



Adria D. Starkey

President – Collier County FineMark National Bank & Trust

Adria Starkey's passion for education and the empowerment of women is exemplified in a long list of organizations that have benefitted from her skills as a leader and philanthropist.

"Adria is a fierce advocate for women in our community and empowers women to educate themselves in order to take charge of their financial lives," said Patricia Luppy, who nominated Starkey for the "25 Over 50" recognition. "She makes a positive impact on her employees, clients and the community she serves on a daily basis. I am proud and honored to be on her team."

Starkey is currently on The Foundation Board for The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida and the Board of Directors for Gulfshore Playhouse. She was recently appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Florida Prepaid College Board and is a Lifetime Trustee of the Naples Children and Education Foundation, and Emeritus Trustee of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children. Starkey was also a founding member of Girls, Inc. which developed into the Boys and Girls Club of Collier County.

Starkey was most recently awarded a Glass Slipper for her continued commitment to education by the Champions for Learning Organization.

Q&A

Where and when were you happiest?

My happiest memories seem to be family memories: the births of my children, wonderful family trips we have taken, when my extended family is all gathered together which we have been fortunate enough to accomplish. I also love my quiet beach mornings – walking and reading on Naples beach with my husband always creates a special time. I feel very blessed that I live close to the beach and get to share this experience often. I also love all of our travels. I really can't think of a bad trip we ever took – yet I love returning home. Every time we get home, we talk about how beautiful Naples is. The landscaping and the medians seem to be a reoccurring conversation as we drive home from RSW.

Which word or phrase do you most overuse?

"As you think so should you be." My kids have heard this so many times they are sick of it.

What was your most embarrassing/worst job?

Many, many years ago, shortly after graduating from college, I got married and found myself living in Crystal River Florida. I desperately wanted to work

but was in a small town with very few opportunities. I went to a job interview with Florida Power Corporation for what I thought was a "billing service" position. I realized after arriving at the Nuclear Power Plant that the person who called me had a very southern accent and the job was actually "building service." I was being interviewed to clean up nuclear waste at the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant! I was actually hired as a result of that interview, but my role was different from day one. Shortly after, I was hired the Three Mile Island incident occurred and my role changed entirely. I ended up loving my time in the industry, and it was a very good learning opportunity for me.

If you could meet anyone living or dead who would it be?

My dad – who died when I was far too young.

What is your favorite invention?

My Apple iPhone.

What are you most proud of accomplishing?

Growing things while I have this short stay on planet earth. I have grown as a person, grown an incredible

family who all contribute to the good of the world, and have grown businesses that have had a positive impact on this community. I have also had the opportunity to make an impact on some not-for-profit organizations in this community. I am most proud of the combination of these things.

Who is your real-life hero?

My hero ... first was my dad, then when he was taken from me, I grew to see my mom as a hero. I admired her courage and her spirit. Recently, I began to really see my husband as my hero. His ability to stay positive, his generosity and his amazing brain are all of hero quality. He does so much for so many that no one really knows about. He is truly the meaning of "still water runs deep."

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who complain and never see how lucky they really are. I can only be around negative people for short periods of time.

**25
OVER
50**

VISIONARY

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