

LAURA “DIVOT” EKIZIAN

*Board Member since 2019
Fundraising Committee Chair*

There’s no doubt Laura “Divot” [a nickname that stuck from her golfing days] Ekizian cares about the health of the Quad Cities community. As a resident here for more than 30 years, she’s of course got a personal stake, but professionally, our quality of life takes on an additional importance. As President of Quad City Bank & Trust she oversees more than 250 local employees. And to many of them access to trails, more personal options for healthcare, and less congestion in general all matter. “That’s the only way we can recruit and retain workers,” Ekizian admits. That, in fact, is what attracted *her* to go from St. Ambrose student to lifelong resident. “I can enjoy a bike path without a thousand other people on it...I can get a doctor’s appointment here a heck of a lot quicker than my mom can in the suburbs of Chicago...People don’t realize what a great edge that all is over a larger community.” Another edge she sees, particularly as a Quad City Health Initiative Board Member, is a commitment to collaboration. “I love, for example, how both hospital systems come to the table genuinely, working cooperatively,” says Ekizian. It’s also critical to her to serve with organizations that focus on both sides of the river. She sees that in QCHI’s makeup. “The intentionality and structure of [QCHI] is unique. Most boards want cross-sector collaboration, but don’t have access to it.” With so many high-level participants from various sectors working together, she says it all adds up to big dividends for the community, her personally, *and* her company. “Without the health and well-being of our employees we’re not helping our clients. We’re not getting the job done for our bottom line. It’s definitely a ripple effect.”

Board Stories

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