

The Wonder Women's Guide to Finding The Courage To Become an Empowering & Transformative Leader

Story by Christina-Lauren Pollack - Inspirations and Celebrations • 5d • 🕒 69 min read

In honor of [Women's History Month](#) and [International Women's Day](#), it's the perfect time to celebrate the accomplishments, achievements, and inspiring words of wisdom from powerful women who are transformative leaders.

From founders of the fastest-growing companies on the planet to top executives at billion-dollar businesses, today's article highlights exemplary women who lead their teams to victory while catalyzing growth, encouraging evolution, and instilling positive changes for their corporate culture, valued customers, and beloved communities.

Since founding [Inspirations & Celebrations](#) in 2011, I've been on a personal mission to educate and empower women through inspiration and information. It's a simple yet significant vision statement for me.

As the Editor behind this platform, my goal is to serve as a beacon of hope, a guiding light, and a friendly reminder that you can make anything happen in life when you believe in your dreams, and most importantly – when you trust yourself to figure things out (even when you're unsure about which path to take at times).

That said, I'm honored to bring you the following words of wisdom from several phenomenal female leaders, all of whom I respect greatly – not only for their noteworthy resumes but also for the determination, tenacity, and strength it takes to climb up rocky mountains to reach the pinnacle of success.

In today's [personal growth](#) & [career guide](#), discover sage guidance from 20 outstanding, high-achieving female leaders whose courageous attitude, emblazoned spirit, and passion have created measurable results across multiple industries (including beauty, fashion, health and fitness, travel, hospitality, tech, finance, legal, etc.). These illustrious leaders exemplify the values and characteristics that encompass what a modern-day Wonder Woman is all about.

No matter where you are on your journey—whether you're an ambitious entrepreneur shaping your own unique path, a driven professional rising through the corporate ranks, or a passionate visionary ready to launch your side hustle—this guide is for you. In my mind, Wonder Women are the brave gals who daringly venture into the world to make a positive impact, all while facing their fears, risking failure, and overcoming difficulties.

If inspiration is the root from which all dreams grow, may today's celebration plant seeds of greatness within you...



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Image credit Genevieve Piturro - Founder of Pajama Program

Genevieve Piturro is a **TEDx speaker, best-selling author, and nonprofit founder** whose journey took her from a Marketing VP in NYC's TV industry to boardrooms, stages, and even Oprah's spotlight. In 2001, she founded **Pajama Program**, a national nonprofit providing comfort and support to children in need. After 20 years as Executive Director, she transitioned to speaking, writing, and leadership training, launching Purpose ACER, a management excellence program. Her books, *Purpose, Passion, and Pajamas* (a 7x award-winning bestseller) and *Purpose, Passion, and Moxie*, empower others to lead with purpose. A sought-after thought leader, she has been featured on Oprah, TODAY, GMA, CNN, Fox & Friends, and in *Forbes* and *The Wall Street Journal*. As one of the highlights she's experienced due to her success, in 2016, she had the honor of ringing the Nasdaq Opening Bell.

What inspires you each day to create your version of your “best life”?

GP: “I continually ask myself, “If this is the next 30 years of my life, is this enough?” If my answer is no, I examine what I’m proud of every day, and how I’m cheating myself – or others from the best I can be. When I take a hard look at what is keeping me from my “best life” I usually realize it’s fear of change, of disappointing others, of not being worthy enough to go for what I want next. I sit myself down and look at the list I started years ago of all my accomplishments, and I see, in black and white, what I am capable of. I shake my head and say out loud, “No more excuses, I can do this too!” And then I go for it.”

How do you develop a strong mindset (to overcome fears, self-doubt, or challenges)?

GP: “I summon my Moxie for a good reminder pep talk! Going from corporate executive to nonprofit founder wasn’t easy, but after massive fear and doubt, countless sleepless nights, and tears that could fill the Atlantic, I overcame challenges I thought would ruin everything. I recount how I met each turn with faith, determination, and that growing moxie within me. I remember all the strangers I called asking for advice and support who said “yes”, and I remind myself there are more who want to support me. I promise myself that every “no” is not the last answer I will settle for. And if I have to, I do it afraid.”

How do you think women can develop more self-confidence and inner power?

GP: “Find a mentor or sponsor who has been where you are and is achieving her goals. At the same time, mentor someone. Receiving and giving guidance at the same time will show you how valuable you are as a leader, how much confidence someone else has in you, and how valuable the human connection is if you embrace it. Start a list of your accomplishments from a young age and add to it every month. Read it every day. You’ll be in awe of what you have already accomplished!”

What guidance would you give to women about following their dreams?

GP: “Listen to your Heart-Voice and then trust that Voice to inspire others. Realize that your true North Star comes from your heart and believe that others will resonate with your goals and vision and will rally for you. Too often, we are afraid of giving breath to our dreams or decisions because we foresee criticism. We need to ask for help without feeling embarrassed that we cannot do it alone. Naysayers can be threats to our self-confidence, authenticity, joy, and the vision we have, so it is imperative to surround yourself with your cheerleaders and others who have followed their dreams successfully.

Embrace the human connection. It's about love, love for yourself and love for those your dreams will positively impact. Always remember, *"It's not the Power of One that changes things; it's the Power of One-ANOTHER that moves mountains and moves people."*

If there's one piece of advice you'd give your younger self, what would it be?

GP: "Stop comparing yourself to anyone else. You are the only you, and you are amazing!" To discover more inspiring words from other successful Wonder Women, check out [previous years' guides from Inspirations & Celebrations](#) featuring exclusive advice from many of the world's most incredible and talented women, including top executives, industry leaders, best-selling authors, celebrities, and more.

[Read all 20 interviews here.](#)