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Social Justice, Racial Justice, Empowerment of Women:

Social & racial justice is about human dignity and our rights as human beings, about achieving universal and lasting peace. Martin Luther King once said, "Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." Ginny Berger is the personification of these words. Ginny requires the reading of ACC's mission statement at all events encouraging you to be all you can be, to give all you can give, to treat everyone with dignity and respect. Social and racial justice is about people working with people, about the golden rule, treating people how you want to be treated. Ginny, understanding this concept, has a weekly spot on her web site called "And Then Some" acknowledging employees that live the mission statement "and then some".

When you open ACC Health's web site you are welcomed with the news that ACC is a woman-owned and woman-operated business....empowering words, but it doesn't stop there. Ginny, at ACC, and in her volunteer dental hygiene services, works predominantly with women. I have seen and heard her plant seeds of empowerment as she works. I have seen these seeds take root and grow, blossoming into confident, self-empowered women. Ginny leads by example. She doesn't elude to empowerment of women, she brings it out in the open to be discussed, encouraged, and lived.

Biographical Sketch

1973 - Ginny began her healthcare career in Albuquerque working in a pedodontic office (children's dentistry) as a dental assistant.

1976 - Ginny received an Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from UNM and spent the next 14 years working as a private-practice hygienist.

1990 - Wanting to do more for herself and her community, she started her own business, then known as ACC Dental, providing temporary staffing to dental offices in New Mexico. The business grew to include dental staff working in nursing homes, offering dental services for those unable to travel. ACC Dental has

evolved to ACC Health, a dental and medical care company that provides professional services throughout the USA with mobile equipment and staff.

Meeting and knowing Ginny:

I met Ginny 35 years ago in dental hygiene school. I have worked with her on multiple volunteer dental hygiene projects as well as military-readiness events held by her company, ACC Health, of which she is CEO/President and benevolent leader. She began her company in 1990 working out of her home. She has now grown to 1,200 employees and 60 mobile dental units, serving over 39 states. The company specializes in military readiness healthcare and treating populations who face barriers to care. Ginny has always prioritized empowering women and treating people with dignity, compassion, and respect. It is these uncompromising values that she lives by and works by.

Inspiration:

Ginny's exceptionalism shines through when patients receive treatment. Any competition can copy what ACC does, but the culture within the company is difficult to match. It's a culture of saying "yes" when too many say "no", a culture of patient-centered care, and as is evident in her logo, "Portable Care, Permanent Compassion", a culture of compassion and generosity. It is magical to witness the ACC teams take difficult logistics, with difficult patients (most are dental phobic), and make the entire experience as good as, or better than any private practice.

As we have worked together on volunteer projects for dental hygienists, a largely female population, her leadership skills have helped guide us, not only in our projects, but also in our personal and professional lives. She does this by speaking frankly about the importance of empowerment for women, even gifting us with bracelets with "empower" engraved on them.

Passion:

Family holds a major place in Ginny's life. Ginny's company, ACC, is named for her 3 daughters, Ashley, Caitlin, and Carly, all empowered women thanks to their mom, Ginny.

Ginny's passion for her work is centered on growth, developing models of care to treat those with barriers and in helping people stretch themselves to grow in a way that provides empowerment. Surrounding the ACC "family" of employees with mentors and support is a vital component in reaching their potential. Ginny believes in working with people she admires and respects and makes it a point to

surround herself with those she enjoys and wants to emulate. This mantra and a "stay positive" attitude has brought her company great success and has ultimately changed many lives for the better.

Making a difference in the community:

For over 20 years ACC has supported Special Olympics of New Mexico at their annual fund raiser, Posole Ole. The ACC Health family has donated over \$3200 to this cause.

When Ginny heard about Mission of Mercy, a two-day NM dental service held in 2010, offering free dental care to anyone who was willing to stand in line, she immediately offered her dental mobile units.

ACC has a book club that helps unify the company. Ginny purchases books for employees and they meet once a month to discuss them. Some titles include: Good to Great and Delivering Happiness

More community involvement:

Active member of NM Dental Hygienists' Association for 22 years, serving as president, vice president and president-elect as well as president of the local dental hygienists' society.

Healthy Smiles Sealant Program '98-'02

Special Smiles at Special Olympics '99-'10

Created a geriatric rotation for UNM dental hygiene students '00-'09

Ageless Smiles Program.

Alzheimer's Walk '01-'04. (Participated & donated mobile units)

Professional/Personal accomplishments:

Professional:

Yearly dental exams are a standing order for every reserve soldier, airman, sailor, and marine. The exams and treatment ACC provides are an invaluable preventative measure, as dental pain is the most frequent medical emergency during deployment.

As correctional facilities become more crowded, the need for inmate dental care is greater than ever. Many correctional facilities lack not only a dentist, but also dental equipment. ACC fills both of those needs and they do it on location, thereby eliminating security risks and transportation expenses.

Our oral and general health are two of our most prized & sought after possessions. Our health is what makes a community able to function, a society able to exist and an individual able to thrive. This is what Ginny Berger gifts us with through her brainchild, ACC Health.

Personal:

Compassionate, empowering, friend to all.

More about Ginny:

No matter how demanding the logistical requirements or challenging the circumstances, ACC Health responds and performs. ACC meets different needs every day with the same results: healthier smiles, healthier bodies and a healthier quality of life. ACC is a state-of-the-art business that began 22 years ago by an extraordinary woman with the will, drive, and determination to make it happen, but if you ask her about the success of the company, she will tell you that the credit goes to her confident, self-driven teams.....hmmm, wonder where all that confidence and empowerment came from? It came from Ginny and it will continue to spread because Ginny is and will always be "a woman on the move" New Mexico is very lucky to be a recipient of her many contributions!