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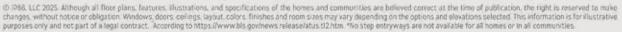


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Jenna Measroch

PROFILES



26 Kristen Skebe



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If you are interested in nominating people for certain stories, please email us at:ahutch@realproducersmag.com







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PASSIONATE. PURPOSEFUL. PERSISTENT.

BY ELIZABETH MCCABE • PHOTOS BY ALLIE SANTOS

"Enjoy each day as it is a gift from God. That's why 'today' is called 'the present."

If anyone knows how to persevere, it's Diane Tatum. She embraces each day with determination, using her grit and grace to overcome obstacles and turn challenges into opportunities.

"The same year I became a real estate agent, the country went into the Great Recession, which devastated many industries, including real estate and banking," Diane recalls. Despite the financial hardship, she refused to give up. "It was a difficult time, but we pulled together."

Her persistence paid off. Today, Diane is consistently recognized as one of the top real estate agents in Cobb County, with an impressive 16-year career, a total career volume of \$312 million, and a \$34 million sales volume last year alone.

A Strong Foundation for Success

Before stepping into real estate, Diane had a successful career as a merchant director for 15 Macy's stores. For years when travelling overseas for Macy's, she was an integral part of the development of private labels such as I.N.C., Charter Club, and Aeropostale, and orchestrated high-profile charity events, raising over \$500,000 per event for organizations like March of Dimes. Additionally, she cofounded "Women for Women," a charity providing financial assistance to women undergoing cancer treatment.

Diane's transition to real estate felt like a natural fit. "I always had a love for designing homes and was fascinated with the architecture of homes," she comments. She was also always interested in contract law. Her experiences at Macy's, along with my background in negotiations and remodeling properties, gave me the perfect foundation for a career in real estate," she explains.

Her passion for real estate may be in her DNA. Diane recently learned that her grandmother was the first woman hired in New York City's then all-male real estate industry to sell property, following her success in New York's first redevelopment project, Tudor City.

A Career Defined by Determination

Born and raised in Atlanta's Buckhead and Sandy Springs areas, Diane earned dual degrees in political science and business from the University of Georgia before attending law school. Her unique background equipped her with the negotiation skills and business acumen that set her apart in the competitive real estate industry.

Getting her license in the middle of the Great Recession wasn't easy, but Diane saw it as an opportunity. "Short sales and foreclosures were rampant, and people were struggling financially," she comments. Fortunately, Diane utilized her negotiating skills to help sellers and buyers navigate these difficult times. Her past clients continue to this day to help her build her business exponentially through their many referrals and repeat business.

Starting her real estate career at Keller Williams, she took every training course available and quickly rose to the top in her brokerage, earning numerous



awards, including the highest sales price every year, top five in the region, and top customer service accolades. In 2014, she joined Atlanta Communities, where she has been the #1 single agent in total sales volume for the past two years. Atlanta Communities management and agents makes it feel like she's at home, which is so important to Diane and her family. Her daughter Katie is her right-hand marketing arm and enjoys real estate alongside her mom too!

Passion, Family, and Giving Back

Diane's passion for helping people extends beyond real estate. "I love supporting Must Ministries for the homeless, Toys for Tots, Shriners' Hospital, and other charities," she shares. She also loves gardening and flowers. Through a charity event, she now has an official international camellia flower named after her: Camellia Japonica Lady Diane.

Family is at the heart of her life. Diane and her husband, Gregory, enjoy gardening, golf, music, and spending time with their beloved rescue dog, Levi. Their daughter, Katie, and her husband, Josh, frequently join them for fun family dinners and outdoor adventures with their dogs.

In her spare time, Diane is writing a trilogy of books about her life. "All my friends have always said, 'You need to be writing books about your life!" 66

I love supporting Must Ministries for the homeless, Toys for Tots, Shriners' Hospital, and other charities."





Taking their advice to heart, Diane is now putting her story on paper and hopes to impact others in the process with her stories of life.

A woman of faith, she has read the Bible twice now. "We love to have long talks over dinner with one of our closest friends, who is a Catholic priest," she smiles. "It's also very entertaining and informative!"



Trust your instincts about people and the direction you are going."

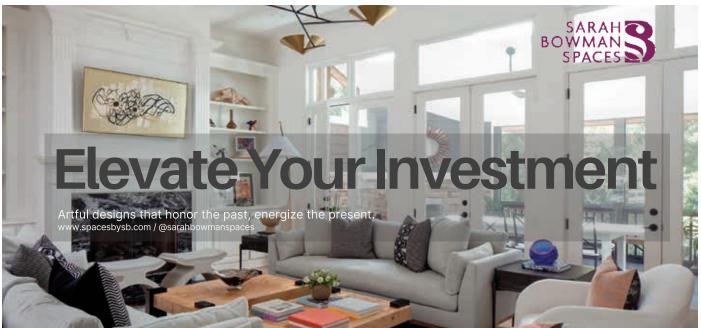
Words for Wisdom

With an incredible track record of success, Diane continues to inspire others. Here are her top tips for aspiring real estate agents: "Trust your instincts about people and the direction you are going. Always stay positive in your thoughts and believe in yourself and your goals in life. Most importantly, trust God's plans for you, even if you don't like it that day!"

She also emphasizes the importance of communication. "Answer your phone!" she laughs, sharing a story about how one answered call led to multiple transactions all closing in one day, even prompting someone in Atlanta Communities top management to joke that she had paid all the company's bills for the day!

With an unstoppable drive and a heart for service, Diane Tatum continues to make a lasting impact in real estate and beyond. Her story is one of perseverance, passion, and purpose – a true force to be reckoned within Atlanta real estate!







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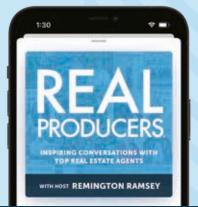
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EINIA MEASROCH

The Real Estate Problem Solver with a Heart for People

PHOTOS BY REGIS LAWSON

Jenna Measroch didn't always dream of selling houses, but life had other plans. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, she moved to Atlanta in August 2001 when she was just shy of 10 years old. The transition to the U.S. came with its challenges, but her family's determination for a better future instilled in her a strong work ethic. That same grit now fuels her real estate career, where she's known for her tenacity, resourcefulness, and genuine care for her clients.

A Journey from Recreation to Real Estate

Jenna took a detour before finding her true calling in real estate. She attended the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!) and majored in Recreation and Leisure Studies, intending to pursue graduate school to become a therapist or guidance counselor. But after working a summer at a preschool, fate nudged her in a different direction.

"Real estate sort of fell in my lap!" Jenna recalls. A sorority sister posted about an internship with a real estate agent, and it piqued her interest. "It sounded like a great opportunity—I interviewed for the position and did that for two years before deciding to get my license. The rest is history!"

A Brokerage That Became a Second Family

Originally, Jenna chose her brokerage by chance, but staying was an easy decision. "I stay because of the amazing people, successful agents, and leadership we have," she says. "A lot of the agents have become my good friends, and we've been through a lot of life's ups and downs together."

Her passion for the job is evident. For Jenna, real estate is more than just transactions—it's about problem-solving. "What gets me up every morning is not only my love for my clients but the thrill of being a 'problem solver.' I love finding solutions—whether it's pricing a home correctly, negotiating contracts, or overcoming unexpected hurdles."

A Miss Congeniality of Real Estate

When asked to describe herself, Jenna turned to two of her longtime mentors, who had no shortage of praise. Lisa Pinson, one of the founders of her office, said, "Your work ethic, commitment to your clients, and how much you care is unparalleled." Another mentor and co-founder of her office, Jennifer Barnes, added, "Your positivity, helpful demeanor, and resourcefulness in making things happen for your clients through your connections and influence is awesome. You are the Miss Congeniality of Real Estate"

Trends and Passion in the Market

Looking at the current market, Jenna sees schooldriven areas remaining highly sought after, with a return of more defined home layouts. "Open concepts are still in, but houses with more distinct spaces are making a comeback," she observes.

Her business is 100% referral-based, a testament to the relationships she builds with her clients. "Everyone I work with is either someone I know, someone referred to me by a past client, or a repeat client. That means everything to me."





A Life Beyond Real Estate

When she's not navigating contracts and negotiations, Jenna is traveling, spending time with friends, or cheering on UGA football. "I'm not a big sports girlie, but I love watching UGA games with my friends during football season!" she laughs.

Her family, who sacrificed everything to move to the U.S., remains her foundation. "My mom and dad, Sara and Alan, live in East Cobb, where I went to high school. My grandpa, Zellick, was a huge inspiration—he worked tirelessly to create a better life, and I'll look up to him forever."

She's also incredibly close with her sister, Leanne, who lives in Miami with her husband and two daughters. "Leanne helped me with my resume and interviews 10 years ago, and I still call her for advice—even though we're in completely different fields!"

Giving Back and Overcoming Challenges

Jenna's giving spirit extends beyond real estate. She has served on her office's Agent Leadership Council for five years, mentoring other agents and helping make financial, cultural, and big decisions to build a stronger office.

She's also passionate about Reclif, a nonprofit that empowers children with autism. "I was introduced to it through dear friends and clients. My incredible aunt has worked with children with autism her whole life, so supporting Reclif felt like a natural fit. I want to be more physically involved this year!"

Her ability to overcome challenges was on full display in a particularly tricky real estate transaction. "I listed a client's house, and we had multiple offers—everything was going smoothly... until we found out there was a sewer line running directly under the house, making it unsellable," she recalls. "I was determined to find a solution. I called the county, worked with our attorney, and explored every option. After a few months, we figured it out, and my clients sold their home! They just closed on their new one a few weeks ago."

The Advice She Lives By

When asked what advice she'd give to new agents, Jenna keeps it simple: "Care for your clients, not the compensation. Study the market, work diligently, and success will follow."

And if she weren't in real estate? "I think I'd love to be a radio show host or a news anchor!" she says

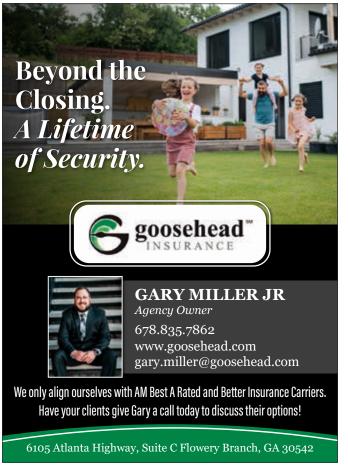


with a grin. Given her charm, enthusiasm, and gift for storytelling, she'd probably be a natural.

For now, though, she's right where she belongs—helping clients navigate one of the biggest decisions of their lives with heart, hustle, and a knack for finding solutions.









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Kriste Skebe

PHOTOS BY ALLIE SANTOS

Kristen Skebe didn't set out to be a real estate powerhouse. In fact, if you had asked her a decade ago, she would have told you she was perfectly content in front of a whiteboard, solving algebraic equations and helping teenagers navigate the complexities of high school mathematics. But life, as she quickly learned, had bigger plans.

"I initially got into real estate to make extra money," she admits with a laugh. "No one wants to admit that, but it's the truth! I needed a flexible job that I could do on weekends, and I thought, 'Why not?'"

What started as a side hustle quickly turned into a full-blown passion. "I found out that real estate is as much about educating and guiding as teaching is. My skills in organization, adaptability, patience, and determination translated perfectly."

Today, Skebe is not just a successful real estate professional—she's the Managing Broker at Engel & Völkers Atlanta, Sandy Springs Shop, a company she carefully chose for its global reach, commitment to collaboration, and strong brand identity. "What drew me to E&V wasn't just the world-class marketing—it was the culture. The people here genuinely support each other. It feels like a family, and that's the kind of environment where people thrive."

A Passion for People

Whether she's helping clients find their dream homes or mentoring the next generation of real estate professionals, Skebe's mission is the same: to create meaningful connections. "I genuinely care about the people around me," she says. "In a world where technology is trying to replace human interaction, I still believe in the power of face-to-face relationships.

I want every person who interacts with me to feel the authenticity behind my words and actions."

That belief extends to her leadership philosophy. "I love mentoring, supporting, and empowering advisors to reach their full potential. Seeing them succeed is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role."

Her transition into leadership wasn't without its challenges. Becoming one of the youngest managing brokers in Atlanta meant proving herself in a room full of industry veterans. "When my CEO, Christa, promoted me, I had to quickly establish my reputation among the best of the best. I realized that true leadership isn't about being the loudest voice in the room—it's about service. I had to understand what drives each advisor and create an environment where they could thrive."

Market Insights & Trends

As someone deeply embedded in the Atlanta real estate scene, Skebe has her finger on the pulse of the market. "Right now, we're seeing a mix of trends. Many buyers are holding out, waiting for potential interest rate changes and assessing the economic landscape. While prices are slowly increasing, homes are taking longer to sell—especially condos. Unless a home is in a highly desirable area, sellers are facing a buyer's market."



Despite the challenges, she remains optimistic.

"Spring and summer markets have been gaining momentum earlier each year, and our advisors are staying busy. The key is to stay adaptable."

Beyond Real Estate

When she's not leading her team or strategizing for the next big deal, Skebe enjoys the simple things in life. "I love going for walks, finding new coffee shops, watching sports, and spending time with my family and friends."

Speaking of family, she and her husband, who have been married for six years, live in Sandy Springs with their three-year-old son—and they have another little one on the way in July. "It's a crazy but wonderful time," she says with a smile.

An avid audiobook listener, she credits books like *Atomic Habits, Super Communicators*, and *Unreasonable Hospitality* for shaping her mindset. And if real estate wasn't her calling? "I'd go into politics and focus on education reform. I truly believe that knowledge is power, and our society needs to prioritize education at both the local and federal levels."

Giving Back & Taking Risks

One cause especially close to her heart is the Special Olympics. "It's amazing and inspiring to see how sports can change lives. Just last week, I took the plunge—literally! I jumped into Lake Acworth for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Our company was the top fundraising team for the fifth year in a row, raising over \$46,000."

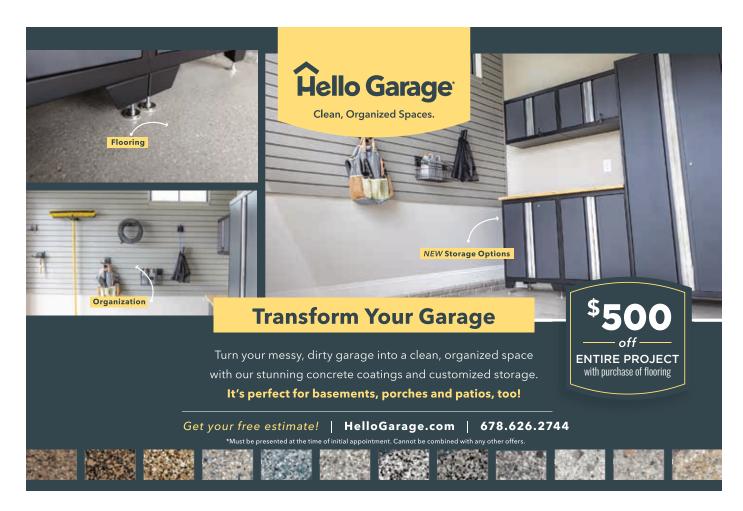
For those looking to follow in her footsteps, Skebe has one key piece of advice: "The only constant in this industry is change. Be adaptable, be innovative, and always put your clients first."

Her journey into real estate wasn't conventional, but it was certainly meant to be. "I took a huge leap of faith. I started in a brand-new area with no sphere, no friends, no family. At the same time, my husband left his stable career for a startup. It wasn't easy, but looking back, every challenge was worth it."

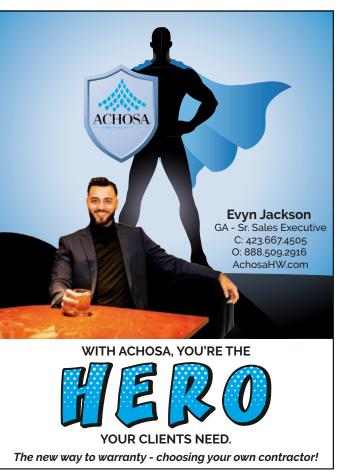
At the end of the day, success isn't just about numbers or awards—it's about impact. "The success of my advisors fuels me in ways I never expected. Watching them grow, overcome challenges, and achieve their goals pushes me to be a stronger leader, a better mom, a better wife, and a better friend.

"Real estate isn't just about homes. It's about people. It's about connections. And that's what truly drives me."



















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