

The customer comes first for Amy Davis, CPA, PC

By SUSAN MCFARLAND

Tribune Correspondent

When Amy Davis, CPA, started her own accounting firm six years ago at the age of 33, she had only one goal: to have her own secretary by age 45. She hit that goal pretty quickly and now has a team of nine, including not one, but two administrative assistants, five tax accountants and two bookkeepers. Last year, she hired on three new associates:

- Danira Garcia Hicks is a University of Houston graduate who joined the practice this past November. Hicks said she really enjoys working in a small firm environment and being able to work closely with clients. Before joining Amy Davis CPA, Hicks worked as a tax accountant for a CPA firm in the Woodlands. Hicks lives in Kingwood with her husband and baby girl.

- Sarah Cannon is a Texas A&M alumna and joined the practice last June. Cannon interned with Amy Davis CPA during the tax season of 2016 before joining the firm full time last year. For her part, Cannon loves the casual and friendly environment of the firm. Cannon lives in Kingwood with her cat, Poe.

- Sonya Whyte joined Amy Davis CPA in December 2016 and graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Houston-Downtown. Whyte loves the small firm atmosphere and getting to know clients on a personal level. She said she looks forward to serving the startups as well as the area's growing businesses. Whyte worked in corporate accounting for 20 years prior to joining Davis. She lives in Atascocita with her husband and four children.

Davis said that BreAnna Gautreau, the firm's office manager/bookkeeper, has a real claim to fame. She is a Houston Rockets cheerleader in her spare time. She's also attending Lone Star College for an associate's in accounting.

Today, the practice has more than 1,400 customers, ranging from single people who need help with their tax returns all the way to companies employing more than 100 people who need regular bookkeeping services.

Davis attributes the success of her practice to her staff.

"What makes us different is our personalities. We are approachable, patient, real people. We understand that everything in life is not black and white and that people's lives are messy and we are good with that. We rarely have clients who leave us or are unhappy. Customer service is really important and we really do want to just

help people," said Davis.

The practice provides a myriad of services, including personal and business income tax filings, bookkeeping, payroll, training and correspondence with the IRS. Basic itemized tax returns start at \$350.

"We also routinely form entities for people starting a small business. A person will come to us and say, 'I've got this idea, I want to start a new business.' We will talk through their goals and their exposure to liability and then determine the type of company to set up and set it up. My main concern is their legal protection. Taxes come second," said Davis. The practice charges \$500 to set up an LLC.

As far as bookkeeping services, Davis said the practice offers a one-stop shop for all accounting needs for small companies. "We can do payroll, bookkeeping and monthly financials. Accounting services generally range from \$350 to \$500 a month.

"I always tell people who are trying to decide whether to use us or hire a part-time person to use us because we are cheaper and will keep an eye on your numbers," she said.

Davis graduated in 2001 from Texas A&M with an accounting degree. After college she worked at Arthur

Anderson, then worked in accounting in the corporate world before joining Houston boutique accounting firm Briggs and Veselka. In 2012, her father encouraged her to start her own accounting firm and offered her a loan to take the leap.

"I told him I needed \$8,000 to pay for a computer, a desk and one month of bills and that's what he loaned me. That's all I needed and I've since paid him back," said Davis.

Her first one-room office was very close to her current location, near the Dunkin Donuts on West Lake Houston Parkway. Davis said she loves meeting with people and never has a boring day.

"I love talking to people, tax planning, and numbers. I'm really a big dork. I have clients in so many different areas. I work with Realtors, hair stylists, lawyers, doctors and lawn companies. I have some really interesting clients who have invented products and sell them on Amazon. One of my clients, who used to live locally, invented the Baby Bum Brush, a silicon stick that helps diaper cream or medicine go on smoother, thicker and faster. She's a really neat lady," said Davis.

Amy Davis CPA, PC is located at 18321 W. Lake Houston Pkwy. in Atascocita. For more information or to make an appointment, call 281-570-2247.



(left to right) Perla Morris, Sonya Whyte, BreAnna Gautreau, Amy Davis, Sarah Cannon, Danira Garcia Hicks, and Lori Tullis



OWNER:
Amy Davis



Amy Davis CPA, PC
Lake Houston CPA

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FAVORITE QUOTE:

**Life is not a problem to be solved,
but a reality to be experienced.**