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**PROFILE**  
**Meredith Lowry**  
works toward a better  
future by supporting  
her community



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IN FAYETTEVILLE

**MEREDITH LOWRY**

# Necessity, the Mother of Invention... Woman-Run

Meredith Lowry is Fayetteville through and through. She was born here, raised here, went to college and law school here, and now devotes herself to causes that continue to improve Fayetteville and the surrounding communities. Her latest invention is an initiative called Woman-Run. This organization connects current and aspiring female business leaders and owners through networking, mentorship, education and resources that address the unique needs of women in business.

As a patent attorney and partner with Wright Lindsey & Jennings, LLP, Meredith found herself working with many female clients as Arkansas boasts more than 91,000 woman-owned businesses. Through this work with women business owners, she noticed three very common trends: a lack of a social network tied into a business community, a lack of specific business education and a lack of access to capital. While compiling this list, she thought of ways she could help make an even greater impact than just with her own clients.

“Women need to be told that their inventions are valuable,” Meredith said. “I want to support them and provide educational opportunities to assist them in achieving success. When this idea hit me, I took it straight to management at my firm and we quickly created Woman-Run in 2019.” It gained traction and expanded almost immediately to Little Rock. As much as it added to Meredith’s already full plate, she said she doesn’t regret any of it.

And thankfully it came at the perfect time, before the COVID-19 pandemic. When the pandemic hit, female-owned businesses were impacted even more negatively than male-owned businesses. Meredith discovered quickly where the problems were, noting that a good number of women-owned businesses are not set up as a payroll business, therefore the first round of PPP, or Paycheck Protection Program, didn't help. Also, women were asking for less money than their male counterparts. Woman-Run partnered with the Women's Foundation of Arkansas and worked to help women business owners get what they needed to stay afloat by the second round of government assistance.

Woman-Run hosts events across Arkansas where attendees can hear from speakers on a range of relevant topics and also network and find mentorship opportunities with other attendees. With reports showing a tremendous rise in women inventing and starting businesses right here in Arkansas, Woman-Run has a whole new audience of women to help.

Giving back to her community has always been a part of Meredith's life. Not long after she began practicing law, she said, "I knew I needed something else



In 2019, Meredith chaired Soup Sunday benefiting Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, pictured here with Laura Kellams and Arkansas State Rep. Denise Garner

as an outlet. I called the Komen NWA office to volunteer. The director asked me to come to a meeting, and it turned out to be a committee meeting for the Komen Race for the Cure event. They asked me to be the registration chair. I was practicing law full-time and doing what amounted to a full-time volunteer position, but I absolutely loved it."

She continued to volunteer with Komen for several years, but eventually stepped back after having children.

But Meredith's love for giving back, as well as her love for being busy, pushes her to stay involved with several organizations dear to her. She chaired Soup Sunday for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families in 2019 and was very involved with the Alzheimer's Association Blondes versus Brunettes flag football game. From the Single Parent Scholarship Fund of Northwest Arkansas to the Scott Family Amazeum, her energy and positivity make an impact wherever she pitches in.



Meredith spoke to women entrepreneurs in Feb. 2022 during the first Barrier Breakers event launched by TheatreSquared and Woman-Run

“I like my workload plus the volunteer work,” Meredith said, laughing. “I have three kids — Will, John and Kate — and they were often right there beside me helping out on weekends when they were little. But all of it is possible because of my husband, Andy. He is incredibly supportive.”

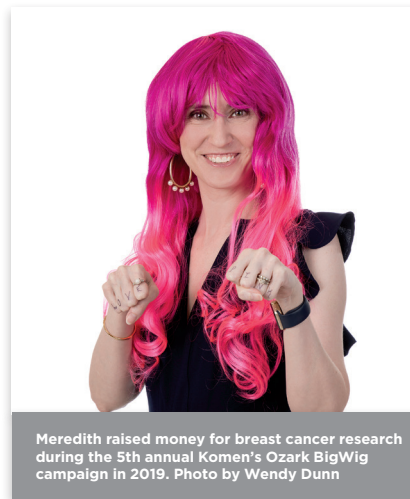
Meredith knew she always wanted a challenging career, and her husband decided he wanted to have a business that allowed him flexibility so that they could balance family life. “It’s truly allowed me to do what I do,” Meredith said.

She began to focus on becoming a patent and trademark attorney in her junior year of college. In 2005, when she first began practicing law, she was one of only three female patent attorneys in private practice in Arkansas.

Meredith has, without a doubt, made an indelible mark on Northwest Arkansas just with her skills as an attorney. Her expertise has made her a sought-after source of knowledge for community organizations like the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center and the University of Arkansas Greenhouse Outdoor Recreation Program.

“One thing I love about the organizations that I work with is how there’s so much synergy between their missions, the mission behind Woman-Run and what I personally love about our community,” Meredith said. “I can work to support an individual’s creativity at the Amazeum, help business owners network at

In 2017, Meredith served as a committee member of the Scott Family Amazeum’s UnGala where she is pictured running on the oobleck pool



Meredith raised money for breast cancer research during the 5th annual Komen’s Ozark BigWig campaign in 2019. Photo by Wendy Dunn

TheatreSquared and provide a platform for women like Robin Atkinson with INTERFORM to come talk about what her organization is doing to support woman-run businesses.”

Many people in Fayetteville have known Meredith since she was a teenager helping her father, who worked as a veterinarian at Stanton Animal Hospital. She said she and her two younger sisters all worked at the animal hospital when they were growing up. Her parents, who instilled a strong work ethic in Meredith, also helped her discover a love of running.

“I started running because my parents wanted our family to run together for the Hogeys,” she said. “We have four women and four men in our family, which was perfect for the relay. We prepared and then it turned out that both my sisters were pregnant for the relay that year, so I ended up running six miles. The next year I ran my first half marathon. My parents are at 30 states for half marathons, and I am at 26 states.”

She now travels with her parents for half marathons and said her kids are old enough now that her husband comes as well.

It’s really no surprise that running comes naturally to Meredith; she seems to do everything at full speed. Her community involvement philosophy is: If I say no, then who will say yes? “I support all of these organizations because I believe in a better future for our community and Arkansas,” she said, “and that’s what these organizations are working for.” ■

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We recognize and celebrate the critical role of women in our community — starting with those at WLJ. We are proud to be an advisor and advocate for women business leaders.

Visit [wlj.com/woman-run](http://wlj.com/woman-run) for events and information.

**WLJ WOMAN RUN**

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