

# kc magazine 100

STORY BY **KIMBERLY WINTER STERN AND KATIE VAN LUCHENE**

The power to influence isn't just about wealth and position. Modern KC clout comes from inspiring devotion and progressive action while feeding the ancestral roots that make KC a sought-after destination. Here's our annual *KC Magazine* 100 list of influencers who help redefine and polish our jewel of a city. Who do you know?

**\*ELIZABETH ALEX:** TV anchor turned philanthropist Alex is community outreach and media relations director at Christian Foundation for Children and Aging In Kansas City (CFCA). She has seen children in dire conditions across the world and learned an important life lesson: You can be happy with nothing. CFCA works with 48 projects in 22 countries and recently produced an award-winning film called "Rise and Dream." Poverty-stricken teens in the southern Philippines were chosen to appear with musician Barclay Martin (also in our KC 100 list) in a moving documentary.



**ELIZABETH BEJAN:** Revolve KC Executive Director Bejan introduced the "earn-a-bike" concept in 2009 to the community. Bejan, who grew up riding the bus or a bicycle for transportation and witnessed firsthand how bikes contribute to quality of life in Europe, regards the bike as a tool for empowerment and a vehicle for change. Revolve KC focuses on breaking down barriers that keep some people from riding bikes, such as affordability and safety. With an investment of time to learn bike safety, people earn bikes. The nonprofit started with mobile clinics on bike safety in underserved areas of KC and in 2011 opened The Bike Shop by Revolve KC on Troost. A second location is slated to open in Kansas City, Kan., in 2013, making it the only bike shop located in Wyandotte County. The Latino Outreach Program distributes bikes, helmets, lock sets and lights to people who complete a bike safety class.

**\*ADAM BENTON:** Benton is a matchmaker, but he won't find you a date for Valentine's Day. His organization, Agenda, Be, matches nonprofits with community do-gooders. "BELievers" sign up at [agendabe.org](http://agendabe.org), indicate their interests, ranging from the

arts to health care or kids, then choose how they want to help, from donations to hands-on volunteering. Benton also hosts fun events bringing together those in need with people who care.



**BOB BERNSTEIN:** Beauty is as beauty does. When we learned Beauty Brands, which Bernstein started in 1995, donates money to domestic violence shelters through its End Abuse program, he won our hearts and a spot on this list. Before Beauty Brands, Bernstein was already famous for founding one of the country's most successful advertising agencies, Bernstein-Rein, 45 years ago. Bob, you don't look a day older than 50; could it be you're using a Beauty Brands gift card?

## TEISHA MARIE BARBER



*Too young to be a fashion mogul? Don't tell that to Barber, the powerhouse behind KC Fashion Week's spring and fall events. Her training in architecture might give her the eye to choose fashion that's both cutting-edge and approachable.*

*Many of the KCFW designers are local, but Barber's reputation for putting on polished, high-energy runway shows has gotten the attention of regional and national names. The spring show is February 28 through March 3.*

