spanish Institute, adults and children learn how to speak the language. In addition to getting a taste of fluency and comprehension, students learn the skills to communicate in day-to-day situations.

With a team of cooks who hail from Mexico, Camden creates made-from-scratch, fresh meals that traditionally are only found south of the border. He donates Spanish classes and gift cards for Sancho's to more than 30 different nonprofits in Boulder County for their fundraisers.

Recognition for Camden's efforts include runner-up for Best Nonprofit Organization in the 2013 Boulder Count Gold People's Choice Awards for Intercambio Uniting Communities. The Spanish Institute received first place for Best Language School in the 2012 and 2013 Boulder County People's Choice Awards.

## Chuck Cotter

*Of counsel*

Holland & Hart LLP



Referring to Boulder as the "Silicon Valley of the food industry," Chuck Cotter noticed a missing ingredient that would enhance the title.

"There was no law firm focused on supporting these companies," he said.

In response, he turned his attention to filling the gap.

With the title "Of Counsel" at Holland & Hart LLP, Cotter earned accolades such as "Rising Star by Colorado Super Lawyers" in 2014 and 2015. The award is conferred on only 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state who have been practicing less than 10 years.

"Our goal is for Holland & Hart to be the key and trusted partner for local food and beverage companies," he said.

The company provides monthly happy hours at local eateries, giving food entrepreneurs and investors the opportunity to gather, network and talk about their successes and failures.

In addition to Cotter's work through Holland & Hart, he has served as a director for the Growe Foundation for the past two years. The nonprofit organization educates children about the benefits of healthy eating and environmental stewardship.

Cotter was a founding board member of WorldBuilders Inc., which promotes education, sustainable agriculture and local industry worldwide as a way of combating poverty.

As an adjunct professor at the Wolf School of Law on the University of Colorado Boulder campus, Cotter also volunteers his time teaching a securities-law seminar. "I've mentored many students interested in pursuing corporate legal careers," he said. "I'm particularly interested in mentoring minority students."

## Kelly Crandall

*Volunteer programs coordinator*  
Women In Sustainable Energy



Saving energy, increasing efficiency and implementing sustainability projects are hallmarks of Kelly Crandall's passion.

As volunteer programs coordinator and board member for Women in Sustainable Energy (WISE), Crandall plans educational and networking events that focus on professional development for women in the clean-energy arena.

Those events include panels of women who have started their own energy-consulting businesses as well as speakers on clean-energy issues.

"Part of my mission is to connect several different regional organizations focused on women in energy to expand our reach and offer joint events," Crandall said.

Her "day job" is working as the energy-strategy coordinator for the city of Boulder – a position that adds working knowledge to her volunteer work with WISE.

Projects with the city include recommending policies that are designed to achieve the community's energy-future goals and evaluating the feasibility of forming a city electric utility.

"I have been able to combine my legal background with my technical side to add depth and quantitative rigor to internal and external initiatives," she said, adding that her success at streamlining internal processes and conducting analyses herself has saved the city tens of thousands of consultant dollars.

Crandall recently contributed to a text of distributed generation that was published in 2014. The work included information on consumer-protection issues related to renewable-energy credits and was cited in a recent petition to the Federal Trade Commission.

Additional contributions Crandall makes to the area include volunteering with community clean-ups and meeting with law students who are interested in nontraditional legal careers.

## Carlos Cruz-Abrams

*Attorney, partner*

Kendall, Koenig & Oelsner PC



Carlos Cruz-Abrams brings a variety of contributions to the community on any given day. As a partner in the Boulder office of Kendall, Koenig & Oelsner, he focuses on corporate and securities law. His experience as an attorney fits well with the Boulder area, having worked with startups, venture-capital firms and angel investors.

Cruz-Abrams also heads the human resources and recruiting functions at Kendall, Koenig & Oelsner, working to help the firm "navigate the waters of growing in number but maintaining our entrepreneurial culture."

Outside of the firm, Cruz-Abrams runs his own small business: Beat Cycle, an indoor cycling studio. As co-owner, he turns cycling into a full-body workout with an added beat – music that pulls customers more fully into the exercise.

Beat Cycle provides more than 25 jobs for the area.

Recognition for Cruz-Abrams' work includes the Turnaround Management Association's Transaction of the Year Award for his representation of a Boulder company in the grips of bankruptcy in 2013. In 2012 he was nominated for the National Hispanic Bar Association's top Lawyers Under 40, and in 2011 he was named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers.

The Daily Camera named Beat Cycle "Boulder's Best Cardio 2014."

Cruz-Abrams volunteers with the Emergency Family Assistance Association as a member of the development committee and has helped raise several thousand dollars for the organization.

He also has organized charity fundraising rides and matching giving programs. As a survivor of a rare cancer, Cruz-Abrams also is a team organizer for Cycle for Survival, an organization that supports rare cancer research.

## Emily Davis

President

Emily Davis Consulting



It can be a challenging endeavor for a nonprofit organization to run a successful businesses and at the same time focus on the passion that drives it.

Emily Davis knows how to blend the two focal points together by helping those companies connect the head to the heart of what they do.

"I have always wanted to have an impact on the community through my business," she said, "by leveraging the skills, passions and talents of individuals in these nonprofits using best practices through education, facilitation and planning."

Through her company, Emily Davis Consulting, Davis provides consulting, training, speaking and publications on topics that include board governance, fund development and nonprofit creation.

Davis was recognized by numerous organizations including the Denver Business Journal for its 40 Under 40 list in 2014 and the San Diego News Network for its 2010 35 Under 35 Future Leaders of San Diego. She received the Boulder County District Attorney's Victim Advocacy Award in 2003 and the 1995 YWCA Award for Leadership.

Davis spills her own passions into a variety of volunteer positions. She started serving as a hotline counselor for Moving to End Sexual Assault in 2003. She volunteers with Global Shapers and Social Venture Partners Boulder County. Her contributions include responding to hidden needs in Boulder and mentoring young professionals.

Financially, Davis contributes to organizations that include Attention Homes, Lyons Community Foundation MESA's Canine Classic and the Nonprofit Cultivation Center.

"Pairing my financial contributions with my time make the best community investment possible," she said.

## Meca Delgado

Program specialist

Boulder County Department of Community Services



Meca Delgado keeps an eye on Boulder County's young people – aiming to make sure they get all the support they can to increase healthy and positive choices and behaviors.

As a program coordinator for the Boulder County Healthy Youth Alliance, Delgado's work makes a community-wide impact on youth risk behaviors and protective factors. Growing up in Boulder County gives her an edge in having numerous impactful connections and relationships.

"In 2014 I worked to reach nearly 1,000 unduplicated parents through parent education programs," she said. "I also assisted in developing a parent-focused social marketing campaign that reached nearly 1.5 million impressions in Boulder Valley."

Delgado volunteers with granting committees in Boulder County such as the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, the Longmont Community Foundation, Foothills United Way and Boulder County Human Services.

"This work allows me to connect and be knowledgeable about the majority of nonprofits in the community," she said, "and to be at the decision-making table around which agencies get funded to make the biggest impact in the community."

In 2014, Delgado was recognized by the Longmont Times-Call "Community Review" as one of the top 100 people to know. She also is one of the first certified prevention specialist IIs in the state.

She won the 2012 Boulder County Public Health Healthy Communities award for her Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Boulder County Pinnacle award, the National Association of Counties achievement award and recognition by the school district for program and work with Parents Involved in Education.

## Kevin Erickson

Business banker

Home State Bank



Kevin Erickson is supporting Boulder County in more ways than one.

In 2012, he created and led a team to purchase a former bank site in Lafayette. Since opening Home State Bank in 2013, his company's success in lending \$30 million in loans to the community has exceeded his expectations.

The loans not only have added new businesses to the area but also have created hundreds of jobs within the county as an end result.

"We have enjoyed serving the community as one of only a few traditional community banks," Erickson said. "I am able to assist start-up businesses in getting their doors open as well as providing tools for seasoned businesses to expand."

As a community advocate, Erickson aims his charitable contributions at organizations that focus on providing a better environment for children. Included in that list of nonprofits is A Precious Child, which provides clothing to children in need.

He also volunteers with the YMCA board of directors and assists in its fundraising campaigns. He teaches classes for Junior Achievement on responsible personal finance, business and ethics.

Erickson is training to be a volunteer ski instructor for kids with mental and physical disabilities at Ignite Adaptive Sports at Eldora Mountain Resort.

One of his more prestigious awards has been from the Colorado Bankers Association, receiving one of the highest honors within the banking industry of Colorado. The Colorado Banker of Distinction award is given to a Colorado banker who provides leadership and exemplary community involvement, promotes the community banking spirit and has been involved in both state and national legislative bodies.

## James Farrell

Investment manager

Union Leasing Corp.



James Farrell has built a career on environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility while maximizing profitability.

As an investment manager and general counsel at Union Leasing Corp., he has helped companies such as the St Julien Hotel & Spa in Boulder reduce the amount of waste disposed of in landfills by 90 percent since 2008. Eighty percent of materials have been recycled, composted or donated.

Additionally, electricity and natural gas use has been reduced by 20 percent per occupied room in the hotel since 2010.

"As a result of the sustainability program I manage, the St Julien Hotel & Spa was awarded the Good Earthkeeping Award from the Colorado Hotel and Lodging Association and by the American Hotel and Lodging Association for best sustainability practices in Colorado and the U.S.," Farrell said. "The hotel also was featured by the city of Boulder as a leader in Boulder's zero-waste future."

Farrell's community work includes serving as the volunteer executive director of Green Up Our Schools, which he was instrumental in upgrading from a private foundation to a 501(c)(3).

"The organization has provided grants to local elementary schools, enabling them to educate young students on environmental sustainability, reduce waste and increase recycling and composting in schools," he said.

His community service includes serving on the development committee of the Center for ReSource Conservation and providing pro bono legal services to startup companies in the Boulder Valley. He holds a law degree from William and Mary University.

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## Peter Genuardi

Founder/chief executive

Strength in Members



Peter Genuardi and his team develop digital products that inspire people to get involved.

As founder and chief executive of Strength in Members, he said, "My day job involves running a digital agency that supports organizations that are making the world more compassionate."

Projects aimed at accomplishing that include developing fundraising programs that help organizations raise millions of dollars. Those dollars help to search for cancer cures, protect the environment, expand access to the arts and provide assistance to victims of sex trafficking.

Other projects range from developing digital products that inspire people to volunteer to reach out to isolated seniors to developing digital products that motivate people to write legislators to fight climate change.

Genuardi started his career supporting food banks nationally as a fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center. "I met people working hard and not making it," he said, "inspiring me to pursue a career in marketing and service."

Since then he's helped groups such as Salad Bars to Schools, Denver Botanic Gardens and EcoCycle raise more money to be able to make a bigger impact in the community. He also worked with Olomomo to win the University of Colorado's Bard Center for Entrepreneurships Business Plan Competition.

In December, Genuardi asked people to write notes to those who were struggling with the holidays. The result was delivering 30 handwritten notes to people utilizing Bridge House, and 30 more to seniors and veterans.

Last summer, Genuardi helped Jarow Montessori School build a vegetable garden for the school.

"Now we have a beautiful garden," he said, "and the opportunity for kids to learn about ecology and sustainability."

## Leanne Goff

Broker

Wright Kingdom Real Estate



As a licensed real estate agent with Wright Kingdom Real Estate in Boulder County since 2008, Leanne Goff has added more than new homeowners to the area.

Her work chairing the Young Professionals Network at the Boulder Area Realtor Association included implementing programs that are benefiting the community in a variety of ways.

Those programs include \$mart Money \$mart Moves and Junior Achievement.

\$mart Money \$mart Moves teaches graduating seniors at local high schools about the importance of building credit for their future. Junior Achievement helps prepare students for their future, Goff said, by "educating them on financial matters and giving them confidence to master those skills."

An additional activity has been to collect toys for Share-A-Gift, an organization that distributes toys for families in need around the holidays.

Goff's leadership efforts were recognized by the Colorado Association of Realtors in 2013 by naming her the Young Professional of the Year. In 2014, the group she headed was named the National Young Professional Network of the year by the National Association of Realtors, based on the community service work they had been doing.

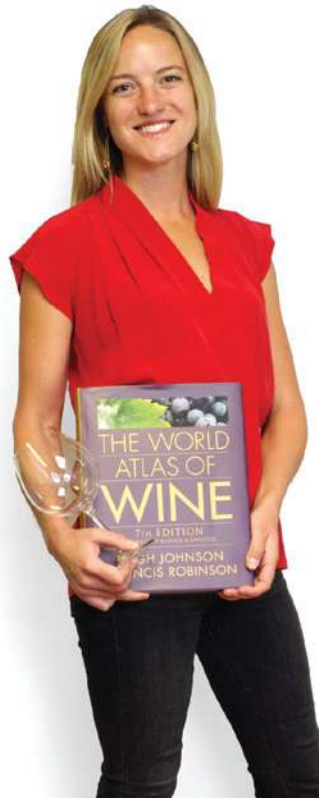
In addition to Goff's work in her field, she volunteers at her daughter's school, Douglass Elementary in Boulder. Her accomplishments there include building the second grade level and classroom websites as well as the physical-education website.

She's currently working with the Parent Teacher Organization at Douglass on fundraising for the PTO Business Directory. "My goal," she said, "is to achieve their target of \$16,000 in donated funds."

## Jill Grano

Broker

Re/Max Alliance on Walnut



The youngest real estate agent ever to be inducted into the Boulder Brokers Network – and only one of four women to be so acknowledged – Jill Grano specializes in residential sales.

As a real estate broker with Re/Max Alliance on Walnut, Grano has served on the Boulder Area Realtors Association Government Affairs Committee and been called on to speak publicly about news and events.

Spreading her interest in the community beyond her trade, Grano has volunteered with organizations such as Meals on Wheels, Boulder Homeless Shelter, Growe Foundation and First Presbyterian Preschool.

After the 2013 Colorado flood, Grano donated thousands of dollars and two weeks of full-time work with the Mudslingers, a group of volunteers who helped hundreds of people clear the damage.

Additional recipients of her financial contributions include There with Care, Colorado Public Radio, Columbine Elementary School, New Era and Historic Boulder.

Grano served as the primary real estate advisor and liaison for Historic Boulder in 2014. The organization has saved iconic buildings such as Boulder Theater and Macky Auditorium.

She was featured on the cover of At Home magazine in 2013 as one of Boulder's most innovative real estate agents. She received the Re/Max 100% Club award in 2012 and 2013 as well as the Chairman's Club award in 2014.

Grano has worked as director of admissions at Watershed School. The school's focus on global citizenship, experiential education and real-world problem solving is a good match to her current passion for the community.

## Lucie Guyot

Corporate attorney

Faegre Baker Daniels



"I am passionate about supporting other professional women," said Lucie Guyot. To put action to her passion, she mentors paralegals and associates at Faegre Baker Daniels in addition to her role there as a corporate transactional attorney.

Guyot's academic record alone reflects the value she places on success. Graduating in the top 15th percentile at the George Washington University law school, she was admitted to the school's Scholar/Order of the Coif. As a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, she graduated from the University of Colorado in the Golden Key Honor Society and on the dean's list.

Since then she's participated in the Association for Corporate Growth Leadership 20 Program and co-authored a few publications.

"My most valuable professional achievements, however," she said, "are the longstanding relationships I have been able to develop with my clients who appreciate my high-quality client service and view me as their long-term trusted adviser."

There's never been much time for grass to grow under Guyot's feet. She started at her current firm as a law student and summer associate in 2003, joined the firm as an associate in 2004 and was promoted to counsel in 2012.

Guyot provides pro bono legal representation to various charitable organization and low-income Coloradans. The list of places to which she contributes time and dollars includes Impact on Education, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Race for the Cure and American Cancer Society.

From 2007 to 2013 she served on the board of trustees and on various committees of the Boulder Country Day School. She currently volunteers in her son's classroom at Eldorado Elementary.

## Jamie Harkins

*Sustainability specialist*  
City of Boulder



In her five years working for the city of Boulder, Jamie Harkins has put a lot of effort into increasing community engagement.

Her job as sustainability specialist puts her on the front line as designer of energy-efficiency and waste-reduction programs for the business sector.

"I'm a strong advocate of partnering with the private sector to reach our community's goals and am very proud of my work in 2014 developing and launching the Boulder Energy Challenge," Harkins said. "It's the first-of-its-kind innovation grant program that funds creative solutions to reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in Boulder.

"While public-sector programs like this exist at the federal and state levels, nothing like it exists at the municipal level," she added. "We hope to expand the program in the future by attracting additional funds to grow a low-carbon innovation sector of our local economy."

Other projects into which Harkins has breathed life include working with businesses to adopt the disposable-bag fee that went into effect in 2013. She also worked on the Code for America project, which "will hopefully result in more effective means for all parts of Boulder, including the private sector, to have a more prominent voice in how we reach our goals and solve our city's big issues."

In addition to financially supporting a variety of nonprofit organizations, Harkins has volunteered as a Boulder County Cultural Council member, which is a county commission-appointed position. She also has dedicated time with the New Era Colorado Foundation, which registers more than 20,000 young voters a year and runs leadership-development programs that train future leaders of Colorado.

## Kyle Heckman

*President, CEO, chairman*  
Flatirons Bank



Kyle Heckman plays a key role in the strategic direction and daily operations of Flatirons Bank.

"Over the past five years I have led a substantial turnaround of the bank's financial position, which is now recognized as one of the strongest in the state of Colorado in regards to its safety and soundness," said Heckman, the bank's president, chief executive and chairman. "During this time, the bank has substantially grown its reach, influence and customer base in the Boulder Valley and directly assisted individuals and small businesses in meeting their financial objectives."

Heckman also is an appointed member of the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council of the six-state 10th Federal Reserve District. The group provides feedback to the Fed's policymakers regarding economic conditions within the district and areas of focus relating to bank regulation and business matters.

In addition, Heckman is an elected director of the Independent Bankers of Colorado.

When off the clock, he volunteers as elected board president of the Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra. As a member of the finance team of Flatirons Community Church, he oversees a \$15 million operating budget and funding of related outreach programs.

"In my role with Flatirons Bank," he said, "I have directly influenced the bank's substantial role in financially underwriting community organizations and events throughout Boulder County – approximately 5 percent of the bank's operating profits annually."

Those organizations include Colorado Chautauqua Association, Downtown Boulder Inc., the Longmont Humane Society and the Eldora Mountain Ski Club.

## Joanna Hoffmann

*Senior account manager*  
Match Action



Whether it's in her new post at Match Action, her position on the board of Boulder Young Professionals or the job she just left as marketing manager at the Boulder Chamber, Joanna Hoffmann's work has been to help make a person and his or her business part of a larger picture.

"Through my work, I have been able to help strengthen the Boulder business community by helping to offer various member services, advocacy efforts and ensuring economic vitality in the region," said Hoffmann.

The Boulder Young Professionals program has 2,800 members and more than 40 events yearly. As leader of its rebranding effort, she implemented a new name, logo, membership structure, website and marketing strategy. The result was a 500 percent increase in membership in six months.

Through her work developing agency partnerships, Hoffmann also was able to secure more than \$20,000 in sponsorships for the BYP.

Additional ways Hoffmann contributes professionally to the community include the Boulder Rugby Football Club, where she serves on the board and volunteers as a coach and administrator. She had been marketing and membership coordinator for USA Rugby in 2008 and 2009.

"Through these roles I am able to share my leadership and management talents with the community," she said.

To connect young professionals to the community, a passion of Hoffmann's, she expanded the BYP offerings to now share monthly community-service opportunities between local nonprofit organizations and BYP members.

Hoffmann also has held marketing positions in Milwaukee, Wis., and Lausanne, Switzerland.

## Tara J. Hume

*Partner*  
Peak Asset Management



Being a wealth adviser requires the skills of a therapist, a financial wizard and a technology specialist. For Tara Hume, "My role is to build a relationship of trust, to help clients navigate the financial markets, find their way through life changes and plot the course towards their financial goals."

As the youngest partner with Peak Asset Management in Louisville, Hume holds the titles of wealth adviser and portfolio manager, where she offers a full range of wealth-management services.

"My greatest impact has been to lead the firm towards the next generation of clients," she said, "including rebranding and marketing efforts, technology adoption and multi-generation family involvement."

As a testament to the quality of work Hume does, she was awarded a 2014 Denver 5-Star Wealth Manager Award by 5280 and ColoradoBiz magazines.

"It is of utmost importance to me to provide quality counsel and to offer best-of-breed service to my client base," Hume said. "Based on this value, I have earned the right to use the Chartered Financial Analyst and Financial Risk Manager designations."

As a lover of the outdoors, Hume supports the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program and the Colorado Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. She financially contributes to local and national organizations that focus on education, wildlife conservation and humanitarian efforts.

In the education realm, Hume is on the investment committee at Friends' School and serves as school advisory counsel for Mackintosh Academy – both independent elementary schools in Boulder.

She also has worked with two local education-related startups: EDUSS Learning and Kodo Kids.

## Matthew Jensen

*AEC specialist*

CAD-1



Boulder native Matthew Jensen plays a leading role in helping young adults develop professionally, network with local businesses and give back to the community.

In 2013 he was elected president of the Boulder Young Professional Group, a program with the Boulder Chamber that is 100 percent volunteer driven. The group connects the Boulder business community through social, service and professional-development opportunities.

"One of our main focuses is organizing at least one community service event per month for our members," Jensen said. "In my tenure, we have helped with flood relief, worked with Share-a-Gift and Boulder EFAA."

On a monthly basis, the group partners with a local nonprofit, donating time and half the proceeds from their monthly networking events.

"This year," he said, "we will be working with the Boulder Film Festival, There With Care, Boulder Arts Week, Boulder County Care Connect, Intercambio-Uniting Communities, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless and several others."

In addition to his volunteer work, Jensen is owner and general manager of the Boulder Collegians Baseball Club, an amateur baseball organization that provides coaching and support for players and gives them the opportunity to pursue their passion for the game.

Jensen also is an AEC specialist for Autodesk dealer CAD-1. "I work with a number of local architectural and engineering firms," he said, "helping train and provide tools for the hard-working people that build our community."

"I may not have designed the buildings we work in or the homes we live in, but I take great pride in aiding the local businesses that have."

## Katie Johnstone

*Partner*

Creative Alignments



When Katie Johnstone joined Creative Alignments in 2011 as a recruiter and general manager, the company was comprised of just three people. Today, she's a partner, and the company has grown to 14.

"I like to think I've made an impact on Creative Alignments by personifying our unique company culture, generating strong client relationships and working hard to recruit top talent for those clients," she said. "The revenue I've produced and the leadership I've shown at CA have allowed us to grow our own team of delightful professionals. We take pride in our reputation as the optimal recruiting solution for growing companies."

She takes pride, personally, in being invited to be a partner in Creative Alignments in 2012. "I feel it represents a vote of confidence in my professional capabilities, strong work ethic and representation of the fun 'work hard, play hard' culture we're continuing to build," she said.

Outside of the office, Johnstone volunteers with the Boulder County AIDS Project as a special-events team member and with the Community Foundation as a member of its community trust.

"I've always been involved with social issues and giving back to my community," she said, "even as a young girl in Illinois, walking door to door, raising funds for my friend Monte and ALS research."

In 2012, Johnstone created and co-chaired a young professionals group called connectBCAP, which raised almost \$20,000 in the first year.

"We're aimed at engaging the 21- to 40-year-old crowd in support of BCAP," she said, "and the much-needed services they provide to those living with HIV/AIDS in Boulder County."

## Elizabeth Kraus

*Co-founder*

MergeLane



Elizabeth Kraus knows what it takes to get a startup going. She's been founding, investing in and supporting startups in the Boulder Valley and beyond for most of her career.

Kraus' most recent venture, MergeLane, has leveraged her network of angel investors to raise nearly \$1 million in funding to support high-growth, women-led startups.

Since co-founding MergeLane with Sue Heilbronner in May 2014, Kraus has recruited more than 100 high-profile investors and mentors to volunteer their time.

"We've designed a program to both capitalize on the trend of higher investor returns from women-led companies and to narrow the gender gap in our startup community," she said.

Kraus brings years of experience to MergeLane as an entrepreneur herself. In 2007, she co-founded myUsearch, an online resource dedicated to matching students with colleges and providing accurate college enrollment information.

Kraus grew myUsearch from the initial concept stage, achieved 200 percent growth and prepared the company for potential acquisition before moving on in 2011.

After that, she founded the Impact Angel Group and positioned the organization to become a part of Investors' Circle, the nation's largest impact angel investing organization.

"I encouraged investing for social and environmental impact as well as a financial return," Kraus said. She also provided education for new angel investors and startups and grew the organization to more than 50 angel investors who invested nearly \$2 million in Colorado startups.

"While neither of these organizations are nonprofits, I have done most of this work on a volunteer basis," Kraus said "I also give financial support to Social Venture Partners and Silicon Flatirons."

## Shaun LaBarre

*Program manager*

Getches-Wilkinson Center



Sustainability is a community effort in the eyes of Shaun LaBarre.

Previously senior director for the Center for ReSource Conservatio, LaBarre now serves as program manager for Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment.

Proving that sustainability is a two-way street, he increased net revenue by 528 percent from 2007 to 2013 at the ReSource Center, in addition to supporting reuse, recycling and water and energy conservation.

LaBarre worked with successful programs there – from the ReSource Tool Library, a community tool lending program, to ReSource Woodworks, a source for fine furniture made from reclaimed material. Both social enterprises have been so successful that green jobs increased from six full-time-equivalent positions to 25 across ReSource programs.

"In early 2014 I was selected to be part of a two-person leadership team directed to redevelop the Natural Resource Law Center at the University of Colorado Law School," LaBarre said. The redevelopment result is the Getches-Wilkinson Center.

Projects he oversees there include fundraising, events and conferences and research programs.

LaBarre also serves on community organization boards that include the Colorado Association for Recycling, Climate Colorado and Boulder County Resource Conservation. In addition to his dedication to sustainability programs, he contributes financially to iEmpathize, Bridge House, Musana, EFAA-Boulder and the Merge program at Flatirons Community Church.

Recognition for LaBarre's commitment to community sustainability include the 2009 Leadership Initiative Award from the Colorado Green Building Guild, the 2012 Boulder County Eco-Hero Award and the Colorado Association for Recycling 2012 Recycler of the Year Award.



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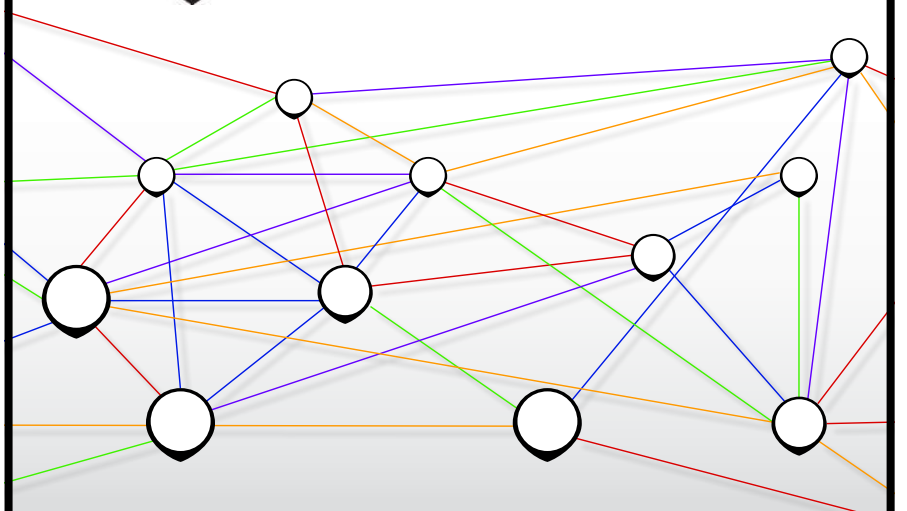


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## Kelly Elle Larisey

Owner

The Little Yoga Studio  
and Holistic Living Practices



Affordable. Balanced. Healthy. Holistic.

Kelly Elle Larisey weaves a lot into her two businesses. The Little Yoga Studio complements her other business, Holistic Living Practices, where she helps people get on track with creating the life that feeds their joy.

"As a yoga studio owner, yoga teacher, life coach and nutritional therapist, I truly believe that igniting our internal fire is key to excelling at our work and our lives," Larisey said. "My native truth is to help others develop awareness of what is native in them in order to propel them forward in their truth – flourishing in their life and career and balancing body, mind and spirit."

Larisey opened The Little Yoga Studio with co-owner Amy Benton in 2011. She referred to the studio as "a thriving business that makes yoga more accessible and more affordable than any other yoga studio in Boulder."

In 2013, The Little Yoga Studio was named Best New Business in the Boulder County Gold, published by the Daily Camera. The studio also was recognized by Sunset magazine in its 2011 "Best Of" section.

Through Holistic Living Practices, Larisey's offerings include a Paleo Reset, which is a 30-day period of following the paleo lifestyle as closely as possible. "You commit to eating a diet of whole, unprocessed foods," she said, "all while cleansing and nourishing your whole body with animal protein, vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds."

The package includes coaching, recipes, a handbook, discounts for local paleo-friendly restaurants and a community dinner.

## Michael Laszlo

Attorney

Laszlo & Associates LLC



"I love that I might be litigating complex commercial issues in federal court one day and helping a Boulder local open her brewery the next."

That's a snapshot of the range of legal services on which Michael Laszlo focuses – from working with local startups to working with multinational corporations on a wide array of issues.

Laszlo joined Laszlo & Associates in 2006 after having been with the firm as a law clerk since 2004.

"I take a relationship-based approach to practicing law and counseling clients and have helped redefine our firm's philosophy to one that is focused on the success of our clients' entire organization," he said. "I developed and head the firm's craft beer, wine and spirits law practice group, which represents emerging local businesses in the liquor and related industries."

That focus has led to speaking engagements at numerous industry events including the annual Craft Brewers Conference and the Colorado Governor's Residence Celebration of Premier Colorado Wines.

Laszlo also addresses local professionals on various topics and co-hosts self-help and educational discussions around issues faced by Boulder-area businesses and individuals.

Off the court, his community-service work includes being a board member of Boulder Cancer Fighters and the George Karl Foundation. He has helped raise more than \$1.25 million for several local cancer organizations that help individuals and families in the Boulder Valley.

"Additionally, I am committed to local education," he said, "and support local mock trial competitions and National Constitution Day by volunteering to teach students about the U.S. Constitution and the American system of democracy."

## Nicole Mansour

Senior vice president

FirstBank Boulder



Affordable housing in and around Boulder remains one of the area's biggest challenges, according to Nicole Mansour, FirstBank Boulder senior vice president. And to back her sentiments, she's putting her money where her mouth is.

Technically the money isn't personally hers, but the initiative in addressing the issue is.

"My emphasis in recent years has been my involvement in affordable housing and nonprofit financing," Mansour said. "Within FirstBank, I was the first lender to engage in a 4 percent low-income housing tax credit project."

"Because of my creativity in structuring several affordable-housing projects in Boulder, this financing structure is now being utilized by private and nonprofit developers across the state."

Mansour spends time on and off the clock supporting her passion around affordable housing. She volunteers with the Boulder Community Housing Corp. and Family Self Sufficiency to impact the lives of people living in subsidized housing.

"I've also spent many hours volunteering with Boulder County's Homeownership Training courses," she said, "educating first-time homebuyers and working to provide innovative loan products specifically for the city's Permanently Affordable Program."

In recognition of Mansour's drive, she received the Boulder Housing Partners Partnership Award in 2013. The acknowledgement centered around her work in restructuring various multimillion-dollar loans and bonds, which allowed BHP to rehabilitate and improve energy efficiency in several city of Boulder housing sites.

Mansour's leadership at her job also shows her determination and dedication to results. As senior vice president of FirstBank, she has helped the Louisville location increase assets by 75 percent for a total of \$55 million over the past three years.

## Elaine Marino

Owner

LadyCoders Productions



Women programmers and developers are up against a male-dominated industry, according to numerous sources including Fortune magazine. In fact, out of every 100 software developers and engineers, only about 12 percent of them are female.

When Elaine Marino found herself looking for one of those jobs, she hit the same wall and took action by launching LadyCoders with the goal of making technology careers accessible to more women.

The organization does that by helping women with existing technology skills or those wishing to gain that expertise form a network, enhance interview skills and have the confidence to build their careers.

"Our first Boulder event was in May 2013 and was a huge success with 60 attendees, supported by many area technology companies," Marino said. "Since then, I continue to work with these organizations to increase the diversity of their workforce and to encourage the professional growth of developers in the Boulder business community."

After that first conference, Marino was approached by the state of Colorado to run a series of technology events called Go Code Colorado, a statewide civic apps challenge. In its first year, Go Code Colorado won the Colorado Technology Association's Project of the Year.

"The goal of LadyCoders Boulder conference is to be free to all attendees," she said. "Many women entering software development do so laterally – second careers, coming back after raising children, freelancers and the unemployed."

"For all these reasons, I work to garner sponsorships from technology companies and provide stellar career best practices and advice to women, free of charge."

## Isabel McDevitt

Executive director  
Bridge House



In 2014, Bridge House, the day-resource provider for homeless adults in Boulder, served more than 80,000 meals, provided 5,500 case-management appointments and helped more than 100 people get housed.

For the past three years, Isabel McDevitt has been executive director of the organization and relentlessly continues to increase the numbers of services offered.

While overseeing a budget of \$1 million and a staff of 18 across four primary programs, McDevitt founded Ready to Work, Boulder's only paid transitional employment program for homeless individuals.

She also launched and manages two social enterprises – a landscaping business and Community Table Kitchen, a catering company – that provide on-the-job training for clients and earn more than \$220,000 to support Bridge House operations.

In 2014, McDevitt oversaw acquisition of a property to develop housing for 48 people transitioning out of homelessness.

During her tenure at Bridge House, she was appointed to Gov. John Hickenlooper's Pathways Home Colorado advisory board on issues of homelessness as well as Boulder County's advisory board for the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

In 2013, Bridge House received Boulder County Public Health's Healthy Community Award and the Foothills United Way Sprit of Collaboration Award for the homeless-service Resource Center, which McDevitt founded in 2012.

In addition to her work with the homeless population, McDevitt volunteers time to Blue Sky Bridge, which focuses on combating child abuse. She also has been a volunteer consultant for the past eight years for Social Venture Partners, dedicated to deepening the impact of local nonprofits.

## Taylor McLemore

Founder  
Patriot Boot Camp



"My passion and profession is building scalable-technology companies," said Taylor McLemore, "and I am honored to share this passion with veterans."

To increase the reach of his passion, McLemore founded Patriot Boot Camp in 2011 with the support of David Cohen and Techstars, and – as of 2014 – with the support of the Jared Polis Foundation.

PBC is an intensive three-day event that helps veterans become successful technology entrepreneurs. "The ultimate goal of PBC is to provide participants with the mentors, education and community they need to innovate and build the next generation of high-growth and impactful companies," McLemore said.

The nonprofit organization's focus is to foster a community dedicated to supporting veteran entrepreneurship and bridge the gap between military service and entrepreneurial life.

"My most meaningful work is acting as a convener of resources in the Boulder and national startup communities to ensure that veterans have the optimal access point to build companies," McLemore said.

In recognition of his work, McLemore was invited to the White House by Joining Forces and the Office of Science and Technology Policy to contribute to the workshop on veteran entrepreneurship. "It was an honor and pleasure to represent PBC, Techstars and the startup community in this meeting with a group of veteran advocates from around the nation," McLemore said.

"Acting as a convener of resources for veteran entrepreneurs, I have led four successful PBC events, supporting over 288 veteran entrepreneurs," he added. "Over 200 mentors from the PBC community have delivered more than 210 hours of mentoring in the past four years."

## Christopher McVay

President, Longmont market  
High Plains Bank



When Christopher McVay was promoted to lead the Longmont market for High Plains Bank in January, he became the youngest executive in the bank's history.

Under his direction, the branch has obtained profitability and exceeded all revenue and profitability goals set by the bank's board.

He also serves on several committees within the bank including the senior loan committee, and is the bank's senior lender for commercial business and Small Business Association loans.

Recognition for McVay's leadership includes the Metro North Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Person of The Year award in 2011 for exhibiting outstanding leadership within the chamber and surrounding community.

He was nominated by his peers to serve as Longmont Rotary club president in 2017-2018 and will be the club's youngest president ever.

In addition to responsibilities that include the direction and growth of the Longmont branch, McVay manages eight employees and more than 200 clients.

"In the bank we have a saying, 'an employee's priorities are their family first, their community second and the bank third,'" McVay said. "I'm proud to be part of an organization that puts family and community first."

A testament to the sentiment is that the bank has contributed to, volunteered for and served in a board capacity for more than 40 different nonprofit organizations and helped raise and/or contributed more than \$75,000 in funding.

Those causes include flood relief, homelessness, self-sufficiency, domestic-violence awareness and prevention and education.

"Giving back to the community I live in is what keeps the fire in me going," he said. "It recharges my battery."

## Eliberto Mendoza

Director, Community  
Action programs  
Boulder County



Since moving to Boulder in 2007, Eliberto Mendoza has been living his passion for creating community and providing opportunity to members of society who are marginalized.

His first position was with Intercambio as the Longmont program director. "I worked with immigrants who desperately wanted to learn English and become integrated into their new community," Mendoza said.

In 2011, he served as Circles Coordinator with Community Action programs. Circles is a national movement that focuses on ending poverty by creating community between low-income families and middle class volunteers.

In 2014, Mendoza became director of Community Action.

"Living in Boulder has provided me a multitude of professional and personal growth opportunities," he said.

For example, in 2008 he was invited to participate in the PERL (People Engaged in Raising Leaders) program. In 2009 he was selected to serve on Central Presbyterian Church's Elder Board, where he chaired the personnel committee.

In 2010 he was invited to take part in the Community Foundation's inaugural Leadership Fellows program.

"Both my professional career and my personal volunteering have focused on building community by connecting people across cultural and socio-economic lines," Mendoza said.

The volunteer work he's done includes being an advocate and resource to Latino and minority-owned businesses through the Latino Chamber of Commerce and helping Latino-serving agencies collaborate to improve services to the Latino community.

"I believe," he said, "that everything I have done up until now – and will continue doing as long as I am able – will build a stronger, more inclusive and better Boulder County community."

## Shaun Oshman

Founder and chief executive  
iSupportU



While teaching elementary school in New Zealand, Shaun Oshman kept other teachers up to speed with technology.

"One of the most rewarding experiences was seeing how empowered the teachers had become when they learned to fully harness the power of technology in their teaching," he said.

When Oshman came to Boulder in 2009, he weighed the options of teaching again or starting a business to help other people make the most of technology.

The decision turned into iSupportU, a company that started out providing Mac and iPhone repair to residential clients. Soon the support broadened to include Windows repair.

Since then, the business has grown an average of 150 percent year over year. With 10 employees, iSupportU now celebrates \$1 million in annual sales.

Oshman's entrepreneurial endeavor earned him the title Young Businessperson of the Year in 2011 from the Boulder Chamber of Commerce. From 2010 to 2013, he co-chaired the board of what's now called Boulder Young Professionals.

In 2010 Oshman was a mentor for a Junior Achievement business education class at Monarch High School, and in 2014 he served on the Business Improvement District board.

"For the past two years I have served on the committee for the Longs Peak Boy Scout Council Distinguished Citizen dinner, acting as technical counsel," he said.

With a background of leadership, including earning the rank of Eagle Scout – the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America – Oshman has led his company to the top five in BizWest's Mercury 100 fastest-growing companies for two years running.

## Justin Perkins

Senior director for  
brand engagement  
Care2



Since 2006, Justin Perkins has been working with Care2, one of the first B Corporations in the world that provides a community where people can learn and engage with causes they care about.

B Corps are certified by the nonprofit B Lab and meet rigorous standards of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency.

As part of Care2's business-development team, Perkins has been one of a handful of revenue earners for the company that has grown to 50 people and attracted an online membership of 7 million consumers.

"I've sold in and managed over 500 campaigns that have connected millions of people with nonprofits like Children's International and impact-oriented brands such as Earth Balance and Rudi's Organics," Perkins said.

He's working on a new business unit that will help brands such as the natural products companies in Boulder and also potentially be a breakthrough revenue model for Care2's future growth.

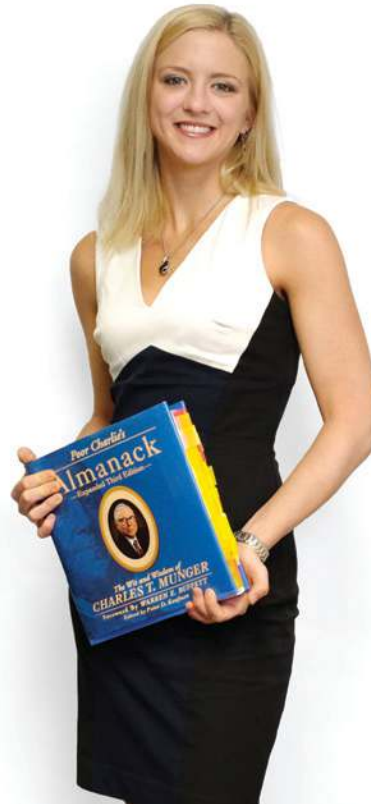
Perkins started Olomomo Nut Co. with a credit-card investment of \$8,000 in 2008. The business, the first nut snack company to be a B Corp, now is approaching \$1 million in sales. From early beginnings at farmers markets, it has provided work for more than two dozen people.

Accolades for Perkins' work include partnering with Jane Goodall on a feature documentary with Care2, and having Olomomo featured on "Good Morning America," the "Today" show and the Cooking Channel.

Perkins contributes to organizations such as Colorado Public Radio, Rails to Trails and the University of Colorado Denver's School for International Training.

## Kelly Quann Bianucci

Managing principal  
Discover Capital LLC



When Kelly Quann Bianucci founded the private equity firm Discover Capital, she joined an exclusive club. It's the only search fund currently operating in the Boulder area and the only female-led search fund in the United States.

"I have been recognized as a role model to aspiring entrepreneurs for pursuing an alternative path to entrepreneurship than the traditional startup model," she said.

Harvard Business Review actually is publishing a case about her founding of Discover Capital.

As a formal mentor for Mergelane, the Boulder-based accelerator for female-led startups, Quann Bianucci is also an active angel investor, with two portfolio investments being Boulder-based startups.

Recognized by Gov. John Hickenlooper for successfully launching the Colorado Innovation Network (COIN), Quann Bianucci served as its founding executive director and remains on its board.

COIN, a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, is a catalyst for economic prosperity through innovation. It partners with government, business and civil society to foster collaboration around global ideas, talent, capital and the entrepreneurial spirit.

Quann Bianucci has been recognized as a Four Pillars Award finalist at the Kellogg School of Management. The awards are given to graduating MBA students who embody the values of the Kellogg mission, which includes experiential learning, leadership and social responsibility.

In addition to her professional contributions, Quann Bianucci is an active donor to YouthBiz, United Way and the American Diabetes Association among others.

As a volunteer and board member with the American Red Cross for more than a decade, Quann Bianucci has worked on projects that include development of the Red Cross young professionals' web presence.

## John Ricotta

Senior vice president  
FirstBank



John Ricotta is involved in all areas of lending including commercial real estate, Small Business Administration financing, residential mortgages and construction financing.

His day-to-day responsibilities and focus as senior vice president at FirstBank in Boulder include lending, business development and branch management. While at this branch, Ricotta has originated more than \$75 million in loans for the Boulder community.

Through his role at FirstBank, Ricotta was selected to attend the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington and recently graduated from the three-year program. He also has been selected to assist in on-boarding the bank's new management trainee hires as one of the instructors of the internal sales class.

"Within FirstBank, I currently serve on our pricing committee and previously held a position on our advisory credit policy committee," he said.

A Colorado native, Ricotta volunteers with a number of local groups. "Currently I serve on the board of directors of two amazing nonprofits within Boulder County – Intercambio Uniting Communities and I Have a Dream of Boulder County," he said.

Ricotta also volunteers on the finance committee with the Broomfield Community Foundation and is on the advisory board with Casa Milagros Scholarship Fund.

"I find that serving within the capacity of a board member allows me to utilize my financial experience while giving back to the community," he said. "Personally I believe that giving back to your community is extremely important, and while working at FirstBank I have been involved with numerous nonprofit organizations."

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## Bo Sharon

Founder and CEO

Lucky's Markets



"Food is nourishment; it is health; it is community; and it is love." According to Bo Sharon, that sentiment is at the heart of Lucky's Market.

Today, Lucky's opens its doors in a number of places: a grocery store in Boulder and one in Longmont; a bakery and a café in Boulder. Eight other stores have been opened nationally, many in college towns.

Since starting the original Lucky's in north Boulder in 2003 with his wife, Trish, Sharon makes sure his prices are affordable and his food is exceptional. He makes sure the communities those stores serve get that and more.

"I'm focused on creating a culture that allows team members and customers to participate in something bigger than themselves," he said.

Each store partners monthly with a local nonprofit and donates 5 percent of sales on a given day to that organization. The Bags For Change program reimburses customers a nickel for every reusable bag they use. If they choose to donate that nickel to one of three local charities with which that store partners each month, the store matches their donation.

Each store also votes and decides where to donate \$2,000 monthly to a worthy cause through the Lucky Fund program. Additionally, team members are paid for 32 hours yearly by Lucky's Market for providing community service.

Lucky's has been recognized in a number of ways for its contributions. It received the Beyond Business Award from Realities for Children Charities in 2012 and third place in the 2014 Best New Business Longmont category from Boulder Weekly.

## Susie Strife

Sustainability coordinator

Boulder County



As Boulder County's sustainability coordinator, Susie Strife is up close and personal with one of Boulder's favorite passions: the environment.

In her current job, Strife has had a hand in shaping Boulder County's vision for a more sustainable and healthy place to live for the past 15 years. For example, she led the collaborative process that guided Boulder County's internal and external sustainability goals and resulted in the Environmental Sustainability Plan. The plan was adopted by the Boulder County Commissioners in 2013.

Strife credits community partnerships with helping Boulder County become a leader in environmental sustainability.

"Without strong local and regional cooperation," she said, "Boulder County would be unable to achieve the sustainability goals that reach beyond our county borders, such as climate, air quality and transportation."

In 2013, Strife was given the Innovation Award for implementation of EnergySmart by the Colorado Green Building Guild. In 2012, the Environmental Protection Agency gave her the Climate Leadership Award for Boulder County's commitment to sustainable energy policies and programs. And in 2009, Boulder Weekly named her Boulder County Person of the Year for her role in developing and implementing the ClimateSmart Loan Program.

"The work I've done outside of my professional job has been extraordinarily rewarding also," she said. Those projects include being on the board of trustees of one of Boulder's oldest environmental nonprofits, Thorne Nature Experience.

Strife also serves on the board of EnergySmart Colorado. "I spend a great deal of time there," she said, "helping share valuable lessons learned from Boulder County to staff and decision makers across Colorado on renewable energy and energy efficiency."

## Brandon Strope

Managing director,  
wealth-management adviser

Northwestern Mutual  
in Boulder



Many of Brandon Strope's accomplishments have set records.

After joining Northwestern Mutual, a financial planning firm, in 2007 as part of the company's internship program, he finished in 2010 as one of the top interns in the nation.

When he graduated from the program, Strope converted to a full-time financial adviser and finished tops in the nation for full-time advisers that previously were interns.

"I finished as the rookie of the year for the Cunningham Financial Group in Colorado," he said, "and have moved quickly through the leadership ranks of Northwestern Mutual to become one of the youngest managing directors in the company in 2013" – at age 27.

Strope each year has achieved the Million Dollar Round Table, which recognizes top advisers in the industry, as well as the Outstanding Achievement in Recruiting and Sales Award.

"As CEO of the Northwestern Mutual in Boulder office, we have built an incredible team whose mission is to develop career financial advisers with thriving, comprehensive practices," he said. "We are rapidly growing and have 20 financial advisers serving the Boulder community."

The firm has several charitable endeavors, according to Strope, with its main focus on Alex's Lemonade Stand and helping in the fight against childhood cancer. Locally, the company supports the Emergency Family Assistance Association and the March of Dimes.

Strope and his wife teach Sunday school as part of Flatirons Church's children's ministry. "We support several kids through World Vision," he said, "as well as families with Campus Crusade for Christ and Family Life."

## TR Swanwick

Broker

Wright Kingdom Real Estate



"My professional goal is to create energy, foster relationships and positively impact our community," said TR Swanwick. "The best way I know how is being a trusted real estate broker, adviser and volunteer in my community as well as a recruiter and mentor within my organization."

As a broker with Wright Kingdom Real Estate, Swanwick lives up to his belief by mentoring new brokers in addition to his other duties.

"It's my responsibility to teach, coach and actively assist in developing the skills to achieving a high level of service in the community," he said.

In 2012, 2013 and 2014, Swanwick successfully assisted five broker recruitments who now are thriving at Wright Kingdom – a result that in turn benefits the company.

In the community, Swanwick assisted two locally founded charities, raising awareness and money to impact global crises.

"The best way to lead is by example," he said. "Over time, clients, friends and colleagues have contributed in donating their time, skill and money."

Swanwick also sponsors an 8-year-old girl in Kenya. "I fund her food, clothing, health care and education until she's 18," he said.

Professional recognition has come in terms of sales and transactions in Swanwick's work at Wright Kingdom. In 2014 he ranked in the top 15 in sale volume and in the top five in transactions.

In 2013, his sales volume was in the top 20 and transactions were in the top five.

The ratings in 2014 were out of 94 brokers, and in 2013 they were out of 90.

## Jessie Thompson

Mortgage broker

Premier Mortgage Group



Over the past 14 years, Jessie Thompson has helped more than 800 clients and families purchase homes.

In addition to her job as a mortgage broker with Premier Mortgage Group, she teaches first-time homebuyers about mortgage products, personal credit scores and how to navigate the home-buying process.

She also teaches a business-planning class for real estate agents. "My business partner and I have gotten rave reviews," she said, "and one Realtor even said that it 'changed his life and business.'"

Thompson also participated in the recent leadership program at the Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association,

In six years at Premier Mortgage Group, Thompson consistently has finished as one of the top 25 loan officers out of 350 in the company. As a founding board member of the Young Professionals Network with the Realtors Association, she has focused on networking and education for Realtors as well as on community outreach.

That community work includes teaching about rent and credit classes to high school students at local high schools to help them prepare for what comes after graduation. The group sings Christmas carols at two retirement homes as well.

"For the past four years I have been a table captain to recruit friends, clients and family to attend the I Have a Dream fundraising luncheon," she said.

"One of our favorite traditions is buying gifts for a family in the Adopt-a-Family program," she added. "It is wonderful to see my two 8-year-olds learn to help those less fortunate."

## Angela Topel

Senior broker

Gibbons White Inc.



Angela Topel helps Boulder Valley clients with real estate needs from expanding businesses and closing businesses to investments for personal and business growth.

"I strive to connect people to places and other professionals," said Topel, a senior broker with Gibbons White Inc., "and in my organization I assist new brokers in learning the business and growing their business."

"Within my company and community, I am recognized as a top producer, a teacher and someone to confide in," she added. "I am also recognized for being able to grow and succeed in my industry while concurrently bringing up two small children."

Topel started her commercial real estate career in 2005 and specializes in all aspects of commercial real estate including landlord and tenant representation, acquisition, disposition, consultation services and property management.

In addition to serving on the executive board of the Commercial Brokers of Boulder, Topel is a member of the Denver Metro Commercial Association of Brokers. She also recently served on the board of Downtown Boulder Inc., and the Sesquicentennial Boulder Planning Board.

In line with her university focus – a bachelor's degree in molecular cellular developmental biology at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2003 – Topel is known for bringing creative, nonlinear problem-solving skills to how she finds and closes commercial real estate transactions. She also has extensive management experience in the restaurant industry, which adds to a strong understanding of business and exceptional people skills.

"My community service and charitable giving is done through my family," she said, "and includes teaching my children about helping others and donating food at holidays."

## Stephanie Vanderholm

Vice president

Metzger Albee

Public Relations



For several years, Stephanie Vanderholm has led the two largest accounts at Metzger Albee Public Relations: Mercury Payment Systems and Coalfire Systems.

"I have been instrumental in sustaining and growing our flagship accounts and generating increasing revenue for the agency," said Vanderholm, the agency's vice president.

"During the early part of 2014 it was Mercury's goal to receive top-tier coverage and awards," Vanderholm said. While working closely with the Mercury team, she has helped the company receive a good handful of awards including ColoradoBiz magazine's Top Company Award, which recognizes outstanding firms headquartered in Colorado or with a significant presence here, based on financial performance, community involvement and outstanding achievement.

The company also was recognized in Inc. magazine's Inc. 5000 list of the fastest-growing private companies in the United States as well as Outside magazine's Best Place to Work award.

Mercury received more than 200 pieces of coverage in the past year, including from Forbes magazine and MergerMarket as a result of Vanderholm's work. "In 2014 Vantiv bought Mercury Payment Systems for \$1.6 billion," she said.

Efforts Vanderholm made for Coalfire Systems have resulted in hundreds of stories including top-tier coverage in the Associated Press and Wall Street Journal.

The Friends of Douglas County K-9 asked Vanderholm to help with its annual fundraising event, which she did on a pro-bono basis.

"This recurring event resulted in the purchase of three new police dogs, and in 2015 the organization will be able to purchase two additional dogs," she said. "In the past four years, Friends of Douglas County K-9 raised more than \$350,000."

## Katie Wagner

Regional general manager

Crocs



"Since day one at Crocs, I was committed to making this one of the best footwear brands in the world," said Katie Wagner, general manager for Latin America and the Caribbean. "I began in a sales support role and was promoted just four weeks later."

"I have been a brand advocate, a familiar face and a loud voice at Crocs since the beginning," she added. "Not only have I survived the Crocs roller-coaster, I have embraced it and dedicated myself to being a change agent in our organization."

In addition to being selected in 2011 to be mentored through the Crocs High Potential Employees class, Wagner mentors others in the organization officially and unofficially.

Her leadership skills have been recognized by the company in other ways, too.

"In 2014 I was asked to co-chair the newly formed Women@Crocs network, dedicated to encouraging the growth and development of women at Crocs," she said.

Wagner also is actively launching new volunteer initiatives through the Women@Crocs network. The group partnered with There With Care during the holidays.

"I find working with children to be the most rewarding," she said, "as I personally know the impact an adult mentor can have on the life of a child."

Wagner considers her nine years at Crocs as serendipity. "Had I not been a CU-Boulder student in 2005 when Crocs was becoming a hot local trend," she said, "I may not have purchased my first pair; I may not have interviewed with Crocs; and I might have left Boulder permanently."

"I loved Boulder, but Crocs made it home."

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