

Meet Our Vice President

Characters of Character is proud to share with you our Vice President of our organization. To be part of any nonprofit takes dedication, and a firm belief in what the organization represents. We are honored to introduce to you: **Tina Miller Smith**

How do you know Joni Downey?

She's one of my very favorite people on the planet! We met at a local business mixer in 2015. What a life-changing day!

What's one accomplishment that you're proud of?

Raising 5 tiny humans into incredible, successful, and happy adults! I'm so proud of each of them!

What do you see in today's society that is different from when you raised your own family?

The self-focus and constant search for ways to be personally insulted has grown tremendously in our culture, as has the ability to accomplish almost anything from almost anywhere. Thank you, Internet!

What do you do for work?

I am CEO at Kreischer Optics, a high-precision custom lens manufacturing company with applications in medical devices, satellites, entertainment, and new technologies.

Who is your favorite character?

Although they all contribute with great intent, Friendship Frog is my favorite character.

Why? I love how much he values those in his life and is considerate, encouraging & intentionally kind toward others.

What are your duties at Characters of Character?

Sounding board, thinking partner, and whatever else I can do to contribute.

What made you want to get involved with Characters of Character?

I love Joni, her passion for teaching children such fantastic qualities, and the mission to teach children important skills & values they will carry with them for their entire lives. It's an opportunity to make the world better!

How long have you been involved with Characters of Character?

Since I met Joni 6 years ago and fell in love with her as an awesome person, her passion for teaching children & love for growth.

What is your favorite quote?

I have two. One for how to treat others and one for how to grow; both are about how to live life & be the best version of myself.

"Love one another..." John 15:12

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours." Henry David Thoreau

What's your favorite polite word or gesture?

(gesture ex.: holding open the door for someone):

Sharing what I have with others (time, skills, finances, joy, etc.), expressing appreciation for those around me, sharing laughter & joy... and a pre-COVID hug now & then.

What is your favorite movie?

Signs. I love the understanding that things happen for a reason and there is purpose behind more than we realize. We just must look for evidence.

What keeps you motivated?

Growth! When I can see progress, it excites me and encourages me to press on with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

What is your favorite book?

Think & Grow Rich teaches the value of how powerful our focus is to every aspect of our lives. We can improve others' lives as we improve our own.

What is something that you'd like to learn?

I'd love to learn Pennsylvania Dutch to converse with my Amish cousins... and to yodel. Really.

Do you like coloring with crayons or colored pencils?

I love colored pencils or blending with watercolor pencils. Crayons make me sneeze. 🤧

What is your top travel bucket list destination?

I'll go anywhere as long as I can share it with someone I love! It's the experience more than the destination for me; traveling across the country by rail with someone who would enjoy the same sounds like such fun!

Early bird or night owl?

Night. Oh, so definitely night!

What has the biggest lesson to come out of the pandemic been for you?

That even when the world is in crisis, beautiful things happen... met my fiancé 🥰 (Now husband)

(And I'm shocked that grown ups had to learn the value of washing their hands 🧼 - see why we need Healthy Hippo?!)

What advice would you give your teenage self?

God provides everything you need- including wisdom: with Him on your side, you are fully capable & enough. Trust Him. ALWAYS

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Me 😊

If you had a superpower, what would it be?

I would want to transport myself & others wherever we wish to go

What is one thought that always makes you smile?

Yes, I can!

Do you have a hidden talent? What is it?

I'm calm in crisis and capable of thoughtfully responding rather than reacting in fear.

What's your most used emoji?

😂 and 🥰

What's your favorite fruit or vegetable?

As a kid I'd never have imagined myself saying this- but broccoli is my favorite vegetable! 🥰 Favorite fruit is apple... especially cooked with brown sugar & butter... 😊

If you had 1 million dollars to spend in 24 hours, how would you spend it?

I'd invest it and use dividends to support valued organizations like Characters of Character that make a difference in the world. That way it would keep giving!

What is your biggest take away from Characters of Character?

The choices we make affect others

Thank you for asking great questions! I love the opportunity I have to contribute through Characters of Character to make a difference.