

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE

The ISBA Public Relations Committee honors an Iowa attorney or group of attorneys each month in this special feature in *The Iowa Lawyer*. If you would like to nominate someone to be recognized for his or her work in the community, please contact:

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◀ Some of the members of the “Whitfield Women” pictured. From left, Danni Harris, Alexis Warner Grove, Denise Hill, Kay Oskvig, Jennifer Chavez-Rivera (Law Clerk), Alecia Meuleners, Maureen Roach Tobin, Elizabeth Shaw (Law Clerk), Elaina Steenson (Law Clerk), Jaki Samuelson, Kara Sinnard.

Sometimes colleagues become more than co-workers. They become friends, mentors and even partners in service. That’s what has happened for a group of colleagues at the Whitfield & Eddy firm in Des Moines, who formed the “Whitfield Women” group back in 2016.

“The ‘Whitfield Women’ group is a direct result of our firm retreat in 2016. We recognized an opportunity to have honest, authentic conversations amongst ourselves both personally and professionally,” explained Kara Sinnard, a member attorney and Whitfield’s Business & Banking Practice Group chair and Real Estate Practice Group co-chair.

The group started as a way for the firm’s female attorneys to mentor, empower and uplift each other, but its members quickly realized their ability to uplift the community as well. So they started planning service

outings – events like serving meals to the homeless at Central Iowa Shelter & Services, packing meals for Meals From the Heartland and the Food Bank of Iowa, wrapping gifts for a

Paks” through the Chrysalis Foundation. They also support other local legal entities, like the Kids First Law Center, through fundraising activities, as well as the Polk County Women Attorneys’

Annual Basket Auction for the Young Women’s Resource Center and the Polk County Women Attorneys’ “prison book club.”

“Whitfield Women” is now one organized way for the firm’s attorneys to give back, as well as bond outside of the office over shared and individual passions beyond the law.

“We support each other as colleagues in our individual endeavors by participating in volunteer efforts as a group that are close to each of our passions,” said Ashley Charnetski, an associate attorney and the Associate Professional Development Committee co-chair. “The members of ‘Whitfield Women’ are committed to community service and involvement.”

“WHITFIELD WOMEN” MEMBERS:
Alecia Meuleners, Alexis Warner Grove, Anjela Shutts, Anna Mallen (Law Clerk), Ashley Charnetski, Bryn Hedlund (Law Clerk), Danni Harris, Denise Hill, Diana Miller, Elaina Steenson (Law Clerk), Elizabeth Shaw (Law Clerk), Jaki Samuelson, Jennifer Chavez-Rivera (Law Clerk), Kara Sinnard, Kay Oskvig, Kim Bartosh, Maureen Tobin, Molly Brown, Sally Reavelly, Tyler Coe

holiday event for single moms and collecting toiletry items for “Girlpower