

DALLAS BUSINESS JOURNAL

Christina Melton Crain

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CEO,
UNLOCKING DOORS



The No. 1 thing that drives Christina Melton Crain is a commitment to leave the world a little better than when she found it. Through her organization Unlocking DOORS, where Crain leads as president and CEO, she seeks to reduce recidivism

through a unique approach: a community-based reentry platform that helps to transition individuals with criminal backgrounds back into society. "As the only woman to serve as the Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, I have experienced up-close the myriad of issues involved in the criminal justice arena – among them, the negative impact the repeat offending has on our society," said Crain. "This experience led to the creation of Unlocking DOORS...By giving these individuals a second chance, we help improve lives, cut crime rates, secure our tax base and strengthen our communities and families."



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

unlockingdoors.org

Number of employees: 9

2016 revenue: More than \$1 million

Q&A with Christina Melton Crain, founder, president and CEO at Unlocking DOORS

What are your current job responsibilities?

As founder, president and CEO of Unlocking DOORS, my current job responsibilities include setting the tone and vision of the organization, while utilizing the unique combination of my practical, administrative, legal/policy and criminal justice experience to carry out the mission of Unlocking DOORS.

How did you get into your industry? As the only woman to serve as Chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, I have experienced up-close the myriad of issues involved in the criminal justice arena – among them, the negative impact that repeat offending (recidivism) has on our society. This experience led to the creation of Unlocking

DOORS. Now six years old, we have already seen first-hand the transformative affect Unlocking DOORS has on ex-offenders when we connect them with the services they so desperately need in a comprehensive and collaborative manner. By giving these individuals a second chance, we help improve lives, cut crime rates, secure our tax base and strengthen our communities and families.

How would you describe the business environment for women in North Texas? Opportunity-ridden, engaging, encouraging

Family: I have been married to the most wonderful man in the world for 21 years – Nate

Crain. We have 3 adorable "children with paws" – miniature schnauzers named Midnight, Lobo and Lucky.

Favorite piece of advice to give: "It is never too late to be what you might have been." – George Elliot

In other words, this is your life; never give up on your dream; anything is possible if YOU truly want it and are committed to making it happen.

Anything else? I am passionate about helping others – whether that be helping a hopeless individual survive or assisting an already successful person reach their true dreams.

– Anna Butler