



»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»» **MATT SMITH** VICE PRESIDENT OF LENDING • FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK

For 36-year-old Matt Smith, becoming active in his community wasn't something that materialized until he moved to New Braunfels.

The vice president of lending at First Commercial Bank in New Braunfels moved here in 2016.

"To be honest, I was never big on community involvement until I learned how to do it right and how rewarding it can be in New Braunfels," he said. "During my last two



years, I've built relationships among peers and friends that I couldn't replace. The results of hard work is always nice to see, but I feel the reward is more within myself knowing that I am mak-

ing relationships and have the confidence and ability to make a difference."

Besides his job and family, Smith keeps busy by being involved with the New Braunfels Jaycees, where he will assume the role of president in 2019. He also is involved with the Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, NB Next and Hope Hospice. He also was a member of the Leadership of New Braunfels Class of 2018.

When asked what

makes New Braunfels special, he said, "It would be easy for me to say that

the thriving economy and growth due to my profession. But I have to say the culture and the community is what makes it fun for me and keeps me motivated to wake up and contribute each morning."

Smith said it would be "unfair" to name just one person who has had the most influence in his life, but he credits his wife, Christa, as the one

who provides him with the love and support he needs.

"It was she who was steadfast and supportive of me during our transition to New Braunfels, which has ended up being one of the best decisions we have ever made," he said.

Smith also said May is his favorite time of year because they have their annual crawfish boil for his wife's birthday.

As far as being named a Rising Star, Smith said

the program "is an excellent way to recognize our young leaders in the community who are taking a step forward."

"I am honored to be considered as such and to have the chance to meet and work with other motivated individuals," he said. "It is a great platform from which to broaden my reach and continue to contribute to my friends and community wherever needed."

»»»»»»»»»»»»»»»» **JARED WERNER** CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER • CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS

For Jared Werner, 33, it was clear to him from an early age that he was set on a life full of leadership and service.

With relatives who served in the military, Werner said that "public service is something that is paramount to my family."

But it was his aunt's long and successful career with the city of Schertz that served as his inspiration in his own professional career in local government and serving the community.

From serving as the chief financial officer for the city of New Braunfels, volunteering with the Landa Park Dolphins, being a husband of eight years to NBISD educator Katie Werner and father to his two children, Jude, 4, and Finn, 19 months, Werner is familiar with the consistent decision of dedicating his life to others.

His job description for the city consists of what he summarizes as that of "providing strategic leadership to preserve the city's fiscal condition, collaborating with city and executive teams to develop annual city budgets, analyzing economic and organizational variables to evaluate and implement long term initiatives."

By holding a city level position, this translates into the reality that Werner is serving every resident of the city with the



good work that he does, making transparent the passion Werner has for service.

New Braunfels has

served as a reciprocating point of give and take in Werner's life, causing him to be "grateful for the opportunities "it has provided him.

In turn, he said how important it is to him that he "give back after being given the opportunity to achieve many of my professional goals at an early age."

As a Schertz native, Werner has been familiar

with neighboring New Braunfels for most of his life, dating back to memories he has a child of enjoying the town and as a young adult swimming in the Comal River during the summer to escape the heat.

After living and working in New Braunfels for nearly 12 years, the city has gained increasing sentiment and obligation to Werner. When Werner

was asked what makes New Braunfels so special, he said, "Growth has had a significant impact on our city. However, the culture and feel of this community remains as it has for generations."

For Werner, being a Rising Star is a point of validation for the time that he has logged thus far in his career.

"It affirms that putting in the extra hours and

time over the past several years was worth it," he said.

The honor also offers the opportunity to evaluate the future for its functions as a sort of stepping-stone in his professional trajectory.

"I am in a position to rethink my goals, making sure that I maximize my ability to serve the organization and this great community," he said.



JENNIFER
Reynolds

Jennifer (Jen) Reynolds is the Co-Founder of Pink Warrior Angels, a local non-profit supporting those diagnosed with breast cancer. She has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Pink Warrior Angels to give back to the local community. Jen has been married to her husband, Kyle, for seven years and she is an incredible Mother to two amazing kids; Megan (20) and Eric (15).

Jen was born and raised in Cleveland Oh. She grew up playing soccer and singing in various choirs. Jen's parents, Rick and Charlene Doll, have been married for over 40 years and reside in the local community. Jen also has two older brothers, Rick and Kevin who both still reside in Ohio. Jen first visited New Braunfels in 2009 and immediately fell in love with the town and moved here in the spring of 2010. Today, Jen enjoys boating, spending time with friends and family, all things Dachshund and Texas A&M Football.

Jen's passion to start Pink Warrior Angels comes from her own story. Jen was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33. It was devastating news at such a young age and flipped her life upside down. It wasn't until after she was done with all her treatments and surgeries that she realized how important it was to find a support system and more importantly to be that support for other women. She started writing a blog, reliving past treatments and talking about current struggles with PTSD and depression. So many women started to reach out and she began to become support for newly diagnosed survivors all over the country.

"It brings joy to my heart to know that I have helped just one person. I enjoy sharing my very honest experience with others and have built some amazing bonds throughout this journey".

Jen knew there was a need, so Pink Warrior Angels was born with a mission for women to know that **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

After providing so much support to others over the years, many of those she touched are now returning to provide her support. In October 2018, almost five years to the date of her original diagnosis, Jen found out that her breast cancer had metastasized into her bones. Jen is actively going through treatment and continues to fight this awful disease.

Jen has given so much back to those in need, not just through her non-profit, but through her personal life and commitment to the community as well. She is an inspiration to all of those who are fortunate enough to meet her and she is truly grateful to be named a Rising Star in New Braunfels.

"No women should ever walk the path of a breast cancer diagnosis by themselves, and by creating these special bonds... no women shall ever feel alone."



Pink Warrior Angels is focused on providing direct support to those that have been diagnosed with breast cancer. We firmly believe that no one should ever feel alone in their battles. We act on what we have experienced in our own personal battles with breast cancer by providing resources, financial assistance, and most importantly emotional support to our warriors through our angel/warrior program.

If you or someone you know needs support, you'd like to learn about volunteer opportunities, or are interested in learning more about Pink Warrior Angels please visit our website www.pinkwarrioragnels.org or call Jen directly at 830-708-7898

www.pinkwarriorangels.org



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