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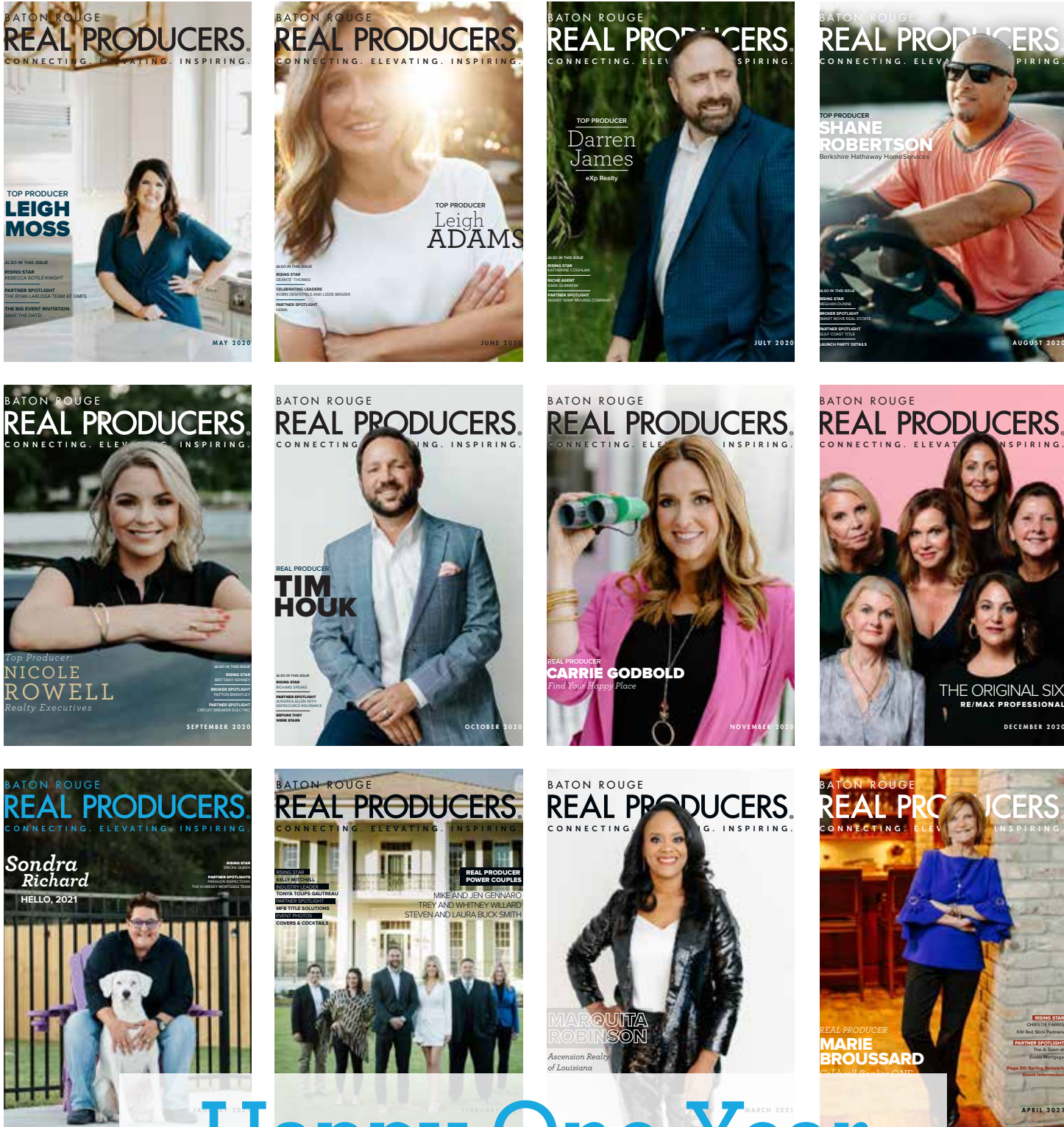
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Happy One-Year Anniversary,
Baton Rouge Real Producers

▶ publisher's note

By Gina Miller

The Mom in Me.



My Tribe: Ryan, Eli, Laken, John, Paige and Tatum, Me, Kurt, Hannah, Jordan. In front: Luke, Ella, Kurty.

I've met with over 150 local REALTORS® to date and have gotten to know so many of you and hear your stories and I'm better for having been here.

"This is our mom boss issue and seeing as I'm a mom...and a boss...I thought I'd let you know a little bit about me."

And who better to let you know who I am than my daughters?!

Paige, Laken and Hannah Kate.

If anyone knows me, and knows me well, it's them.

The Questions:

- Your first vivid memory of me
- What is a personal habit of mine
- What do you remember me cooking
- What makes me laugh
- What makes me cry
- What would I do if I won the lottery
- What do I do to make you feel loved
- Describe me in three words

The Answers:

Paige (30, married, two kids)
First vivid memory of you is hard to answer...for some reason I am drawn to think of events like you picking me

up from school and seeing you in the crowd at school events.

You cooked chicken nuggets, ranch-style beans and macaroni and cheese!

What makes you laugh? Let's be honest...I totally make you laugh. *(She really does.)*

Cry? I think you cry most when you question yourself...whether that be your past or potentials.

Lottery? You would totally take all of us on a dream vacation. We would make memories. I also think you would write a children's book and purchase a beach house somewhere.

I feel super loved when you do acts of kindness. I know that sounds silly but laundry, cleaning house, buying something simple that you know I will like, or playing with my hair. There is just something about a mom's touch. I appreciate those things because there is a lot of thought put into it and you are willing to give your time...that makes me feel loved.

Three words to describe you: Damn. Good. Mama.

Laken (28, one child, one on the way!)

It's hard to say...every memory you were there. My memory of you is just "present"...at all, doing all.

Your habit? Taking all the hot water for your baths!

You cooked taco soup, gumbo, rainbow beans...Ritz Chicken and I always remember your homemade gravy for breakfast that would be served in that white dish shaped like a cow. In high school, you made us Shiner Bock beer brownies...oh, and Lean Cuisines.

Cry? Driving away from us.

Lottery? Buy a lot of land and build all of us our own house so we could be close to one another. Your house would also have a long wooden farm-style table for family dinners that we're not allowed to miss...and probably buy cute shoes.

You go above and beyond for all three of us. If you had 3 dollars you'd find a way to give us 4 if we needed it...and in times I should have been ashamed you loved me even harder and I've never had to hide who I am in fear of losing your love.

Three words: Creative. Loving. Courageous.

Hannah Kate (24, married, no kids...yet)

My first vivid memory is whenever I fell asleep with gum in my mouth and I ran into your room around 4 am because gum was wrapped all around me, in my hair, EVERYWHERE. You put me in the bath and began to put mayonnaise and peanut butter in my hair, trying to get it all out...Not to forget that we are both halfway asleep...I remember apologizing so much and you said, "It's what I'm here for" and continued washing my gummy hair.

I honestly cannot think of any habits...that's a good thing, I guess! Maybe fixing every crooked thing on the wall or straightening a picture on the coffee table...but I think we all have that habit. OCD runs in our blood, I swear!

Taco soup and Ritz Chicken! Yum! Laugh? I think everything can give you a good laugh!

Distance makes you cry.

Lottery? You would give back to others...then purchase land somewhere and build houses for all of us. You would build your dream home with your dream kitchen and a porch... and of course purchase the prettiest porch swing! You would buy a new car and A LOT of shoes...You would give us the world.

You make me feel loved by simply being my mom...Your love. Your advice. Your courage. Your faith. Your endurance. Your passion. Just the thought of knowing that I am always loved, no matter what decisions I make, you will love me! I am just lucky enough to call you my mom and experience it!

Three words: Imaginative. Immaculate. Intelligent.

So there you have it...the me from the eyes that matter most to me.

Being a mom is a gift...We don't need the breakfast in bed or the flowers ...we don't need your oops-I-forgot last-minute trip to the nearest store.

Save it.

Can I get a witness?

Perhaps I'm just speaking for myself, but I know enough mom friends to vouch for this declaration...

All we really need is for you to know us and love us anyway.

Love, Gina, aka Damn. Good. Mama.

Happy Mother's Day to ALL the Moms!

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▶ team work

Ashley & Kim

Mom Friends. Mom Bosses.

Ashley Greer and Kim Day are the kinds of friends that finish each other's sentences and have entire conversations with just eyes and smiles. Together, alongside Cade Harris, they are co-owners of The Capital Home Team Group with Keller Williams Realty.

The two share a glance and giggle when asked how they met. They hit it

off immediately after meeting as dance moms, Ashley said, and the two have been raising their kids together as a tag-team ever since. Their husbands even share the same name – Jason.

Both have perfected the “I’m on the phone with a client” look – a glance strong enough to make a car full of five kids go silent instantly.

“It’s a challenge to raise kids as much as it is fun,” Ashley said.

Ashley’s daughters Madeleine and Abigail have grown up alongside Kim’s three children, Alexis, Gracie and Trace – the baby and only boy of the group. But their kids are not all that has grown up over the course of their friendship. Nine years ago, Ashley

“

Listen. Never make them feel uncomfortable talking to you.

KIM



convinced Kim to make the leap from paraprofessional in Special Education to REALTOR®. The two started the Greer-Day Group and never looked back. About four years ago, they met Cade Harris and The Capital Home Team took off, quickly evolving into four teams across two states.

“Sometimes it’s not a plan, you just run across the right opportunity at the right time,” Ashley said. “We ran across Cade at the right time, not necessarily looking for a third partner but he has talent that we couldn’t pass up.”

Then, another opportunity arose. Madeleine, Ashley’s daughter, joined the team and is helping develop the business in the Northshore and New Orleans areas.

“There was definitely a time in my life and hers, where we couldn’t go on vacation and not answer the





“
It’s a challenge to raise kids as much as it is fun.
ASHLEY

...

phone,” Ashley said. Because of their team, they are able to give back and take time for themselves more often. Recently, the two went to Cabo and did what they once thought impossible – left their phones in the room for an entire day at the beach.

The two share an incredible work ethic, fondness for sunny days spent on the beach and the same parenting philosophy. “Listen. Never make them feel uncomfortable talking to you,” Kim said.



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AMY DUPLESSIS

Guiding and Full of Light

Helping first-time homebuyers is a lot like parenting. It's one reason Amy Duplessis with Exp Realty loves that segment of her business and excels at it. She uses the same principles for her clients that she has perfected as a mother of three – listen carefully, guide gently and always be available to offer sound advice.

“Kind of like being a mom. You take them under your wing and explain everything,” Amy said. “It’s really like parenting. You’re guiding them and trying to give them the best advice that you can.”

Amy and Jason have three children, Jas, 27, and Ali and Aja, 25, who are all married and moved out. The former boutique owner retired about seven years ago, but retirement didn't stick.

“That lasted one month because I am not a stay-at-home person...I was talking to the dogs, and they weren't talking back,” she said, laughing.

She leads by example with her kids, clients and in her community, striving always to show kindness, be present and lend a helping hand.

“I hope people can see Christ in me,” she said.

The best way to be there for someone, especially your children, is to be present. The art of giving advice is one Amy has become an expert at, thanks to her kids. Say it once, maybe twice, then be present when they're willing to take you up on it. Her new granddaughter has renewed her appreciation for the simple act of being present. She and her husband Jason start their days snuggling Palmer, who is now four months old.

“We wake up at 6:30, hurry up and go to our daughter's house. We wake her up, give her a bottle, love on her, then come home and get dressed.”

It can be difficult to remain present in parenthood day-to-day, but Amy offers encouraging words for moms in the throws of all it takes to make it happen – don't sweat the small stuff.

“As moms, you're worried about the laundry, or supper or whatever...Laundry will always be there, but your child's first steps – that's once in a lifetime,” she said. “You need to just love on those kids because they grow and go, and you're left empty nested...talking to the dogs that don't talk back.”

Amy and her children, Jas, Aja and Ali



“I hope people can see Christ in me.”



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No one is perfect! Don't expect perfection, expect them to do their best! – **KAREN MOORE**

Just showing up is half the battle. – **RYN JONES**

Better be careful because that toe you're stepping on today is attached to the behind you'll be kissing tomorrow. So just be kind. – **JILL LEMOINE**

You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. – **NATAHA ENGLE**

It's not our job to judge people, live and let live, this too shall pass. – **STACEY BOUDREAUX**

Treat people the way you want to be treated, and always do your best. – **MICHELLE KNOBLOCH**

Love people, not things. Be a great steward of all the people God places in your life. That is how we show others God's love. And, that is how you would want someone to treat you. – **ALEX POLITO**

Be able to give your kids anything they want, then don't. – **KELLY TEMPLE**

Never let a broken heart stop you from loving people. – **ASHLEY GREER**



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MOM TO A MIRACLE

DANYALE

Thibodeaux

» rising star

By **Breanna Smith**
Photos by **Aaron Cox**

The journey to motherhood was not easy for Danyale Thibodeaux, but worth every moment. Miracles don't happen on our schedule. They happen at the best time.

After 15 years of waiting, praying and countless doctor visits, Danyale and her high school sweetheart Brian welcomed Anna Catherine into the world. Weighing a single pound and 11 inches long – shorter than a sheet of paper – their daughter faced seemingly insurmountable struggles.

...

...

“She’s fought from the first breath she’s taken, and she didn’t even know what she was fighting for,” Danyale said.

Danyale knew her life would change the moment she met Anna Catherine, but the prospect of a new career hadn’t yet crossed her mind. After 9 months in NICU and more than two dozen surgeries, Danyale was out of maternity leave and sick time. She had decisions to make for her family and left her 17-year career in the banking industry to trust that more miracles were on their way.

And where there is great love, there are miracles.

Danyale stayed by Anna Catherine’s side every day, through countless surgeries and providing around-the-clock care. At three-years-old, Anna Catherine’s health stabilized and with the help of her mother-in-law, a registered nurse, and another caregiver, Danyale began focusing on her career again.

In 2017, equipped with decades of experience in contracts, leasing, audits and customer service, Danyale found real estate.

“Anna Catherine was the driving force behind that leap of faith,” Danyale said without her, she would not be in this profession at all.

“It is a really great career to consider. It gives you so much flexibility to make sure you do not have to miss anything with your children so you are able to contribute financially to your family without the guilt of missing everything because you have a 9-to-5 job.”

Real estate can be all-consuming.

Danyale encourages others to breathe, and know they cannot fix all of the problems nor help everyone. “I have learned to simply say no.”



With less than four years in real estate, Danyale sits among the rankings of REALTORS® with years of knowledge and experience. She works at Craft Realty and she has the utmost respect from her friends, clients and peers within the real estate industry.

“Her heart and love for others shows in how she treats people. She has been through a lot and yet if she finds you have a need she will try to meet it. She is selfless,” said Alex Polito, Director of Business Development at Baton Rouge Title Company.

Taking time to nurture herself in between being a wife and mom and top producing REALTOR®, Danyale enjoys cooking, organizing, needlepoint projects and volunteering at OLOL Children’s Hospital. “I was selected to serve on the parent committee board by a couple of Anna Catherine’s doctors.”

Fertility may seem a taboo subject, but it’s a journey many people are walking. Danyale seeks to empower those struggling with the comforting reminder that someone else’s path is not your own.

“It’s important to only share that with people you want to share it with – you don’t have to give that to the whole world,” she said. “Don’t let others feed into what you should or shouldn’t do.”

The same goes for motherhood.

“Give yourself grace...I think sometimes we conform to other people and what their expectations are, and sometimes that’s just not our plan.”

“Don’t let others feed into what you should or shouldn’t do.”

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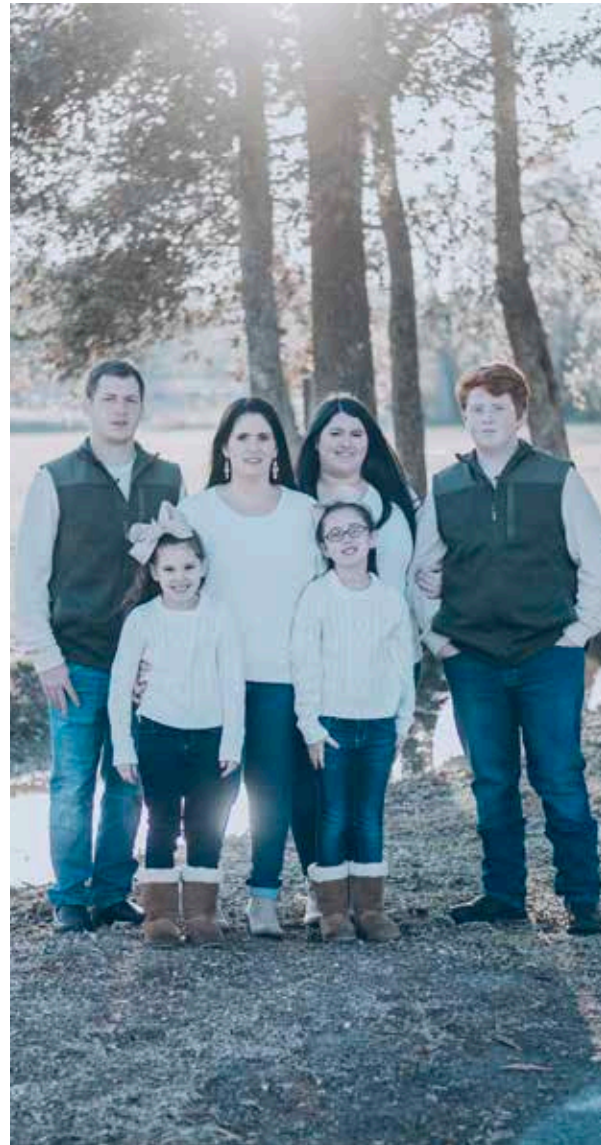
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LOVE
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LISA ZATTA



STEPPING UP

» broker spotlight

By Breanna Smith



Lisa's Family. Top Row: Dylan, Darin, Lisa, Rachel. Bottom Row: Morgan, Natalie, Mia, Allye

Children are near and dear to Lisa's heart - both her own and those she may never know. Lisa once served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for Abused and Neglected Children in Foster Care (CASA). In that role, she advocated as a neutral party on behalf of children in foster care. As she spent more time with them, she found it more and more difficult to be neutral as their needs and stories tugged on her heart, but as a neutral party there was nothing outside of the courtroom she could do to help. So she found a way. She has continued to work with CASA, now organizing the annual Christmas collections to give toys and much-needed items to children .

"Innocent children who have been dealt an unfair hand are my passion," she said. "I have my children participate as well so they can grow up learning to always help those that are in need."

Lisa, a Central native and former Paralegal, always wanted to work for herself. She owned a local boutique, but the hours were demanding. While running the store, she studied and earned her real estate license.

"Lots of prayer and the best, most understanding and loyal clients ever have made it possible, as well as having a fiance' that never hesitates to jump in and help out," she said.

Lisa Zatta is not afraid to step up to the plate. With three teenagers, a four-year-old, and two more in their 20s, for a total of six kids between her and her fiancé, Darin Pizzalato, there isn't much that can unnerve Lisa.

The Broker-Owner of Zatta Real Estate Group is calm under pressure, scheduled to a T, and proof that there is such thing as balance.

"It starts with running your schedule, so it doesn't run you," she said.

Lisa has always taken her schedule seriously, but a few years ago

when she took custody of her youngest, she knew it would become crucial. She was worried how it would work out, adding in a new set of activities and times to her schedule, but she stepped up to the plate anyway. Being a "sphere of influence REALTOR®" has been invaluable in making it work, she said.

"I have had the best clientele," she said. "Everybody accommodates my schedule, so it has really, really worked out - and she's been a blessing. I thought I was helping her, but the joy she brings has helped us both."

She's ranked in the top 15% of real estate agents within the Greater Baton Rouge MLS from 2015 to present, and was the top producing agent award recipient for two consecutive years before opening her own brokerage. But most importantly to her, she's shown her daughters that anything is possible with prayer, perseverance, and hard work.

"I have all girls so it's been crucial that I teach them the value of independence and standing up for what they believe in.

Prayer is powerful. Character and loyalty are invaluable. Loyalty is looking out for the ones we love, even when we may not feel like it."



Clonise STEWART

Loved & Accepted

From a decade-long career as an elementary school teacher to raising three children of her own, Clonise Stewart with Keller Williams Realty Red Stick Partners just gets kids.

Although it's hard to believe now, she was a sassy young lady who often found herself across from the principal's desk. Not being the perfect student made her the best teacher many of her students ever had.

"I knew I wanted to help them not get into trouble and be better, so I was so passionate about letting – especially troubled kids – know somebody loves you, somebody cares, and there's somebody that's going to help you get to the next grade."

She was the teacher that always had her student's backs, advocating on their behalf when they found themselves in that same seat across from the principal.

"I feel, especially for the younger ones that are so innocent, that they need someone to trust and to nurture them."

She still holds tight to that passion as a volunteer through Top Ladies of Distinction Inc., Nonpariel Chapter a nonprofit organization, serving as the Event Chair for the Hats on Fundraiser for Top Teens of America Scholarship funds and Chairperson of the Annual Christmas Toy Drive for kids in homeless shelters.

Clonise raised her children, Mark, 33, Isaiah, 27, Marnise, 23, and stepchildren, Marcus, 43, and Markisha, 40, with the same philosophy she used while teaching – **above all, make sure kids know they are loved.**

As preacher's kids, or PKs as she affectionately calls them, she knew they would feel pressure to be perfect, but she and her husband of 35 years, Mark Stewart, have made good on their promise that the pressure

would never come from them - only acceptance and love.

"We let them live and make their mistakes," she said. "The Bible tells us you should train up a child in the way he should go and when he grows old he will not depart from it. So we instilled the Word of God and trust in God that they'll make the right decisions."

Clonise's youngest Marnise works as her administrative manager and Mark and Isaiah have built businesses that often coincide with her real estate business. Mark is a graphic designer and photographer, and Isaiah owns a pressure washing company. They are a close-knit family, thanks to the peace in knowing they will always be loved and accepted.

"God will make a way. Without family to share the benefits of being successful, it all means nothing," she said. "My kids are my everything – we laugh, we talk, I just love the relationship that me and my kids have."

“Without family to share the benefits of being successful, it all means nothing.”



Clonise and daughter, Marnise, her Administrative Manager.



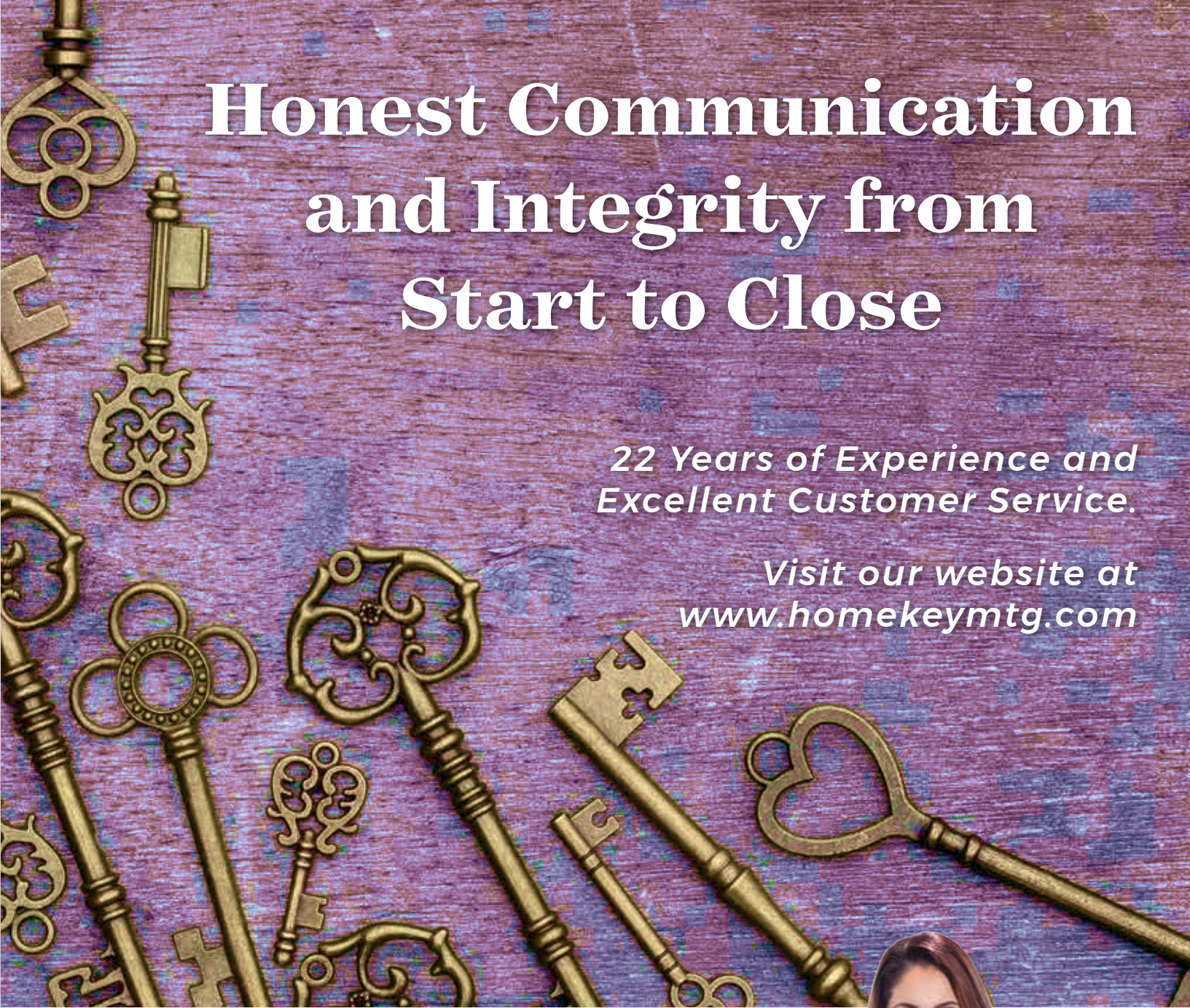
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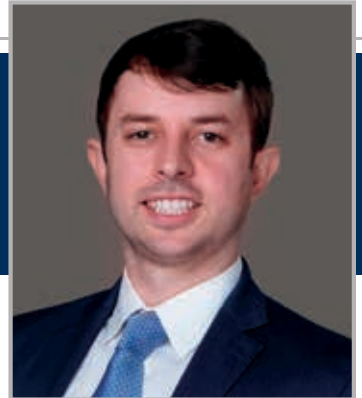
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