

Business Magazine Greenville

Greenville
FIRST
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35 and under 2011

featuring
Greenville **design**
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Issue +
Best Doctors**


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SECTION**



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BY KRISTI KEENAN AND NICHOLE LIVENGOD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY NILL SILVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Greenville is fortunate to have an ever-increasing group of young people engaged in its future success. *Greenville Business Magazine* and Greenville First Bank are proud, once again, to recognize the contributions of our local talent. On the following pages, you'll meet some of the best we could find – 35 leaders age 35 and under who have not only impressive careers, but humanitarian spirits that propel them into volunteer service. We enlisted veteran Best & Brightest judges Tan Kirby Davis from Kirby Resource Group, Mike Posey from The United Way and Judith Prince, Vice Chancellor of USC Upstate's Greenville Campus to work through our 80+ nominations to reveal the very best of the nominees. This year's Best & Brightest will be honored at an awards event on September 27th at the Greenville Little Theatre. We'd like to introduce you to – in alphabetical order – the Greenville First Best & Brightest 35 and Under.

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JASON MITCHELL**AGE 30**DIRECTOR OF SALES &
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MARKETPLACE STAFFING

Hired as Marketplace Staffing's first-ever director of business development, Jason Mitchell has helped the company see stellar performance even during a hard economy. His job duties include managing and training the recruiting and sales teams, maintaining key customer relationships and developing consultative partnerships. Jason is active in three Upstate chambers of commerce and with the Simpsonville Economic Development Committee. In his role at Marketplace, he is involved with the GADC, the Upstate BBB, American Staffing Association and the Society of Human Resource Managers. His nominator says he, "combines highly-effective personal skills...with active participatory roles in advancing both the business community and civic and charitable organizations." Jason donates a great deal of his time as a tutor with the Greenville Literacy Association and can appreciate the value of helping people become more educated. "I see people every week who are looking for job opportunities, but they lack the necessary education," he says. "The GLA allows us to provide hope, encouragement and support for adults who are striving for professional improvement."

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SEAN MUSERALLO**AGE 31**NEWS REPORTER
WYFF-TV

As a news reporter for WYFF, Sean was instrumental in reporting on the tornados in Alabama and Georgia and hosted a portion of the WYFF 4 telethon that raised over \$110,000 for relief efforts. Since moving to Greenville three-and-a-half years ago, he has been fully invested in serving the community. He volunteers for Hands on Greenville and the Greenville Humane Society and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Upstate SC Dawgs and PULSE. In 2010, he participated in PULSE Pace Setters mentorship program, spearheading a group project that brought a "don't text and drive" campaign to the local schools. "Sean is constantly thinking of ways he can give back, get involved or help to improve someone else's situation," says his nominator. He is a passionate volunteer with the Ronald McDonald House where he is a member of the Red Shoe Society. Sean and his wife, Emily, completely renovated a room in 2010 at the Ronald McDonald House that families can enjoy for years to come.

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KRISH PATEL**AGE 25**PRESIDENT/OWNER
WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, VERIZON WIRELESS

Entrepreneur Krish Patel oversees daily operations of more than 23 Verizon Wireless retail locations throughout South Carolina and Georgia. With more than 180 employees, Krish is rapidly expanding his business to 30 stores by year-end and recently moved the company's Greenville headquarters to a new downtown location. The USC Upstate Johnson College of Business graduate was one of 19 young entrepreneurs recently asked to speak at the school on his experiences as a business owner and how he went in a few short years from customer service rep to top-earning sales rep to corporate manager to business owner. Krish says of his drive, "with 100 percent commitment anything can be done." He is always looking to grow his business in a direction that benefits the community. He promotes internships within local colleges and universities and sponsors local events such as Ronald McDonald Annual Gala, Toys for Tots, the St. Francis Mud Run, Fashion Greenville and the India Association of Greater Greenville's annual event..



L to R: Ryan Rosenfeld, Cory Ezzell, Matt Trent and Sean Muerallo

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KAREN POTTER**AGE 32**PUBLIC RELATIONS
COORDINATOR
GREENVILLE HOSPITAL SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Karen moved from Wisconsin to Greenville in 2005 and soon began work at GHS where she is responsible for news media relations, community relations and corporate communications. In her community relations role, she organizes and promotes free cancer screenings and manages the organization's GHS USA Cycling Professional Championships sponsorship. Soon after arriving at GHS, Karen began and completed a master's degree in communications. Karen believes working for a company that donates approximately \$1 million annually has taught her the value of being a good corporate citizen. She served as chair of the GHS Young Professionals in 2010 and is current chair of the GHS Recreation Committee. Personally, she is a member of the Hands on Greenville Advisory Council and American Cancer Society Leadership Council and volunteers weekly at the Greenville Literacy Association. She is also president of the Upstate Carolina Alumnae Chapter of Delta Gamma. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, exercising and sampling fare at new restaurants around Greenville.