



## **Local Dentist Honored as a Main Street Iowa Leader**

Doctor Sonya Stoltze Newstrom will be honored by the state and presented with the Main Street Iowa Leadership Award on Friday, April 29 at a ceremony in Des Moines.

“This award is being given to a person who has not only been a leader in our community, but has also inspired others to action as well,” said Cliff Smith, Main Street Cultural District (MSCD) 2016 President. “Her love of

downtown Ames led Sonya to make a lasting impact on the place she calls home that is sustainable for generations to come.”

Newstrom, who grew up in Ames, has committed hundreds of hours of volunteer time in downtown Ames since she returned after graduating from dental school in 2007. She has served many positions on the Main Street Cultural District Board, including Vice President, President, and Promotions Chair. She says she wanted to get involved with the community and Main Street was a good fit.

“If the downtown is healthy and vibrant it benefits the entire community,” Newstrom said. “As a dentist, I serve the entire community.”

Sonya’s love for downtown Ames started early. Newstrom’s practice, Stoltze and Stoltze Family Dentistry started by her father, Dr. Daniel Stoltze, was located on Main Street until 1984. It is now located at 511 Duff, just a block away from Main Street. Sonya says downtown Ames is a very different place now than it was back then. She admits she has seen a lot of change over the years, especially in just the past seven years since the MSCD became an official Main Street community.

“It just seems bigger and brighter,” said Newstrom. “The vibrancy of downtown Ames is unmatched.”

Judy Gilger, owner of Gilger Designs, MSCD Design Chair, and long-time volunteer credits Newstrom with a lot of the success of the local Main Street program and many of the downtown events.

“Our organization is where it is today because of her dedication,” Gilger said. “Sonya is one of the most amazing ladies. She is enthusiastic, well organized, fun loving, positive, and a problem solver.”

Sonya credits her success as a leader to something much more simplistic.

“It is easiest to inspire other people when you have enthusiasm yourself,” Newstrom said. “Enthusiasm is contagious.”

The Leadership Award will be presented at the Main Street Iowa 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at the Iowa Events Center.

***The Main Street Cultural District** was established on January 1, 2004. Its mission is to advance and promote downtown as the destination district in the heart of our community. To keep updated on MSCD happenings, become a fan of the Main Street Cultural District on Facebook, bookmark [www.AmesDowntown.org](http://www.AmesDowntown.org), or contact our office at 515-233-3472. MSCD is an affiliate organization of the Ames Chamber of Commerce.*