

# INSPIRING WOMEN OF IOWA

## Order of Events

Welcome to Inspiring Women of Iowa  
*Liz Nead, Speaker Coach and Mountaineer, Nead Inspiration*

Thank You from Our Event Chair  
*Brooke Quinn, Vice President of Customer Success, DHI Group, Inc.*

A Word from Our Presenting Sponsor  
*Mary Inbody, Head of Retail, Lincoln Savings Bank*

Inspiration  
*Beth Shelton, Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa Chief Executive Officer*

Inspiring Business for Women Designation

Inspiring Advocate for Women Award

Courage Award

Confidence Award

Character Award

Closing



Presented by:



## *A note from Beth Shelton, CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa*

The last few months have been undoubtedly the hardest many of us have ever experienced. I know personally, I have been challenged in ways I never thought possible. All of us greatly wish we could be celebrating with you in person today. A virtual event was not what we planned, but as we have done with most of 2020, we adapt, and are coming together in a different way.

The individuals and businesses being recognized today have done just that, they've overcome obstacles, created a new plan, and pushed forward. Now, more than ever, we want to celebrate the amazing and inspiring things that they have accomplished for our community.

Thank you for joining us today. Thank you for helping us celebrate these incredible change-makers. And thank you for supporting Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa. Together, we are changing the world and paving the way for a better tomorrow.

We hope you enjoy our event today and can't wait to see you in person again.

Stay safe, be kind, and show love,



Beth Shelton  
CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa



Say hello to some very important Girl Scouts



**2020 Event Chair Brooke Quinn**

GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER IOWA BOARD MEMBER  
& VICE PRESIDENT OF CUSTOMER SUCCESS, DHI GROUP.



**Featured Girl Scout Prashanty L.**

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa and Lincoln Savings Bank are thrilled to honor inspiring women of courage, confidence, and character, and to celebrate the advocates and businesses who support them.



## *Inspiring Business for Women Designation*

Given to businesses that show incredible support for women. This may include workplace policies like maternity/family leave, family-friendly practices, women in leadership roles, special women's initiatives, equal pay, and/or equal opportunities for women. These businesses demonstrate their support for women's equality and advancement in the workplace.

## *Inspiring Advocate for Women Award*

Given to a person of any gender who advocates for women's equality. This may include showing commitment for the development of women leaders, standing up for women in the workplace or community, showing leadership to enhance gender diversity, and removing barriers women commonly face.

## *Courage Award*

Given to someone who shows immeasurable courage. She shows strength in the face of fear, pain or grief. She perseveres in the face of adversity and stands up for what is right.

## *Confidence Award*

Given to someone who continues to demonstrate confidence, a positive state of mind that guides her steps and actions. Confidence comes from feelings of well-being, acceptance of her body and mind, and belief in her own ability, skills and experience.

## *Character Award*

Given to someone who has great character in their relationships and experiences. It is the quality of her actions when there is no apparent benefit to acting well. She shows great integrity in how she treats herself and others.

# Inspiring Businesses for Women 2020

We are also excited to celebrate the businesses who are doing amazing things for women. Please join us in congratulating the following companies who are being honored with the Inspiring Business for Women designation.



ARAG Legal Insurance

BH Companies

Breathe. Physical Therapy & Wellness

Evora Group

Lincoln Savings Bank

Trixies Salon

# Inspiring Advocate for Women Award Finalists

The Inspiring Advocate for Women Award is given to a person of any gender who advocates for women's equality. This may include showing commitment for the development of women leaders, standing up for women in the workplace or community, showing leadership to enhance gender diversity, and removing barriers women commonly face.

*We asked these finalists why they think it's important to be an advocate for women.  
Here's what they said...*



## Chick Herbert

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ENTERPRISE ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT NCMIC GROUP, INC.

“I get great joy out of helping other people be successful. Being an advocate for women is simply the right thing to do and not something I consider to be unique or special. While I have much to learn, my knowledge around the challenges women face in the work place has grown tremendously over the years and I am fortunate to be in a position where my advocacy makes a difference. Whether ensuring women are not talked over in a meeting, speaking on their behalf in a meeting where they are not represented, or advocating for a female candidate to be considered for a job, my goal is to be thoughtful, deliberate and inclusive in my actions. The bottom line is that organizations are better off when all voices are valued and everyone is able to freely share their opinions and natural talents.”



## Rachelle L. Karstens, PHD, JD

PRESIDENT OF BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY

“Women are social engineers, constructing new trails as needed. Statewide, the status of women continues to improve economically, professionally, and politically. In the education realm, 56% of college students in Iowa are women, earning more baccalaureate and advanced degrees than men. Taking these educational attainments and the fact women comprise nearly half the workforce into account, Iowa women earn only 78% of their male counterparts' wages. This wage gap costs women nearly \$8.8 billion annually, placing Iowa in the lowest third of the U.S. states for pay parity. Iowa women hold fewer than 30% of elected positions, only 25% of executive positions, and less than 18% of corporate board seats. We can do better. Young people deserve to see role models of both genders everywhere. As the leader of a university founded by women, I pledge to continue to advance the cause of women, until gender no longer matters.”

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## RJ Lewis

AT-HOME DAD

"I draw inspiration from my two young daughters and wife every day. My wife, a global leader in agriculture research, is a visible and strong role model for our daughters, as well as future female scientists. She is an inspiring leader that champions, supports, and empowers women in personal and professional settings. As a father, my daughters have shown me that every child starts out as a blank slate. What gets added to that slate is heavily influenced by family, society, and experiences. As simple of a concept this may be, positive influence will collectively shape our society's future. We need to be strong role models for the next generation by developing and championing girl's creativity, confidence, and passion from the start. This is our time to lead by example, embrace diversity of thought, and enter every situation as WE. We can change the world!"



## Jacob Repp

FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL AT NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

"It's important to be an advocate for women, because the truth is that we all need encouragement and people to speak up on our behalf when we can't. We all need help. That's true from the day we are born, up until the day that we die. And historically we (men) have done a terrible job at supporting the women in our lives to do the things that the rest of society said they shouldn't. The finalist for all of the categories are smarter than me, braver than me, stronger than me for their perseverance over the past decade plus to accomplish what they have, given the push back. I refuse to sit back and do nothing, even if that means I will offend someone, because it is the right thing to do. We are in this together."

# Courage Award Finalists

The Courage Award is given to a woman who shows immeasurable courage. She shows strength in the face of fear, pain or grief. She perseveres in the face of adversity and stands up for what is right.



## Mindi Callison

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF BAILING OUT BENJI

Mindi Callison fought poverty and homelessness her entire childhood. After working hard in school and receiving a full-ride to Simpson College, she stayed busy and committed to bettering herself and the world. When Mindi was 19, she fell victim to the puppy mill industry by way of a local pet store who offered her a credit card with high interest to purchase a \$1500 puppy. Upon learning about the pet store/puppy mill connection and learning about the predatory lending practices that these stores utilize to take advantage of low-income families, Mindi knew she needed to act. Mindi founded Bailing Out Benji at 21 and has been instrumental in researching, exposing and fighting the puppy mill industry across the country. Mindi grew Bailing Out Benji to a national nonprofit and works with city council members, state legislators and congressmen to create lasting change for animals and families.



## Kelly Eagle

DIRECTOR OF CLIENT SERVICES AT SPINUTECH AND CO-FOUNDER OF SALTO WOMEN

Kelly Eagle is the Director of Client Services at Spinutech and co-founder of Salto Women. Kelly began her career in journalism but quickly expanded to smaller, fast-growing companies where she filled roles in operations, sales and process development. Kelly is driven by leaving the world better than she found it - whether it's refining a process, serving on boards in her community, or creating an organization focused on leadership for young women, which she did with Amy Roberts in 2019. Outside of the office, Kelly spent just over 7 years on the Waukee Public Library Board, served on the Winefest Grand Cru board, volunteered for Variety, Make-A-Wish, and various other organizations. She is married to Ryan and is the proud mom of Georgia and Emmy. She lives with her family in Waukee.



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## **Meghan Malloy, Esq.**

GENERAL COUNSEL AT HEARTLAND STRATEGIES, LLC

Meghan Malloy is general counsel of Heartland Strategies, LLC, a public affairs and government relations firm. A Des Moines local, she is a graduate of Dowling High School, University of Iowa (2006, BA in Journalism/Mass Communication), and Drake University Law School (J.D., 2014). While at UIowa, Meghan was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and staff writer for the Daily Iowan.

During her time at Drake Law, Meghan was a member of Drake Law Women, the president of the Drake Law Democrats, and was the 2013 Christine Swanson-Wilson scholarship recipient. Meghan is the current president of the Junior League of Des Moines. She is married to Dr. Christopher Disbro and has three children, Judah (10), Luca-Naphtali (3), and Zipporah (1 ½).



## **Austina Smith**

EXECUTIVE CHEF OF GRAND LIVING AT BRIDGEWATER

Austina Smith came to the United States with her family from Sierra Leone, West Africa in June 1998. They left to escape a war-torn nation.

Although cooking was in her family's background, she never wanted to go down that path. It was not until she was at Kirkwood studying Finance that she took a cake decorating class. The Culinary professors recognized Austina's raw talent and potential and convinced her to switch to a career in Culinary.

Four years ago, Chef Austina was diagnosed with esophageal cancer and spent two months in the hospital and nine months with a feeding tube. During those nine months of continued radiation and chemotherapy, she was also back in the kitchen with her feeding tubes still intact.

Now, Chef Austina is cancer-free and receiving multiple awards for her talent in and out of the kitchen. Austina currently works at Grand Living at Bridgewater as the community's Executive Chef. She was named one of the 40 Women to Watch by the Iowa Restaurant Association, she received the American Dream Award, and went on to win the Diversity Award for the National Restaurant Association.

# Confidence Award Finalists

The Confidence Award is given to a woman who continues to demonstrate confidence, a positive state of mind that guides her steps and actions. Confidence comes from feelings of well-being, acceptance of her body and mind, and belief in her own ability, skills and experience.



## Jackie Norris

COMMUNITY LEADER

Jackie Norris was born in Ossining, New York and earned a degree in political science from the State University of New York at Geneseo in 1992. Her political career began in the offices of Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Vice President Al Gore and HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

In 1998, Norris served on Governor Tom Vilsack's gubernatorial campaign in Iowa and as Iowa state political director on Al Gore's 2000 Presidential campaign. In 2002, Norris became a high school history and government teacher after receiving her secondary education teacher certification from Iowa State University. She is the 2005 award recipient of the James Madison Fellowship for her commitment to becoming an outstanding teacher of the American Constitution.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, Norris was President Barack Obama's Iowa Senior Advisor, State Director and served as First Lady Michelle Obama's White House Chief of Staff. Norris later served as Senior Advisor to the CEO at the Corporation for National and Community Service and became the founding Executive Director of the Points of Light Corporate Institute. Norris recently stepped down after serving four years as the President and CEO of Goodwill of Central Iowa.



## Amber Sampson

CEO OF SAMPSON FAMILY THERAPY SERVICES, LLC

Amber Sampson is the CEO of Sampson Family Therapy Services, LLC. The company was founded in 2012 as an individual practice and has grown to include 17 providers and support staff. Amber's passion lies in cultivating and reinforcing healthy relationships for clients and striving for a positive work environment based on balance and autonomy within the company. She has served as one of the only female presidents of the Iowa Associate for Marriage and Family

Therapy and works diligently to represent the needs of those on the fringe of access to care. Amber is an ISU graduate, LMFT, nationally approved Clinical Supervisor, and AAMFT Clinical Fellow. She grew up attending Girl Scout Camp Tanglefoot and went on to work there for several summers. Her passion for serving others, work ethic, and drive to continually improve personally and professionally all find influence from her growth in Girl Scouting and camp counseling.

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## Dr. Megan Srinivas

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN AT FORT DODGE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR AND RESEARCH FELLOW AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dr. Megan Srinivas is an infectious disease physician at the University of North Carolina who resides and practices in rural Iowa. Her research focuses on using social innovation to address health inequities. She's currently studying how political change impacts access to reproductive healthcare for marginalized populations in rural America. She worked for the World Food Prize Foundation in Kenya analyzing factors influencing household food security and was awarded the John Chrystal Award for outstanding contribution to hunger issues. In college, Dr. Srinivas co-founded Boston's Peer Health Exchange, a non-profit teaching comprehensive health education in socioeconomically disadvantaged schools. She also studied the evolution of malarial drug resistance in South America, changing national treatment policy in Peru and earning Harvard's Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize. During her Masters, she investigated healthcare stigma/discrimination impeding HIV treatment in Brazil. Megan currently works with Project Echo to provide hepatitis C care via telehealth in the rural US. She is a national delegate to the American Medical Association and on the Infectious Disease Society of America Public Health Advisory Committee. Megan graduated Harvard College in 2009, University of Iowa Medical School in 2014, Harvard School of Public Health in 2014, and completed internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins University in 2017.



## Whitney Warne

OWNER OF IVORY HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY AND CO-FOUNDER OF BRAND LAUNCH AND THE DSM HUMMINGBIRDS

Whitney Warne is a creative entrepreneur, community builder and confidence champion living in Des Moines, IA. Whitney owns Ivory House Photography and specializes in proving every person who says "don't photograph well," wrong. Her special gift is her ability to recognize and lift up every human's beauty and power and she loves using her camera and her voice to share this vision with the world.

She is also co-founder of Brand Launch which specializes in personal brand empowerment and DSM Hummingbirds, a revolutionary community marketing strategy. When she's not pursuing her passion and purpose through work, you can find Whitney in her hammock, practicing at Adamantine Yoga, lifting stuff at BlackCollar Crossfit or buying all the food at Grateful Chef.

# Character Award Finalists

The Character Award is given to a woman who has great character in their relationships and experiences. It is the quality of her actions when there is no apparent benefit to acting well. She shows great integrity in how she treats herself and others.



## **Katie Dorsey**

OWNER OF LOADS OF GRACE

Katie is a native Iowan. She received her AA from Iowa Central. In 2000 she joined the Army Reserves. Following September 11, 2001, she worked as an Army Reservist volunteering to assist in deployments around Iowa. In 2003, she married AJ. In 2004 she was ordered to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. After 15 months away, 11 months in Iraq. Katie returned home and settled in Gowrie, Iowa. AJ and Katie have three children, 12, 9 and 4. In early 2018, Katie started an online retail shirt business Loads Of Grace. Katie is employed part-time at Prairie Lakes Church, in Fort Dodge. Katie volunteers for her church, is a GS Troop Leader and is on the local food pantry board. In 2018 Katie returned to college, graduating this May with her BA in Human Services, Psychology, and Trauma Advocacy. Katie is attending graduate school this fall with the anticipation of being a chaplain.



## **Ann Leonard**

SEED PRODUCTION & SUPPLY CHAIN EFFECTIVENESS LEAD AT CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE

Ann Leonard is currently the Seed Production and Supply Chain Effectiveness Lead for Corteva Agriscience. In this role, she provides leadership with communications support and spearheads employee development and engagement opportunities.

As a leader of the Food Security Network at Corteva, Ann has organized many collections of food, often sorts food at the Food Bank of Iowa, and organizes meals provided at the Central Iowa Shelter Services and YMCA Supportive Housing Campus.

Ann currently serves as a co-director of her church's Vacation Bible School program, has helped sew hundreds of diapers for overseas charities, delivers Meals on Wheels, and rings the red-kettle-bell for the Salvation Army.

She served on the Newton Community School board from 2015-2019, is a parent representative on the School Improvement Advisory Committee, has taught Jr. Achievement for elementary and middle school students, judges FFA contests, and is an active member of the local PTA.

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## Christina Moffatt

OWNER AND FOUNDER OF CRÈME CUPCAKE & DESSERT AND DIRECTOR OF SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES FOR THE GREATER DES MOINES PARTNERSHIP

Founded in 2010, Christina, along with her team of 14, has been the owner and operator of Crème Cupcake + Dessert. Crème brings sweet dessert memories varying from a single cupcake, to birthdays, gender reveals, weddings, decorating parties or large events like 4000 cupcakes for a marathon and anyone looking to make their event special

Christina is also the Director of Small Business Resources for the Greater Des Moines Partnership. She is passionate about using her own experience as an entrepreneur to uplift and grow other small businesses. Christina's role is to work small businesses in the regions, to make sure that their growth continues by helping small businesses and entrepreneurs be as strong as they can be. She is passionate about helping DSMUSA be the best it can with amazing people living out their dream of owning a small business.

She also devotes her time, talents and donations to many local boards. Christina has won several awards for her business locally and nationally, including runner up on Food Network's Cupcake Wars.



## Anne Starr

PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ORCHARD PLACE

Anne Starr is a native Iowan, a graduate of both the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa.

For the past seven years Starr has served as President and CEO at Orchard Place, a children's mental health provider in Des Moines founded in 1886. Starr had worked at Orchard Place earlier in her career as a mental health therapist in the psychiatric residential program.

Starr has been involved in children's mental health and disability programming and public policy efforts across multiple states and at the federal level. She continues to serve on state workgroups related to Iowa's health care reform initiatives and children's services. Starr works to make Iowa's current patchwork of children's mental health services into a true system of care that is accessible and affordable for all. Anne and her husband of 38 years, Bart Starr, have three grown children and two grandchildren.

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WINK





# INSPIRING women OF IOWA

## Thanks for joining us!

Thank you to all the sponsors, donors, attendees, and nominees for being a part of Inspiring Women of Iowa 2020 virtual event. Your support benefits Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, where girls learn to empower themselves to make a change in the world, and helps ensure we can continue to serve girls in the future. Thank you for helping make a difference. To support Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, you can make a [donation online](#). We look forward to seeing you next year!

## May 14, 2021

## Iowa Events Center ↗ *save the date!*



Presented by:

