

Refine Residential by Bari and Elena

Bari Levine & Elena Tamillo, Founders
Melanie Carlson, Senior Agent

Bari Levine, Elena Tamillo and Melanie Carlson began their careers in real estate more than a decade ago, and have risen through the ranks to become top-producing agents in Chicago. Even after all that time, though, every day presents something different. "Each individual scenario of helping a client purchase or sell a property comes with a unique set of challenges, which we find exciting and empowering," the team shares. "Icing on the cake: We tend to start the transaction as an advisor and leave it as a friend. When you work with us, you're not only getting a real-estate expert, you're getting a master negotiator, savvy contractor, on-trend designer, on-the-go therapist and a partner every step of the way."

The group's recent rebrand to Refine Residential (formerly the Bari and Elena Team) encompasses this ethos. "Refine Residential is a group of like-minded, authentic, immensely hardworking agents with deep talent," they say. "Our goal is that everyone—our members, industry peers and clients alike—will have and enjoy a refined experience from start to finish."

They're as dedicated outside the office as they are in: Through @properties charitable arm, @gives back, which Melanie is currently sitting as board president, the trio has played an active role in helping the group raise \$150-200k annually; they all also volunteer with Off The Street Club. It's this combination of dedication and generosity that serves as a basis for everything they do. Their mantra? "Work hard and be nice to people!"

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