

Please give me a moment to introduce myself. I am Marvel Dunaway, retired Chief, Nutrition & Food Service at VA Central Iowa Health Care System. I have been a Kiwanian for over 20 years, holding various leadership roles in our local club, the NE-IA District and Kiwanis International, including being elected Governor of the Nebraska-Iowa District in 2011-12. Through Kiwanis I have been able to make a difference in people's lives, including mine.

I first met Brittney at an Urbandale Kiwanis Club meeting. Several awesome adults with disabilities who are served by Mosaic presented a program to our club, and Brittney was their cheerleader. Mosaic strives to make a positive difference in people's lives, so Kiwanis and Mosaic are natural partners! Brittney joined the group initially to represent Mosaic in our Kiwanis club. At that time we did not realize how lucky we were, but we soon found out. Brittney became a true Kiwanian....led by her heart to make a difference in people's lives. She jumped in with both feet: volunteering in our service projects and fundraising activities-- even making cookies for our membership drive (they were awesome!) She brought new energy and new ideas to our club and our members embraced her. Most recently she stepped up to a leadership role and was elected vice-president this year. I am looking forward to her leading the Urbandale Kiwanis club next year. She will provide us the vision to achieve great things to help children and to make our community and our world a better place. A club is no stronger than it's leadership and the Urbandale Kiwanis Club, the kids, and the community are fortunate to have a passionate leader with remarkable skills. For the Forty under 40 class, Brittney would be first in my eyes!

-Marvel Dunaway

I want to add my recommendation that Brittney Ledford be one of this year's Forty Under 40 class with the Des Moines Business Record. My wife, Marvel, and I know Brittney first through our mutual work with Kiwanis, and second best through her work with Mosaic.

In this case, second is probably first in this recommendation. Soon after meeting Brittney, she invited me to a lunch to learn more about Mosaic from some of the Mosaic clients and from some of their parents. Having a severely disabled grandson, I wanted to learn what Mosaic was doing for other adults like him. It was Brittney's "quiet enthusiasm" for her work that has shown me her compassion for what she is helping to accomplish. Brittney is one person who has stretched my thinking about giving to make the lives of other people a little bit better.

First (which is second in this case) is the Kiwanis affiliation. "Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world; one child and one community at a time." Or, a way I like to say it: we do good things for kids!

I don't remember if Brittney came to a Kiwanis meeting as a prospective member or as a speaker first, but she soon joined our club. Not too much later, she was asked to become a board member because of her potential to bring new ideas to the group, and then to become President Elect and will become President next October 1. I am not going to take space listing

reasons why that has happened so fast except to say that Brittney's leadership ability shines strong in our Kiwanis club.

Finally, an experience. Marvel and I volunteer at the women's prison at Mitchellville leading a group called the Kiwanabees (they want to be Kiwanians, but can't be...yet). We asked Brittney to speak to the Kiwanabees and she connected with the offenders who attended. Soon after that, Brittney became a volunteer there, too. Is that evidence of her dedication to helping people who need help? I think so.

-Bob Dunaway