

Meet Kim Gay, Class of 2020 - President and CEO of [iGuard PPC](#) – a Sandy Springs-based company, whose EPA-approved antimicrobial disinfectant kills bacteria, viruses and spores and protects against the spread of infection, including COVID-19. It's FDA approved for food surfaces and because it's green, it's safe for people and pets! Last week, Fire House #1 on Spalding Drive in Sandy Springs, was disinfected with Kim's product.

[A long history in the health care field](#) - A Georgia native who's lived in Sandy Springs for 22 years, Kim graduated from Georgia College & State with a marketing degree and a job in sales for Proctor & Gamble. Then, while selling specialty beds to hospitals and nursing homes, she saw an opportunity and her research confirmed, that there was not a dependable provider of nursing home equipment. She formed a company to meet that need and "in 2007, just before the market crash, sold the \$5 million company, to a national player."

She began consulting in the health care field while "researching what is going to be the next big thing in healthcare- and it always came back to infection prevention."

Her research led to an antimicrobial coating product in Florida, developed by two brothers- one a scientist, the other a marketer- their focus was getting rid of mold on tomatoes, a huge Florida crop. Kim saw other possibilities and did further research.

She invested in the product and started a research study at [Bud Terrace](#) – a skilled nursing home that's part of the Emory Health Care System, spraying the nursing home for the first time in 2012. (In the beginning Kim did the spraying.) The result? Infection numbers went down drastically and her product is still being used.

Then Kim found a sporicidal disinfectant that kills spores (which are the most difficult to eradicate) that is also green and kills Covid-19. Now, that's a second part of her company's process that protects against infection for up to one year.

[Kim's leadership and business insights](#) – "Owning and building your own business is very hard." Her biggest issue now is "letting people and businesses know I'm here."

"I think the best guidance I can share is that everyone who offers input matters. The college kids now applying disinfectant have suggested ways to improve what we're doing and it's great. Being a leader is being inclusive, it's about being a good listener, being willing to hear and change."

Her dog Piper, a flat-coat retriever, helps her stay sane 😊.

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