

MONAT CHAIRMAN'S AWARD RECIPIENTS



2022

MONICA HOBBS

This Associate Executive Director, Million Dollar Club member and former Gratitude Ambassador embraces every opportunity to serve. Monica is not only a great leader, but she integrates her giving-back efforts as much as possible within her MONAT business.

Monica's commitment to making a positive impact is contagious and inspires her greater MONAT family to act along with her. Monica routinely partners with local leaders for campaigns such as the Demand Project, raising more than \$70,000 for an anti-trafficking shelter in Oklahoma. She recently accepted a position as Board Vice President for the newly formed All Access Athletics, an organization dedicated to providing access to athletic programming to disadvantaged youth and founded by a fellow MONAT Market Partner. She also fundraises and donates items on behalf of a safe-housing organization for trafficked women called The Hope Centre Indy. Having been a teen mom, Monica now mentors teen mothers, helping to guide them in a positive direction through support, resources, education, and basic life skills. Through her MONAT business, Monica motivates her team and customers to get involved and embrace the spirit of Gratitude all year long.

“Giving back is never about doing one better but just simply doing better. No matter how big or how small your effort, impact is impact. That’s where making a difference begins and where it will be remembered. I’ve learned that doing something small is better than nothing at all. It creates a ripple effect that eventually turns into a wave of forward movement that other people can’t help but want to be a part of.”



2021

MELISSA ENGDAHL

Melissa was moved as a teenager to advocate on behalf of children facing cancer following the death of her best friend from the disease. Throughout the last two decades, Melissa has been a committed volunteer for cancer support centre Camp Happy Days. The centre offers patients and their families a range of services and programming including mental health support, crisis resources, and a weeklong camp for patients aged four to sixteen. To date, Melissa has raised more than \$170,000 USD in support of families navigating cancer.

Melissa also regularly volunteers for Lowcountry Orphan Relief. As a former foster mom, she gives her time and resources to those currently in the foster care system. MONAT has given Melissa the income and freedom to live a life centred in Gratitude. Now she has more time to volunteer, an income that enables her to donate more generously, and leadership skills that inspire her team to embrace Gratitude knowing it can empower their businesses and lives.

“In a world full of people who are hurting, small acts of kindness are a pretty big deal.”



2020

JESSICA SCHONE

Jessica joined the MONAT family in November 2015. While she has always been enthusiastic about giving, it's her MONAT journey that inspired her to act within the community she helped create. In 2019 she partnered with Compassion International to raise funds for and build a community centre in Ecuador. During MONATions 2019, she used her platform to inspire thousands of people and raised \$348,000 USD for the construction of three more Compassion centres in Colombia. Jessica has made lifelong friendships, become a mentor, traveled to exciting places, and joined a loving community dedicated to giving back.

“Gratitude is a way of life and creates so much joy! We all have something to be grateful for. And by living your life in Gratitude, not only can you help others, but it opens the door for others to be inspired to give along with you! When you step out—big or small—it creates a trickle effect, and you will be amazed at all that can be achieved!”



2019

CHRISTINA SMALLWOOD

Adoptive and special needs mom Christina, whose eldest daughter Finley has cerebral palsy, cites her daughter's first “loaner walker” as a life-changing gift—one that inspired Christina to choose Wheels for the World as her MONAT Hero partner charity. Wheels for the World is a global organization dedicated to transforming lives through accessibility by providing wheelchairs and other mobility aids to those in need.

Passion and perseverance have brought Christina great success through her MONAT business, and she is now excited to inspire others to keep “Dreaming Bigger!” She encourages everyone to discover what “sings to their heart” and pursue their own Gratitude mission.

“The beauty of Gratitude is that everyone can find their own unique passion and implement it for free. It does not have to be some huge movement—most of them will not be. Just remember that to the world you may be one person, but to one person you might be the world.”



2018

JENNIFER DEKEZEL

Not only does Jennifer work as a police officer in her home city, but she also founded Girlz Will Be Girlz, a group that mentors at-risk girls living in high-crime areas of Toronto. Jennifer currently mentors more than forty girls, helping them navigate life's challenges and opening her home when they need a safe, warm place to stay. She's intensely grateful that MONAT has not only provided her with a professional opportunity, but also that she's able to mentor and support even more girls through her passion program.

“We have ONE beautiful life before us. In this life, let's be kind to ourselves and to others. Let's look at one another as equal regardless of gender, race, or religion. Harmony is made when we come together as one. Being humble, grateful, and kind—these are my daily mantras.”



2017

AMY MARINO

Mom to three, Amy makes it a point to be the change she wishes to see in the world for her daughters. In addition to home-schooling her girls, she teaches entrepreneurial classes to kids of all ages with the aim of igniting their desire to learn through fun, hands-on, real-world experiences.

Through her volunteer work, Amy has seen firsthand the overwhelming need for at-risk or formally trafficked youth to be welcomed into loving homes and families. As both a foster and adoptive mom, for many years she has served as an advocate, raising awareness on behalf of the health, safety, welfare, and care of children. Amy's dedication has led her to partner and volunteer with organizations including Children's Heart Gallery, Girls on the Run, Youth at Heart – Tulsa, Adaptive Ops, and Soroptimist International, and others. Amy has made it her mission to help children find sanctuary, support their journey to a forever family, and help activate their full potential.

“View each day as an opportunity to be the change we wish to see in the world around us. We can either complain or do something about it. Be a doer! You will be amazed at what God can do with your ‘Yes!’”



2016

LAM LE

Lam pays her Gratitude forward through her innate desire to help the underserved and support the healing and ongoing health of the body, mind, and spirit.

A physician who focuses on limb salvage and severe wound treatment, Lam founded the Heal Foundation, which provides free, advanced-wound care for those in need of critical attention in the USA and throughout the international community. Utterly passionate and committed to her patients and profession, Lam feels extremely blessed for her opportunity to create a fulfilling life and help others restore their health, happiness, and sense of wellbeing.



2015

SARA LUNSFORD

Sara's passion is to serve the foster children in her home of Arkansas, where she serves as a board member and dedicated volunteer with Soaring Wings Ranch.

Through support of her local White Hall Food Pantry, Sara also helps to provide meals to hungry children over the summer and during school breaks. Sara believes that MONAT is a gift, as well as a family.

“The collective, positive impact that we can have on the world when we work together toward a common goal is an inspiration.”