

40 out in front

And full of energy and optimism



If you haven't been brimming with optimistic about the future of our region, culture and world recently – or even if you have – this year's 40 Under Forty award winners will put more of a spring in your step. The lineup of impressive young business people honored in our sixth annual 40 Under Forty Awards, co-sponsored by the *Worcester Business Journal* and Junior Achievement of Central Massachusetts, exude positive energy about their careers, their communities and their fellow human beings.

Our 40 Under Forty winners were selected, with the help of our picks for 2004 Business Leaders of the Year, from a field of more than 100 nominees throughout Central Mass. As usual, the array of impressive candidates made the judging process a tough one.

In their day-to-day efforts to excel in their industries or entrepreneurial endeavors, our featured forty resolve to treat others as they want to be treated, work to “do a better job today” than they did yesterday, put the best interest of clients before their own pocketbooks and give it all they have. Despite their impressive achievement, many are working towards college degrees or increased credentials in their chosen fields. And in the midst of it all, they single out the importance of keeping a balance between work and family.

But while they certainly have achieved their share of professional success in banking, law, real estate, accounting, technology, human services and more, these 40 individuals under the age of forty “crave” the rewards of helping others as well. In fact, several spend up to 15 to 20 hours a week volunteering. Their causes include passing on their business skills to school kids in volunteer programs such as Junior Achievement; raising money to fight cancer, Aids and domestic violence; working to improve their neighborhoods; and providing free services for those in need.

“Volunteering is what makes this country great,” honoree and accounting firm partner Carla McCall declares. And if, as Robert Newton, creative director of the massy Film Project tells us, “inspiring others through doing has always been most effective,” then this group of 23 men and 17 women are most inspiring.

In a symbol of the widespread desire to achieve work/life balance, some of our honorees are pictured here with a favorite thing, which they brought for the photo shoot at our request (notice how many proudly display family pictures). To see these extraordinary business people in person, please join us on Sept. 21 at 5 p.m. at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester for this year's 40 Under Forty celebration.

—Micky Baca, Project Editor

JENNIE ALLEN	TOD MASTERMAN
A.J. ANDREOLI	CARLA MCCALL
TODD BAILEY	CHRISTOPHER MCCARTHY
ANNELLE BENSON	DAVID MCCAY
ELIZABETH BRENNAN	PATRICK MCSHANE
LORI BUCKLEY	DOMENIC MERCURIO JR.
DONALD CARGILL JR.	ELIZABETH MOQUIN
TIMOTHY DALY	JONATHAN MYEROV
HEATHER ELSTER	ERIN NANO
JOSEPH FREITAS	ROBERT NEWTON
DANIEL FREM	KRISTAL OAKES
ROSALYN GARBOSE	CATHERINE PISACANE
RENEE HACKETT	ANTHONY RAKIC
CHRISTOPHER HAJEC	MINNA RANNIKKO
STACEY JOHNSON	JASON ROWLEY SR.
JEFFREY ROBERT KILCOYNE	JULIE SARGENT
ALLISON LANE	MARGARET SMALL
MICHAEL MAHLERT	ADAM STIMSON
RANDY MANYAK	LESLIE STORRS-DELMONACO
SAM MASSONI	NICHOLE VALENTINE

ANNELLE BENSON

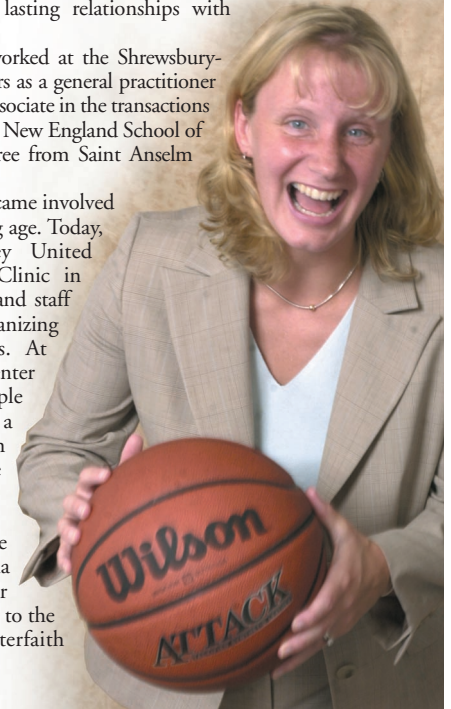
Age: 32. Associate attorney, Fusaro, Altomare & Ermilio, Worcester

Annelle Benson lives by the golden rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It is important, she adds, “to treat people with respect both in personal as well as in business relationships.”

At Fusaro, Altomare & Ermilio, Benson leads the day-to-day operations for the residential real estate department, which handles approximately \$15-20 million in transactions each month. “Buying a home can be daunting, especially for first-time homebuyers,” says Benson. “I work hard to make the experience a good one, a successful one, and to build long lasting relationships with clients.”

Prior to joining FA&E, Benson worked at the Shrewsbury-based Law Office of Michael E. Powers as a general practitioner and at Barron & Stadfield, P.C. as an associate in the transactions group. She earned her law degree from New England School of Law in 1998 and her bachelor's degree from Saint Anselm College in 1995.

Following her parents' lead, she became involved in community service at a very young age. Today, she volunteers weekly at Wesley United Methodist Church Free Medical Clinic in Worcester, where she helps patients and staff with paperwork, legal matters, organizing statistics, and administrative tasks. At Neighborworks Homeownership Center of Worcester, Benson teaches people about the legal aspects of buying a home. She also volunteers at Interfaith Hospitality Network, a statewide organization that helps the working homeless get back on their feet. Benson runs in marathons to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and she also mentors other marathoners. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Hospitality Network.



— Dave Santino