

In regards to the Grand JiVante stories, over the past twelve years I've built strong relationships with community leaders like CEO of Grand JiVante, Korey DeBerg. I know I have to cover the small stories to gain access to the big stories.

During COVID, which was a demanding time for health care workers, DeBerg answered each and every call I made, providing answers to any question I had. From the very beginning, I told him I would love nothing more than to share the stories of the outbreak, and what was taking place inside the local care facility.

I asked him why the organization was so open with me and this was his response:

"During COVID, a challenging time in healthcare, I felt it was beneficial to work with the local newspaper to get the most accurate and up-to-date information out to the community. Grand JiVante is an important part of Ackley and residents' family members and friends needed to know what was going on inside the building.

"As a local organization, it was important to get Becky in, to have her share this experience with our community. It might have been easier not to work with the paper but I also knew the story would be shared accurately and with compassion," DeBerg said.