

SRQ

Sarah Wertheimer and Sean Russell

Meet Two Professionals Under 30

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DRIVEN TO GIVE SARAH WERTHEIMER, 29



Your nickname Ever since I started studying Spanish, I have been given the nickname “Sarita,” which translates to “Little Sarah.” **Your BRAND** Hope is not a plan. **WOULD YOU RATHER BE AN INVENTOR OR LEADER?** I strive to be a leader and an innovator in almost every aspect of my career and volunteer work. **BIGGEST A-HA MOMENT?** Having graduated a year early from Sarasota High School, I never thought I would return to Sarasota after college. I moved to Costa Rica after college since Spanish was one of my degrees. While living in Costa Rica, I came to the realization that growing my career and building my life in Sarasota was exactly what I wanted to do. **WHEN DID YOU FEEL HELPLESS?** During my first month living in Costa Rica, the house I was renting was completely flooded during a rain storm and I had no clue what I was going to do. I was 21 years old, living by myself in a foreign country and felt completely powerless. Moving to Costa Rica was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me and one I knew I didn’t want to give up on. The whole experience made me realize what I was capable of achieving and I feel stronger today having made it through it. **HAS SARASOTA FAILED MILLENNIALS?** The Sarasota region has failed to think outside of the box to create an innovation economy and diversify its population. As a result, it can be very difficult for us to compete for a truly creative workforce. **MY HEART GOES OUT TO** Embracing Our Differences; kindness, respect and inclusion have always been extremely important to me. **YOUR MOST RECENT SOCIAL MEDIA POST?** On the @EmbracingOurDifferences Instagram I recently posted a piece of art from the 2009 Embracing Our Differences exhibit entitled “Imagine Peace” for International Day of Peace. **WHAT’S NEXT?** If only I had more experience I would love to follow in Barbara Zdravecky’s footsteps as CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida; I hope one day I am able to impact our community the way she has.