

**Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce**  
**Finalists for the 2019 Women in Business – Influencing Women Awards**

Finalists names are listed in alphabetical order

**Beyond the Glass Ceiling Award**

***Recognizes a woman who has utilized her position, stature, expertise and influence to break down barriers and effect innovation and positive change in her profession, industry or enterprise.***

**Gina Keltner:**

Director of Opry Talent Scheduling and Logistics, Gina has worked her way up at the Grand Ole Opry over the past 20 years. She is responsible for booking all featured artists-over 2500 slots a year-on up to seven weekly shows. Prior to working at the Opry, she worked for Dick Clark Productions on The Nashville Network TV series Prime Time Country. She is a graduate of Missouri State University, a 3-time Nashville Business Journal "Women in Music City " honoree, a Member of the 2019 Leadership Music Class, Country Music Association, and Academy of Country Music & the Recording Academy. She has served on committees for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and City of Hope along with ongoing involvement in various adoption cases. She is an active member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce. Most of her spare time is happily devoted to her 9-year-old daughter that she adopted from Ethiopia as a single mother!

**Sharon Kipp:**

Sharon has long been involved in the Donelson-Hermitage community. As a realtor with Team Kipp of Benchmark Realty, LLC, Sharon has built a reputation of honesty, thoroughness, and openness that has consistently allowed her team to achieve and exceed their sales goals. She is a past president and current member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, past chair and current committee member of Women in Business, and an active board member of Greenways for Nashville. Further, Sharon leads teams for various charitable walks such as the Susan Komen Race for the Cure, and she is involved with fundraising and volunteering for numerous non-profits.

**Allison Quintanilla Plattsmier:**

Since the age of 16, Allison has been an active volunteer in our community, serving over fifty different nonprofit organizations. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Jordan Thomas Foundation assisting children with acquiring life-changing prostheses and paving the way for a life without barriers. Allison also holds two contract positions, one with NAMI Tennessee coordinating their Ending the Silence program which recruits young adults to share their mental health journey with middle and high school students in an effort to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness and another with Futuro, helping first and second generation Latinx immigrants with the transition from college into the workforce. In addition to all her work, she serves on four boards, three executive councils, and in three long-term volunteer roles.

**Champion of Women Award**

***Recognizes a business or organization who has demonstrated outstanding efforts to empower women through its policies, programs, culture, diversity and inclusion. These efforts have supported women's economic empowerment and achievements in the business world as well as the local business community.***

**Party Fowl:**

As is usual in the service industry, the majority of Party Fowl's workforce is female. However, owner, Austin Smith, has promoted women from server positions to management and catering positions, giving them new opportunities, they may not have previously considered. His Operations Manager, Tiffany Thompson, came on the early planning days for Party Fowl as a consultant and now manages all their properties. Party Fowl is an active member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce.

### **Piedmont Natural Gas:**

Outside of providing opportunities for achievement and growth within the workplace, Piedmont has encouraged their female staff to participate in our community through their active membership in the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce. Their support of the Women in Business program has been significant and meaningful as they provide opportunities for their staff to engage in and give back to the local community.

### **Pinnacle Financial Partners:**

Pinnacle's support of women in business starts at home, with an impressive record of hiring and retaining women in roles at all levels. Of Pinnacle's more than 2200 associates, 68% are women, and of 310 managers and company leaders, nearly half (46%) are women! As such, Pinnacle is two-for-two in making Fortune magazine's list of the Best Workplaces for Women. They have been very generous to the Donelson-Hermitage community through community outreach and are an active member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce.

### **Heart of Donelson Hermitage Award**

*Recognizes a woman who is making outstanding contributions to their community. This community advocate demonstrates how people with passion and determination can use their lives to make a difference in the community.*

### **Lisa Cathcart:**

As the Executive Director of the Pregnancy Care Center of Tennessee's Old Hickory location, Lisa provides consistent encouragement and support for women and men facing unplanned pregnancy decisions. Her care and concern for others is consistently demonstrated through the agencies and schools she partners with to ensure that all women who need her services are able to obtain them. Under Lisa's leadership, in 2018 alone, the Pregnancy Care Center offered 687 parenting lessons, conducted Sexual Risk Avoidance programs for 704 students at local high schools, collected and distributed thousands of supplies needed for infants and families, and offered numerous pregnancy decision consultations. Lisa is a highly involved member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce and champions women in the community through serving on the Women in Business leadership team. She is also a graduate of Leadership Donelson-Hermitage. Lisa is an active member at Donelson Church of Christ and devoted wife and mother.

### **Michele Mazzu:**

With a special interest in serving diverse clients and seniors, Michele is consistently a Top 5 Sales Leader in her career as a realtor with Crye-Leike's Hermitage office. When she is not busy helping others buy and sell homes, she invests her time in various volunteer organizations throughout Donelson. She is a board member for the Donelson Gateway Project, an Advisory Council member for FiftyForward Donelson Station, and a committee member for both Hip Donelson Farmers Market and the Farmers Market Music Committee. In addition, she serves as the District 15 Metro Beautification Commissioner and the co-organizer for the Donelson Christmas Tree Lighting, annual Community Clean-Ups at McGavock High School, and the toy donations drive for Metro Police Christmas Charities. She further serves the community by volunteering at Two Rivers Middle School and teaching a variety of classes centered on green lifestyle options at FiftyForward. She is an avid urban gardener, beekeeper, chicken keeper, wife, and mother.

### **Stephanie Ponder Randolph:**

Stephanie is a lifelong member of the Donelson-Hermitage community having been born and raised here. Through her work at Picture This Gallery, she helps support local artists and artisans while providing exceptional custom framing. She is an active member of St. Stephen Catholic Community and serves as a board member for her neighborhood HOA and the Father Ryan Alumni Board. She stays involved in the local community as a member of the Donelson-Hermitage Exchange Club and as the co-chair of the Ambassador Committee for the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce where she is an active member. As a graduate of Leadership Donelson-Hermitage, she further served the organization as a former board member. She also serves as a committee member for the Tennessee Beer and Wine Festival which benefits local non-profits. In addition to her role as an active community member, Stephanie is also a dedicated wife and mother.

## **Lifetime Legacy Award**

***Recognizes a woman who has demonstrated superior leadership over several years and who has a significant track record of long-term achievements and accomplishments in business, industry and/or enterprise.***

### **Deann Bradford:**

After a long and successful career as the Community Relations Manager with the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority, Deann accepted the position of Executive Director of Leadership Donelson-Hermitage. Through this role, Deann works tirelessly to empower community members to become strong leaders by offering opportunities for personal growth and development, as well as ways to volunteer in the community. She also serves as an active Ex-Officio Board Member for the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce. Her legacy is lived out by program graduates who continuously better the community through leadership and service.

### **Betty Cannon:**

Following an esteemed career as the principal of Andrew Jackson Elementary and the Administrative Elementary School Director of Metro Nashville Public Schools, Betty remains committed to her role as a leader in the Donelson-Hermitage community. She is the past president of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce and the Stones River Women's Club. Still an active chamber member, she coordinates the annual Education Day luncheon to honor local students and teachers. She helped establish the Leadership Donelson-Hermitage program and served as its first Executive Director. Betty's legacy is showcased through the students, teachers, and community members her leadership has championed.

### **Lucy Foutch:**

Now retired from a successful career in banking where she served in Vice-President, Senior Vice-President, financial advisor and securities roles for a variety of local banks, Lucy still devotes time to the banking industry. In addition, she has given a tremendous amount of time to participating in the Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce serving previously in the roles of President, Treasurer, Board Member, and one of the founders of Women in Business. She remains an active and dedicated Chamber member. She has also served on the Executive Board for FiftyForward and in leadership roles for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Further, she has mentored and counseled many women along the path and is always looking for ways to serve and improve the community in which she lives. Lucy's legacy is evidenced in the successes of both the various organizations she has served and the women she has mentored.

## **Woman to Watch Award**

***Recognizes an up and coming businesswoman under 40 who has demonstrated success and vision, made noteworthy contributions and is on her way to making a meaningful imprint on the future of her organization and the local business community.***

### **Lakendra Butler:**

Founder of Strive Collegiate Academy, LaKendra is dedicated to providing exceptional education to the fifth through eighth graders she serves. She is passionate about being involved in the Donelson-Hermitage community, and she provides opportunities for her students to be involved as well. An active Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce member, LaKendra is also a Leadership Donelson-Hermitage graduate who gives back by empowering the youth in our community. She is an active Rotarian and will step into the role as Rotary Club president this July.

### **Jesseh Smith:**

As a realtor with Team Kipp of Benchmark Realty LLC, Jesseh possesses organizational, management and negotiating skills usually found in people much older or more seasoned. She is an active member of both the Donelson-Hermitage and Mt. Juliet Chambers. Through her efforts to empower others, she has taken on many responsibilities with the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber's Women in Business program to help grow an inclusive and supportive place for young businesswomen to flourish.

**Megan Stricker:**

A Donelson native, Megan is the co-owner of Performance Care, a therapeutic bracing provider that works with therapists and medical providers across the state. She is a member of the Donelson Hills Neighborhood Association, as well as the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce and the Women in Business Planning Committee. Further, she volunteers with Room in the Inn and actively supports both the community pantry at Two Rivers Middle School and the community Blessing Boxes.

**WOW: Woman-Owned Workplace Award**

*Recognizes a woman-owned business that has demonstrated leadership, excellence, innovation, growth, strength, leadership and has given back to the community.*

**HJL Management, Jane Eakes:**

Jane has been an active part of the Donelson community since the 1950's. Along with her husband, Hoyte Eakes, they owned B&H Markets later becoming SDI Markets. Selling SDI Markets in 1981, they invested in real estate focusing on the community that they lived in and loved, Donelson. Hoyte and Jane started HJL Management in the 1980's with Jane at the helm. During this same period, she started Script Dynamics, Inc, becoming one of the most sought-after forensic handwriting experts in the country, taking on clients such as the TBI, FBI, and Secret Service. As HJL Management grew, her family grew, and she is most proud to work alongside her daughter and three grandchildren. Jane loves this community and has given back in so many ways, such as being integral in starting the Donelson Christmas Tree and the Donelson Gateway Project. Beyond her volunteer efforts and leadership initiatives, Jane stays involved in the community through her membership in the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce.

**Hermitage Steakhouse, Lisa Eastland:**

Now the owner of Hermitage Steakhouse where she began as a server as a high school student, Lisa continues to provide excellent food, live music and superior service for folks locally and for visitors to our area. In addition, to the upscale dining experience, Lisa makes a point to employ those with challenges that could possibly not find employment elsewhere. She is an active member of the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce.

**The Law Office of Jennifer McCoy PC, Jennifer McCoy:**

Owner of The Law Office of Jennifer McCoy PC, Jennifer serves as the Managing Attorney. Through her work, she has shown a dedication to helping apartment communities meet their legal needs while also educating them on fair housing practices and sexual harassment prevention through e-learning programs that she authored. She is the Associate Director for the Greater Nashville Apartment Association, a member and past president of the Board of Directors for the Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce, and an avid fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.