

STEVE COLE: This chef/restaurateur whipped up trendsetting dishes and desserts for Café Allegro, which left a lasting memory from its 18-year run and helped to launch 39th Street's Restaurant Row. Now, as COO and executive director of the Missouri Restaurant Association (MRA), he plans to whip up support and advocacy for Missouri restaurant owners concerning health-care legislation and the economy. No doubt the perfectionism that won him praise as a risk-taking restaurant owner will earn Cole five stars in providing operation support for more than 600 restaurants and allied members of the MRA.

JEREMY COLLINS: This 36-year-old husband, father, artist (he created the map art on National Geographic's November 2012 cover) and KC Art Institute adjunct professor was so moved by the Newtown shooting tragedy that he created a poignant sketch that symbolizes how Americans come together, even for a stranger they'll never meet. Proceeds from the sale of "The Healing Chair" cards and prints will help families of the Sandy Hook victims defray funeral expenses. The Huffington Post picked up Collins' story in the days following the shooting, and it went viral with more than 50,000 likes and shares. So far, 300 prints and cards have been sold, and Collins takes comfort in knowing people embrace the idea behind the powerful image and are engaged online because of it. Currently, Collins is in discussion about the possibility of a bronze sculpture called "The Empty Seat." To see Collins' work, visit jercollins.com.

MELANIE COLEMAN: This former corporate executive realized a lifelong dream when she opened TallulahBelle's in 2012 to sell wearable art and baubles in Leawood's Park Place. The boutique donates a percentage of sales to the Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City's Rachel Alexandra Girls Grant Project, which teaches area young women the art of philanthropy. Coleman's philanthropy is part of recognizing the people who encouraged her along the path of business and life—and emulating their spirit of giving back.

PAUL COURY & JASON SWORDS: Sexy, swanky, sizzling. That's what we think of the vision that developer Coury, president of the Ambassador Hotel Collection, and Swords of Sunflower Development Group had when dreaming and building KC's spiffiest boutique hotel, the Ambassador. The hot property is ready for rock stars—and anyone else craving a superlative hospitality experience.

BILL CROOKS, DIANA ENDICOTT & DAVID BALL: Call it the Food Triangle. Former PB&J restaurant visionary Crooks (Yia Yia's, Coyote Grill); Endicott, president of Good Natured Family Farms; and Hen House honcho David Ball have joined forces to form Good Food Good Futures (GFGF). Focused on getting healthful, local food into so-called inner city food deserts, school lunchrooms and hospital cafeterias, the trio is pooling their formidable knowledge and connections to improve nutrition with the nonprofit. Crooks

is the innovator; Endicott fills the need by fostering relationships with 150 local farmers and getting their food into Ball's stores; and Ball is the firm foundation. It's community sustenance and health literacy we can wrap our head around.

KRISTOPHER DABNER



President and creative director of

The Greensman and the architect behind some of the city's premier gardens, Dabner is a philanthropic man for all seasons. Proud owner of five dogs and four cats rescued

from area shelters, Dabner has served on the board of Wayside Waifs for 11 years. He is on the board of the Kansas City Repertory Theatre and served on the DIFFA board of directors and committees, in addition to designing a table for the Dining by Design gala for 12 years. Dabner adds his signature professional flourish to the John Wornall House Museum annual garden tour and has volunteered with Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care. We love the architecture of Dabner's philanthropic philosophy—and the lush beauty he adds to the city.

DR. DANIEL DURRIE: Internationally recognized refractive doctor and Lasik pioneer, Overland Park-based Durrie, owner of Durrie Vision, is founder and medical director of Focus on Independence (FOI). Durrie was inspired to create the 501(c)3 organization—dedicated to providing no-cost vision correction surgery to people with spinal cord injuries—after watching actor Christopher Reeves, paralyzed from an accident, struggling to adjust his eyeglasses during a 2003 press conference. FOI is currently expanding to include vision correction surgeons nationwide; to date, the program has provided more than 100 individuals with no-charge laser vision correction procedures, typically valued at \$5,500. We like to think of Durrie as a peeper pleaser.