Leaders under 40

MINNESOTA VALLEY business

Photos by Pat Christman

Our list of Leaders Under 40 are young business and community leaders who were nominated by our readers.

Some of those featured took the plunge and started their own businesses, while others have varied careers. They run the gamut from a junk removal business to an attorney, artist and an endodontist.

All credit their family in helping get them where they are today. Many say one of the greatest resources they have used to grow personally and professionally was the Greater Mankato Growth Young Professionals program. MV

Molly Johnson, 33

Inspire Services, LLC

Job title/responsibilities:

I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor who works as the Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services treatment director and Outpatient Psychotherapist. I supervise and oversee a team of 7 providers that work with adult clients in the Mankato and surrounding areas.

I also carry my own caseload and provide individual, couples, and family therapy to older adolescent and adult clients in our St. Peter office. In addition, I supervise clinical trainees during practicum experiences with our agency.

Give us a brief biography:

I was born and raised in Mankato and completed both of my undergraduate and graduate degrees at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I have a strong dedication to living and working in our community! I have over 10 years experience providing therapeutic services to adolescent and adult populations in a variety of settings. I now live in North Mankato with my husband and our two young children.

What's your favorite place to unwind?

I love spending time in our backyard with family and friends. It's a relaxing environment that also provides space for fun!

Hobbies:

I enjoy reading, camping, and cheering for Minnesota sports teams. I love to cook, travel, attend live music events, and experience new things.

What local resource has helped you the most in improving yourself and developing your career?

The long lasting connections I have made through Minnesota State University, Mankato have been most impactful in my personal and career development. Relationships that started out academically have morphed into that of mentorship and support as I've navigated career changes and personal growth.

What advice would you give to a young person just starting out in their career?

Show up to the work as your authentic self. You possess your own unique qualities and abilities that lead you to where you are. Embrace it!

I owe it all to:

Family, friends, and colleagues, past and present. I have been given so much encouragement and support throughout the journey of finding my professional self, which has inspired me to keep growing. They have also been great reminders to slow down and take time to laugh! Their support has made it possible for me to provide quality care in my practice.