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Lisa Sackuvich is the chief executive officer and owner of ARJ Infusion Services, a Lenexa company that provides home-based infusion pharmacy and nursing services. ARJ's patients include people with bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies and neurological disorders.

POWER OF THE PURSE // LISA SACKUVICH

# Infusion and Inspiration

## Why did you decide to start ARJ Infusion Services?

I've always been someone who likes to take care of people—especially after becoming a patient myself at the age of three. Growing up, I would check in on elderly people who lived close to home. I loved listening to their stories and gained valuable perspective on life. After years of learning from gifted professional mentors, absorbing every aspect of the health care industry as an infusion nurse, a trusted mentor said, "If you're going to work this hard for someone else, you should work this hard for yourself." That was my sign. I believed patients should receive quality care and therefore founded ARJ Infusion Services.

## What drives you?

Knowing that we make a difference in the lives of the patients and families we touch. I have a steadfast appreciation for the caring employees I get to work with every day at ARJ.

## What's been the most challenging aspect of starting your own business—and the most rewarding?

Managing a healthy work-life balance was a struggle. Learning to trust and rely on other competent professionals sooner may have brought faster success. It's most rewarding to witness the accomplishments of patients and employees as they continue to grow and succeed.

## Could you share some advice for women thinking about getting into this type of field?

Be prepared for challenges, which most often offer opportunities for improvement, change and further success. It takes an immeasurable amount of determination, commitment and work to make your dream a reality. The goal is to know what you're doing and do it better than the rest, but you will be tested over and over again. Don't stop learning as you embrace competitiveness and change. ■

## EQUALITY + OPPORTUNITY

### U.S. Leads in Developing Women Entrepreneurs

There might be room for improvement, but the United States still offers the best opportunities for women entrepreneurs, according to the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Institute's 2014 "gender index." We scored an 83 on the 100-point index, higher than anyone else.

