For Laurie Schadegg Thomas, the arc of a 30-year career in the health care profession began on a Nebraska farm with lessons she learned from her father, who taught her the value of hard work and importance of doing the right thing whether someone is watching or not. That enduring set of values has guided her first as a physical therapist, then in senior leadership roles at several large, publicly traded companies, and now at Consonus Healthcare.

In her role as Chief Operating Officer, Laurie is responsible for supporting Consonus Rehab and Pharmacy operations, as well as oversight of sales and marketing functions. She believes Vital Life takes the Consonus mission to help seniors live “the best rest of their lives” to the next level. “It’s the foundation of the organization and gives spirit and love to our everyday actions and choices,” she says.

Whether providing direct patient therapy, guiding teams through cultural change or leading organizations through operational turnarounds, she’s remained passionate about the geriatric population and helping seniors live full and vibrant lives. Besides serving on the Vital Life board, she’s a frequent event volunteer, and also supports the Prostate Cancer Foundation, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association and Women Helping Women.

Laurie holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy degree from the University of Nebraska, where she played volleyball, and learned valuable lessons about the importance of teamwork in success. Outside of work, she loves photography, traveling and visiting her daughter’s growing family in Austin. She is also an avid football fan and accomplished poker player.