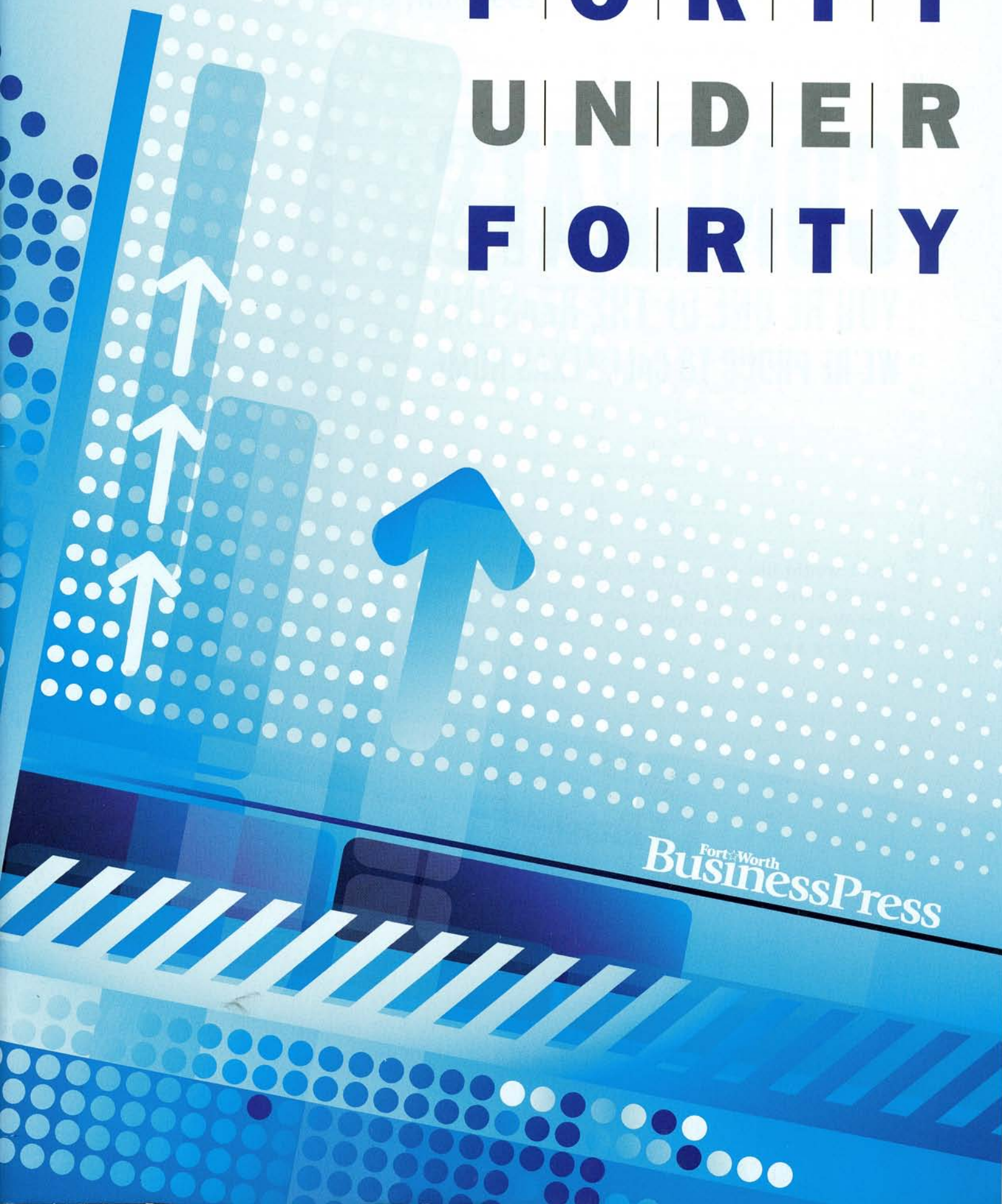


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Fort Worth
BusinessPress

Heather Reynolds

Catholic Charities Diocese Fort Worth Inc.

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Heather Reynolds started working at Catholic Charities nine years ago, first as an intern in the clinical counseling department, then as a therapist and later in public relations to help develop fund raising for the agency before being promoted to associate executive director.

In 2005, she was named the fourth executive director of the 100-year-old organization – and its youngest at only 25.

Under her leadership, the nonprofit has entered a new phase with far-reaching expansion and a larger vision.

“My goals are really very simple: a desire to serve my community, make a difference, and have a great time while doing so,” Reynolds says.

“I think people can look at Heather’s resume and look over the accomplishments and get a good picture of Heather,” says nominator Elliot Goldman. “What the resume can’t capture is the enormous energy she brings to everything she does. With her energy and intelligence, success is almost inevitable. She has an ‘it girl’ quality that makes her great. If you think about the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth turning over an agency as important as Catholic Charities to a 25-year-old young lady (five years ago) it is rather remarkable. Clearly, they knew what they were doing.”

Catholic Charities’ services have increased by 130 percent in the five years Reynolds has been at the helm. The agency, which also has increased staff to 350 personnel, outgrew its facilities, and in 2007 embarked on the Building Hope Capital Campaign to construct a new, larger facility that could provide a greater depth of services.

The \$16.7 million Fischer Family Campus, located on four acres of land in southeast Fort Worth donated by the diocese, was dedicated on April 9. The three-story, 84,000-square-foot facility combines the services of three separate Catholic Charities locations.

“Of course, the cause closest to my heart is Catholic Charities. There is nothing like seeing a full lobby of people in need and knowing you can help them to make you feel great about what you do for a living,” Reynolds says. “The other causes I care about are TCU, as I received both my BSW and EMBA from this great school; my high school that I graduated from in Little Rock, Ark.; Mount St. Mary’s Academy, an all girl Catholic High School; and all of the wonderful work that goes on at my church, Holy Family in Fort Worth.”

Reynolds says it is a huge honor to be a 40 Under 40 recipient, “But, it really isn’t about me,” she said. “It is about the countless people who have walked with me over the last several years as together we accomplished great things for our community.”

Reynolds has been married for almost eight years to John Reynolds, her high school sweetheart.

– Betty Dillard



What I wanted to be when I grew up:

A volunteer to help children or an ice cream scooper.

Why did you pick your prop?

The hard hat I used during the construction of the new Catholic Charities campus and a shovel symbolize not only the new building, but the “building up” of Catholic Charities that I have been able to be a part of over the last nine years.