

# FIRST OKLAHOMA BANK PRESENTS *Business Leaders with Heart*

## CREATIVE. COURAGEOUS. CARING.

More than 40 years ago, Marilyn Ihloff was a single mother with two children when she left Miss Jackson's boutique to open her own salon. The risk paid off. Today, Ihloff Salon and Day Spa operates from three Tulsa sites, employs 90 people, and continues to turn heads with hair-styling sensations.



*In 2007, the Tulsa Regional Chamber awarded the Small Business Person of the Year award to Ihloff, who subsequently won the award at the state level and then represented Oklahoma at the national Small Business Association competition in Washington D.C.*

Marilyn attributes her salon's success to several factors, including a proven career track with good employee benefits, exceptional training, a focus on raising the level of professionalism, and being an employment-based salon with no independent contractors.

Marilyn was a full-time stylist for nearly 30 years before stepping away from behind the chair to focus on developing her team and business. It also gave her more time to help local organizations. "I was privileged to serve many of Tulsa's most generous volunteers and benefactors and was inspired greatly by them to volunteer my time and talent through the causes they championed," she says.

Marilyn served on the Tulsa Regional Chamber's Board of Directors for 10 years

and chaired Mosaic - its diversity and inclusion group - for three years. She also served on the board of Sustainable Tulsa.

"Until you really connect, it is easy to think of a community as a place rather than a collection of individuals. The more of us who get together to support events, initiatives, non-profits, and each other, the more we can make things better. I'm not a fan of complaining."

In 1998, Marilyn co-founded the Cherry Street Farmers' Market and served on its board for many years. Her business, likewise, has been actively involved within the community, working with Resonance, Save the Illinois River (STIR), Komen, Project Woman, United Way, Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council, and the Tulsa Girls Art School.

"One of the best parts of being a banker is working with individuals and strategizing with them to achieve their business goals. Banking is a mystery to many, and I try to help them navigate so we both succeed. It is not that often that a banking relationship spans over 30 years," says Lew Erickson, Executive Vice President of Private Banking for First Oklahoma.

Marilyn says she is grateful for her long-term banking relationship with Lew. "I felt the bank's support so strongly during the pandemic...Their guidance through the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program was a tremendous help through the most challenging year of my business life."

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