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Helen Ortiz Turley Announced as Lockton Courage Award Honoree for the 2024 Women's Sports Awards

KANSAS CITY, MO (November 28, 2023) – Today, WIN for KC announced Helen Ortiz Turley will be the recipient of the Lockton Courage Award at the 2024 Women's Sports Awards presented by Burns & McDonnell. The annual awards program is WIN for KC's biggest fundraiser and the largest luncheon in the country celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.



Helen's story is one of perseverance in the face of overwhelming adversity. At the age of seventeen she made a harrowing journey from Guatemala to America, forced to leave behind her two-year-old son and family. The path to United States citizenship involved hard work at a variety of jobs, including months of unpaid labor in the strawberry fields of California. Helen later realized it was a human trafficking operation. She found fitness in her thirties and began to compete as a professional bodybuilder, but her career came to an abrupt halt when she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Never one to give up, Helen successfully beat the cancer and continues to compete in her fifties. Not only an impressive athlete and multiple gold medalist in the International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation, she is also a successful businesswoman. Helen, two business partners and Dennis, her son, operate Carthage Commercial Real Estate brokered by KW Key Partners.

"I hope my story inspires women of every age and background to fight for their dreams," says Turley. "While there were many difficult and painful moments throughout my journey, I never stopped trying or squandered an opportunity." She continues, "Bodybuilding requires extreme focus and discipline. The skillset I've developed through this sport impacts every facet of my life and has allowed me to do things I never dreamed were possible."

The 2024 WIN for KC Women's Sports Awards, which takes place in the historic Municipal Auditorium, kicks off by honoring local 2023 female high school state champions with their celebratory march across the stage. Then, throughout the luncheon, event attendees learn about the six honorees in the following categories: Children's Mercy Kansas City Rising Star Award, Lockton Courage Award, Kissick Construction Game Changer Award, UMBFC Charitable Foundation Lifetime Sportswoman Award, Hallmark Cards Leadership Award and Forvis BE BOLD Award. Finally, the keynote speaker delivers an electrifying speech reflective of her challenges and triumphs in the world of sports.

"The Lockton Courage Award is given to a woman or girl who has redefined barriers, overcome tremendous obstacles, or made a significant comeback in life or sports," says Andrea Kimball, Sporting KC Vice President and General Counsel, as well as incoming Chair for the WIN Advisory Board. "Helen has done all three. She personifies courage in the face of daunting odds and shows sports have value at every stage of life."

The 2024 Women's Sports Awards presented by Burns & McDonnell will be on Tuesday, January 30th. For more information, please click [here](#).

About WIN for KC

The Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City (WIN for KC), was established in 1994 under the umbrella of the Greater Kansas City Sports Commission, with the mission to ignite girls and women through advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness, while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development. WIN is a volunteer, membership-driven organization that operates as a program of the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. For more information, visit WINforKC.org. For the latest on WIN for KC news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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WIN for KC

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