

As Seen In... Forbes, September 12, 2011



CHICAGO

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Whether climbing the corporate ladder or venturing out on their own, ambitious, talented women continue to make their mark throughout Chicago's business community.

They're taking advantage of opportunities as diverse as Chicago itself, at both small start-ups and major corporations, playing a key role in the region's growth and success.

On the following pages, we profile a few prominent Chicago businesses where women are integral to company achievements.



photograph provided by Vintage Tech Recyclers

FEATURED COMPANIES

4 I I SOLUTIONS International
www.4IISOLUTIONSIntl.com

Vintage Tech Recyclers
www.vintagetechrecyclers.com

Capital Commercial Real Estate, Inc.
www.ccreonline.com

B2B Strategic Solutions, Inc.
www.b2bssi.com

Susan E. Loggans & Associates, P.C.
www.logganslaw.com

Presort Solutions
www.presort-sol.com

Burrell Communications
www.burrell.com

SSB Financial Services, Inc.
www.ssbfinancial.com

Gamma Partners, LLC
www.gammapartners.com

Reilly International
www.reillyinternational.com

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Comprehensive, Personalized Strategies Build Investor Confidence

SSB Financial Services, Inc.

In a word, investors are describing themselves as feeling *vulnerable* in today's volatile financial environment. Siree Sandberg Bakakos, president of SSB Financial Services, Inc., focuses on restoring their confidence.

"Confidence is a byproduct of having a comprehensive plan that helps you accumulate assets to meet your goals and protects those assets against loss. When you have a sensible plan in place, you are less apt to make bad choices out of a sense of desperation or emotional turmoil," says Siree, an independent Registered Representative.*

Siree founded SSB Financial Services, Inc. in 1995 to serve people just like herself – individuals, families, business owners, corporate executives, independent contractors, and others with a desire to be financially secure. Her company has grown by adding the types of services her clients need, whether they are still accumulating wealth, nearing retirement or have already begun receiving income from their investments. Her primary market is pre-retirees and retirees. Today the company encompasses wealth management, investment strategies, retirement planning, income distributions, business succession, estate planning, college funding, individual and group benefit plans, insurance planning, banking, and mortgage services.

"My financial practice is a relationship business, so I respond to my clients' needs. My approach to planning is a process. Having a well-thought-out plan in place to handle personal tragedies, financial downturns, job loss, illness, and more, provides peace of mind and protects the money you are saving for your dream home, your children's college education, and your retirement."

Siree brings prior corporate-world experience and knowledge to the table when working with business owners and their employees. As a business owner herself and a past corporate employee, she understands how a well-thought-out benefit and retirement program can enhance and reward company loyalty. In many cases, these are the only wealth and risk management measures an individual may have. As a courtesy to the companies she serves with executive benefit plans, group benefits, retirement plans, and pensions, Siree offers individual financial counseling for employees.

Most recently, Siree added college assistance services. She is affiliated with 123 College, which assists parents and students through the financial aid process and gives families the options they need to arrive at the best choice of schools at the best price.

The Biggest Mistake Investors Make Today

"The biggest mistake investors make today is doing nothing," says Siree. "A challenging economic time or personal tragedy can paralyze us and keep us from moving forward."

As an outside independent advisor who has her clients' best interests at heart, Siree educates people about loopholes they have missed in their risk management plan, and helps them discover tax-savvy solutions they have not yet thought about. In the business of wealth strategizing, Siree brings together

the successful team players, like CPAs, attorneys, realtors, mortgage lenders, business owners, and others, needed to accomplish the desired end results. "I like to make busy people less busy," she says. "Then they can invest less time worrying about their financial life and more time on their careers, families, or just enjoying their retirement."



Siree Sandberg Bakakos

Photo by Jonathan's Portraits

250 Parkway Drive, Suite 150 | Lincolnshire, IL 60069
Phone: (847) 519-1142 Fax: (847) 519-1425
siree@ssbfinancial.com | www.ssbfinancial.com

* Registered Representative of and Securities Offered Through Securities Service Network, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC, Office of Supervisory Jurisdiction, 9729 Cogdill Road, Suite 301, Knoxville, TN 37932, (865) 777-4677

SSB FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

