

THIS IS ME – LESSONS FROM THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Many families have had more time lately to watch movies together. One of our favorite family movies is “The Greatest Showman.” We love the music and the characters as well as the lessons it teaches.

In a review of the movie, an author said, “Some people are rock stars. Some people are entrepreneurs. Some people are rock star entrepreneurs — they have it all. The Greatest Showman was a rock star entrepreneur.” Since we are a town known for its entrepreneur spirit I thought it might be good to look at the lessons from “The Greatest Showman.”

- **SUCCESS TAKES TIME, BUT HAPPINESS DOESN'T.** The days of struggle are certainly not the days of misery. P.T, Charity and the children are most content when they have nothing. P.T loses his job on his daughter's birthday, but is still able to create a special moment for family. Having a dream of something incredible in your future shouldn't delay your happiness, it should merely enhance it. Have you ever said or heard someone say that their poorest or worst times are now remembered as the best time of their life?

How will we look back at this time? For some it will be remembered as a best time, but others might remember it quite differently. We are all in a storm, but our boats are definitely different. As a community, we have come together to give those whose boat is on smooth waters an opportunity to help those whose boat is battling some big and life changing waves.

- **“YOU DON'T NEED EVERYONE TO LOVE YOU, JUST A FEW GOOD PEOPLE,”** Charity Barnum says to her fame-crazed husband, Phineas. This is a wise reminder for all of us, particularly in a day and age where there is mounting pressure to be “liked” and “followed” by social media platforms. In reality, chasing popularity can actually become a burden that pulls away from what matters most, which happens to Phineas in the film.

The Sabetha City with Heart Assistance/Recovery Fund has reminded me that it doesn't take everyone to be involved to make a good thing come about. In the beginning, I was trying to think of who could make this happen for Sabetha. How shallow that thought was. People made it happen. Ordinary, extraordinary people started to give to others who needed help.

- **“NO ONE EVER MADE A DIFFERENCE BY BEING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.”** P.T. Barnum's troupe is made up of ‘freaks’ and misfits; those whom society rejected. The song “This is Me,” is their declaration of defiance, the refusal to accept dismissal and instead celebrates who they are. This song strikes a chord with anyone who has ever felt like they are not enough, like they don't fit in, or that there's something wrong with them. So, pretty much everyone, right?

In early March GSCF realized Sabetha needed a program to help people through this time. So, we created an adaptable program unique to Sabetha. Working through the Sabetha Chamber, Northridge Church and our Community Foundation we developed a workable plan that is in accord to the IRS community foundation guidelines. The Sabetha City with Heart Program would not have happened without our GMCF support staff.

- **“THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU, BUT THEY WILL.”** Barnum said this to reassure his performers, in particular Lettie, who is fearful of rejection by the crowds. She is imperfect, but doesn't yet

realize that everyone is. It was the skills and talents of the performers that would change the hearts and minds of the crowds. What would matter in the end is how they will see them and the impact they make on the world.

Since 2016, GSCF has been in the business of community support. It is a difficult concept for people to understand because we aren't a business. We are a foundation. We exist to provide a basis of support for projects, organizations, nonprofits and now businesses through the relationship with the Chamber of Commerce. We welcome your participation in our desire to make a difference in the lives of others and in our community.