

meet members



Charlotte Upah

Job: Owner, Upah Tax Service in Toledo

Hometown: Chelsea

Alma mater: University of Northern Iowa

Professional/community activities: ISCPA, AICPA, NATP, NAEA, South Tama Scholarship Foundation Treasurer, church Finance Committee Chair, Tama Toledo Chamber of Commerce (founding board president), and Central Rivers AEA past president.

I was inspired to be a CPA because: I wanted to help people do something in business they didn't like to do for themselves.

If I weren't a CPA, you might find me: Writing Christian meditations.

What message do you have for young people about a career as a CPA? Being a CPA is often hard, tedious work, but the success stories from growing and thriving businesses make those moments worth the effort. Study hard and do what you love to do to help others.

How has being a member of ISCPA helped you? Being a sole practitioner, ISCPA has given me a networking outlet to bounce ideas among other CPAs while allowing me to use my leadership abilities to be an influencer in tax policy.

What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the profession? Automation, both in e-file and in document storage and transmission between clients, taxing authorities and me.

I am passionate about: My family, especially taking time with the grandkids.

People don't know this about me: My husband and I mentor couples in struggling or unfulfilled marriages and give marriage seminars. I have a blog so others can find faithful motivation to keep working on their relationship with God, their spouse and families.

Special talent: Baking and cooking for the family.

What is your favorite thing about your job? Setting my own schedule.

Who would you swap places with for a day and why? My son, a Catholic priest, because where else could you sit all day in silence and get paid because "you're working."

Some of your philosophies and principles: If it's a problem that can be solved with money, it's not really a problem. Always treat others the way you would like to be treated.

How has your background and experience shaped who you are today? My faith and family shapes all that I am and hopefully every decision I make.

What inspirations have helped you in life and in work? My grandparents and the way they were always present to help their neighbors.

What is your biggest achievement to date? Grandkids!

What is important to you outside of work? Marriage: because as goes the marriage, so goes the community; as goes the community, so goes the nation; as goes the nation, so goes the world (St. Pope John Paul II).

If I were famous, I'd want to be famous for: Putting others first and being present when people are in need of a friend.

Charlotte and her husband Stan live in Toledo. They have three adult children and eight grandchildren.

First job: Family farm and typesetting for the local newspaper.

What I wanted to be when I grew up: A writer

I never leave home without: A book

Favorite food: Dark chocolate

What three words describe you best? Do for others

When I have free time, I prefer to: Sit in silence or with a Christian book of psalms.

Last book I read: "I Thirst: 40 Days with Mother Teresa" by Joseph Langford

Favorite movie: The Sound of Music

My hero is: My husband

Favorite line from a film: "If you build it, they will come." - The Field of Dreams

Favorite band: Mercy Me

My first guests if I hosted a talk show: Raymond Arroyo and Cardinal Dolan

Best vacation: San Antonio, Texas