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TRAILBLAZING WOMEN

FROM CLEARING CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR SECOND CHANCES TO SUPPORTING CANCER SURVIVORS WITH DELIVERED SELF-CARE GOODS, THESE 10 WOMEN ARE CREATING THEIR OWN INDUSTRY NICHES.

BY ALEXANDRA FROST

LAURA HENDRICKS

CANCER SURVIVOR AND NONPROFIT CO-FOUNDER OF LUMINARIES

Hendricks survived acute myeloid leukemia, an aggressive form of blood cancer with a survival rate of only 10%. Now, she helps other cancer survivors through her nonprofit survivorship program delivering science-backed, self-care kits to cancer survivors' doorsteps.

IMPACT: Alongside her husband and co-founder, Brock, she has supported survivors by delivering over 4,000 kits to their doorsteps in addition to forming partnerships with like-minded brands such as Instacart.

INTERESTING FACT: The nonprofit has assisted over 1,500 survivors across North America who are financially burdened or living in communities underserved by the health care system.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

"One of my first female competitive swim coaches told me: 'You are stronger than you know, and you can do anything if you put your mind to it.' I believed I could beat my disease and be a survivor from the moment I was diagnosed. I know this is one of the reasons I am still here today."



ASHLIE BEHM PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF DR. WHITNEY CASARES; ABEL ARCINIEGA/COURTESY OF LAURA HENDRICKS

LAUREN SANCHEZ GILBERT, ED.D.

CEO OF BELLXCEL

As CEO of nonprofit BellXcel, Sanchez Gilbert helps schools and organizations with solutions and resources to advance the quality of youth experiences outside of the school day. It provides everything needed to start a youth program from scratch, or improve a current one, from software upgrades to online enrollment to family communication apps, through a software program called Arly. YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs and libraries are often Arly users, but it can work for other programs too.

IMPACT: Through her leadership, BellXcel has reached nearly a half-million children in 35+ states by making after-school programming accessible.

INTERESTING FACT: As a single mom, Sanchez Gilbert learned to prioritize time with her daughter by being present in her active sports life.



WORDS OF WISDOM:

"Not everyone will like you or what you're doing. It is more important to be respected than liked, and one must be careful not to confuse the two."
—her mother