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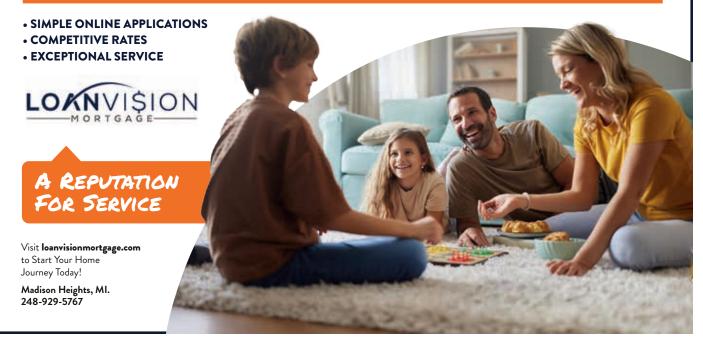


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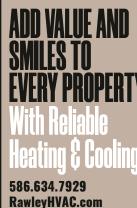
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Real Producers magazine started in Indianapolis in 2015 and is now in more than 130 markets across the nation.

#### **Q: WHO RECEIVES THE MAGAZINE?**

A: The top 300 real estate agents in Macomb County. We update our mailing list annually to ensure Real Producers reaches our area's top-producing agents

#### Q: WHAT IS REAL PRODUCERS ALL ABOUT?

A: Real Producers is a platform that brings together the most elite individuals and affiliates in Macomb County real estate. Every month we share stories of some of the area's most recognizable names in real estate, as well as the rising stars in the industry and the preferred partners that are highly recommended by top agents. Beyond the magazine, we host exclusive events that bring titans of real estate together.

#### **Q: HOW DO YOU GET FEATURED IN THIS MAGAZINE?**

A: You have to be on the top 500 list to be a featured agent. We welcome nominations for other real estate agents, businesses, brokers, owners, or yourself. Office leaders can also nominate real estate agents. Though we can't guarantee a feature, we strongly encourage you to meet our team and attend our private events so we can get to know your story.

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#### Q: WHO ARE THE PREFERRED PARTNERS SHOWN IN THE MAGAZINE AND AT EVENTS?

A: The businesses that sponsor the magazine and attend our events are some of the best vendors in Macomb County in their category. Find them listed in our index. We partner with businesses that top agents have recommended to us, so every single business you see in this publication has earned its "stamp of approval." Our team also vets every business to make sure they are a good fit and bring value to our powerhouse network.

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A: Yes, we would love to hear from you! Email your ideas to terra.csotty@n2co.com.





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# Nick DiStefano

Real Estate With a Side of Fun, Family, and Blue Hair

PHOTOS BY STYLISH DETROIT

A Clinton Township native with six years in the real estate industry, Nick DiStefano is redefining what it means to be an agent blue hair, music, and all.

For Nick, real estate is in his blood. His grandmother, Carol Vitale, was one of the first RE/MAX franchise owners in Michigan. "Out of high school, I needed a job," Nick said, laughing. He started as a receptionist at his grandmother's RE/MAX First office, but it wasn't a walk in the park. "She made me apply formally and interview. Needless to say, I was hired," Nick added.

After four and a half years and a college degree in music business, Nick found his next opportunity as an administrator with The Susan Vogel Team. "I loved the way they did business, and our personalities fed off each other's energy," he explained.



A year into that role, it hit him: He could do this, too. With encouragement from his mentors — including Susan Vogel and his grandmother — Nick got his real estate license. "I was kicked out of the nest and into full-time real estate," he joked.

Since then, Nick has racked up nearly \$24 million in career volume and secured spots in RE/MAX's 100% Club for 2022, 2023, and 2024. Last year, he was also recognized as the #20 agent at his brokerage, which proudly holds the title of the #1 RE/MAX in Michigan.

Despite his career achievements, Nick considers people to be the real rewards. "There are a lot of bad actors in this business — people who are unethical or just have bad attitudes," Nick said. "I feel like this business needs more professionalism, tact, and guidance as the industry gets more complicated."

Real estate might be Nick's profession, but music is still very much a part of his life. He's a songwriter and musician, balancing the demands of being an agent with his creative pursuits. "Real estate gives me the freedom to tailor my schedule to my many hobbies," he shared. This flexibility is crucial, especially when his band heads out for weekend tours. "I don't need PTO — I just rely on some colleagues if I have a showing," he said.

Beyond music, Nick is an avid fan of board games, video games, martial arts, and history. He's particularly passionate about historic homes, a niche that has become a cornerstone of his business. "I love historic homes, and I'm uniquely qualified in marketing them!" he said.

Nick's love for history extends into his personal life as well. He serves on the Mount Clemens Historical Commission, where he works to preserve local heritage. While his charitable giving might be modest — he donates to the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation through RE/MAX — his civic engagement speaks volumes about his dedication to his community.

Nick's home life is as vibrant as his

professional one. He recently married his wife, Hannah, whom he calls "the sweetest, kindest person I know." The couple met at RE/MAX when they were both receptionists, and after nine years together, Hannah now serves as Nick's full-time executive assistant. Together, they share a home with their dog, Max, and cat, Saria. "Max wears his heart on his sleeve and loves to cuddle while we watch our favorite shows," Nick said. As for Saria, she's "a menace," but still loved.

The couple enjoys unwinding with board games, video games, and quality time with their pets — simple pleasures that help Nick stay grounded. "Being a spouse to an agent who is always on the move isn't easy, and she has been more than understanding through our relationship," he said.

Despite his current success in real estate, Nick admits that getting his start wasn't easy. "At 24, it was really tough to convince people that I would be the best person to be their real estate expert," he recalled. His blue hair didn't exactly scream "traditional agent," either. Over



**"THERE ARE A LOT OF BAD ACTORS IN THIS BUSINESS – PEOPLE WHO ARE UNETHICAL** OR JUST HAVE BAD ATTITUDES," NICK SAID. **"I FEEL LIKE THIS BUSINESS NEEDS MORE PROFESSIONALISM, TACT, AND GUIDANCE AS** THE INDUSTRY GETS MORE COMPLICATED."





time, however, Nick's experience and dedication spoke for themselves. "Nobody questions that now," Nick added. "Even with my dyed-blue hair!"

Nick defines success as a person accomplishing what they set out to do and doing it well, but he emphasizes that the journey is just as important as the destination. "This is a business that requires serious knowledge and professionalism, but that doesn't mean we can't be kind to each other and have fun," he said. His lighthearted approach is balanced by a deep commitment to his clients. "As a guide for your clients, you need to be the calm in the storm," he explained.

Nick credits much of his success to his dedication to relationships. "There's no such thing as a past client," he said. "You are your clients' real estate expert for life if you do this business correctly."

If there's one message Nick wants to leave with aspiring agents and clients alike, it's this: Be authentic. "You have to be authentic to yourself and who you are," he said. "This is a people business, and if you're trying to put on a face when talking to people, they'll see right through you."

According to Nick, authenticity and standing out from the crowd are essential to building meaningful connections and lasting success. He embraces the words of Dr. Seuss: "Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"

For Nick, the sky's the limit. He also draws inspiration from Henry Ford's quote: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right." After all, if a 30-year-old with blue hair can make six figures, anyone can — if they're willing to put in the work and stay true to themselves.

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ACS Roofing was founded four years ago by David Kuczynski, a seasoned professional with a rich background in sales and management. The president of ACS Roofing, he had an ambitious vision to provide top-notch roofing services at prices that wouldn't break the bank. "I saw competitors charging exorbitant prices, and I knew there had to be a better way," he explained. His determination to offer affordable solutions without compromising on quality has been the driving force behind the company's success.

ACS Roofing's customer-first approach has propelled it to impressive heights, making it the fastest-growing roofing company in southeast Michigan. ACS Roofing has seen a remarkable 30% year-over-year growth and experienced an impressive 100% expansion in 2024, thanks to its growing

commercial division, an expanded fleet of company vehicles, and a strengthened sales team. Its motto — "Building relationships one roof at a time" — reflects its determination to not only complete projects but also foster meaningful relationships with clients.

ACS Roofing offers comprehensive exterior renovations, including gutters, siding, soffit, fascia, and metal trim work. The team's willingness to take on repairs that competitors often avoid sets them apart in the industry. "We stand by our warranty work and always make things right," David said. This commitment to customer satisfaction has earned ACS Roofing a perfect 5.0 rating from clients, a testament to their dedication to quality and service.

ACS Roofing's dedication to going the extra mile is further exemplified by their ability to provide roof inspection letters for mortgage companies. "We can even wait until closing to receive funds for a project if a contract is in place with the seller and an addendum is created," David said. This flexibility ensures clients receive top-tier service, customized to their unique needs.







When it comes to real estate, David acknowledges the challenges posed by rising labor and material costs — but he still continues to maintain affordable prices for clients. "We work better deals with suppliers and sometimes absorb some of the costs ourselves," he explained. This proactive approach also strengthens relationships with suppliers, guaranteeing a steady supply of quality materials.

For David, the most fulfilling Outside of work, David aspect of his work is the cherishes time spent with positive feedback from his daughter, traveling and satisfied customers. "When playing softball together. clients tell me how happy This work-life balance they are that they chose us, contributes to his holistic give us a good review, and view of success and shapes mention that we saved them his business practices. By money — that's what it's prioritizing family and all about," he said. Happy customers fuel David's passion for the business and drive him to continually improve and innovate.





When clients tell me how happy they are that they chose us, give us a good review, and mention that we saved them money that's what it's all about."

personal well-being, he ensures that his professional life is equally rewarding and fulfilling.

David aims to leave a legacy built on honesty and integrity, and on being a good father. These personal values infuse every aspect of ACS Roofing's operations, creating a business that not only excels in exterior renovations but also in building lasting relationships with clients and the community. His vision is to create a company that stands the test of time. known for its ethical practices and commitment to excellence.

Top-producing real estate professionals seeking a dependable partner in exterior home renovations will find ACS Roofing to be a top choice, offering quality, affordability, and exceptional customer service. With their comprehensive approach to exterior work and willingness to go above and beyond, they're proving that success in the industry isn't just about the bottom line — it's about making a positive impact, one roof at a time. Their dedication to excellence and customer satisfaction makes them a preferred choice for those seeking reliable and highquality renovation services.

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What's one book that changed the way you see the world?



Nick DiStefano

**RE/MAX** First

The Bible

"Essentialism: The Disciplined

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"Mind Magic" by James R. Doty

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#### From Investor to Industry Leader

PHOTOS BY GINA DINVERNO PHOTOGRAPHY

commitment to real estate. As the owner and team leader of The Monzo Group at Keller Williams, he has cultivated a team known for its dynamic agents, collaborative spirit, and consistent success. From his early days as an investor to

Erick Monzo has built a thriving

career driven by his passion and

becoming a respected leader, Erick remains dedicated to his team, clients, and the real estate profession.

For Erick, his affinity for real estate was nurtured at a young age. "Both of my grandparents were agents at one time, so when I was younger, I always knew I wanted to do some





type of real estate," he said. When Erick was just 19 years old — and after a nudge from his father — he invested his savings into his first rental property in 1999. This early venture laid the groundwork for a flourishing career.

Before his real estate career, Erick thrived in the IT sector, where he sold hardware, software, and services to major companies in Metro Detroit. In the late '90s, the IT margins dwindled, and he began to consider other career options. "CompUSA, the company I worked at, wanted me to move to Texas," Erick explained. "I asked myself, 'why am I making 7% of \$20,000- and \$30,000-computer purchases when I could be making 3% and 6% of a much higher transaction size?" This realization, combined with his desire for passive income and true freedom, propelled him into the real estate arena.

Erick obtained his real estate license in 2004, and ever since then, his trajectory has been meteoric. He has achieved a staggering career volume of \$1.2 billion after over two decades in the industry, with \$170 million in the past year alone. His accolades are also numerous, which include being the #1 Keller Williams group for sold homes in the country and the #1 group in Michigan for actual sold homes by the Wall Street Journal and RealTrends **S** for five years in a row.

As the owner and team leader of The Monzo Group, Erick has cultivated a formidable team of over 100 agents that sells more than 1,000 units annually. "Our team protects, motivates, and feeds together," he said proudly. "They are ferociously loyal and quick-witted, and help each other in a time of need."

Erick is deeply committed to educating both his agents and investors. "Our mission statement is, 'Investing knowledge in people as they invest their future in real estate," he shared. This dedication is evident in the myriad of events he organizes — from



#### "SOME PEOPLE LOOK FORWARD TO RETIRING," HE EXPLAINED. "I WILL USE MY SKILLS TO HELP OUR TEAM UNTIL THEY PUT ME IN THE GROUND."

annual boat days and wine tastings to monthly investor meetings and community outreach programs.

Erick also has a philanthropic spirit. The Monzo Group has supported many charities — such as YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and Reunite The Fight — through their monthly investor meetings in Mount Clemens. In addition, Erick founded the "Miracle on Monzo Street" charity, which provides assistance to families in need during the holiday season. "If you don't give, you don't deserve to receive," he said. Erick attributes much of his drive to his upbringing. He was raised in Michigan and had brief stints in Tennessee, but he remains rooted in strong family values. "Being disrupted my senior year in high school gave me the strength to stand on my own two feet," he said.

Erick's deep connection to family is evident not only in his personal life but also in his professional one. He relies heavily on his close-knit family, including his three brothers — Aaron, Regan, and Adam — as well as his aunt Carol and sister-in-law Sarah, all of whom work at The Monzo Group.

Today, Erick cherishes time with his wife, Michelle — a school teacher at Immanuel Lutheran and their two children, Madison and Mason. Weekends are often spent at the rink, supporting their kids' passion for travel hockey.



Photo submitted by Erick Monzo

While many view retirement as the ultimate goal, Erick has his sights on setting a legacy. "Some people look forward to retiring," he explained. "I will use my skills to help our team until they put me in the ground." His dream is to pass the business to the next generation, envisioning his children working alongside the children of his current team members. For those entering the real estate industry, Erick recommends that they find their passion and niche within the field. His journey, marked by a deep commitment to others, exemplifies how dedication and the right support system — like the one found at The Monzo Group — can lead to unparalleled success.

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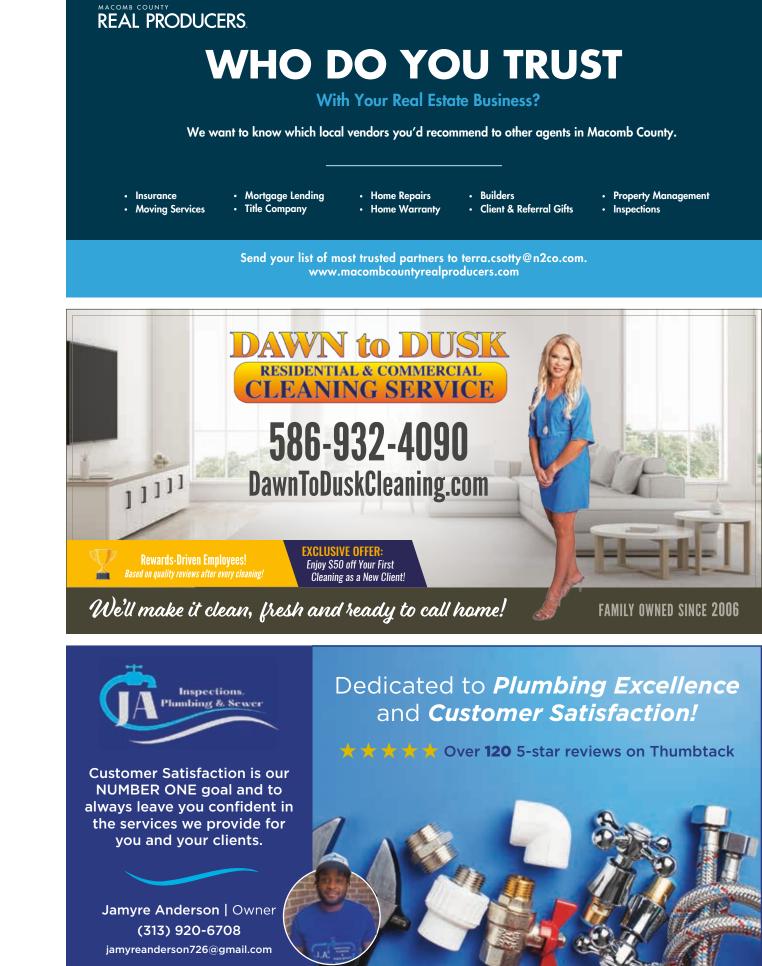
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"One of my favorite memories was lunching with Darla and talking about the 'what's next.' She was open, bold and very sure of herself. Loved having our conversations!" - Johnna Struck

"I met Darla about 10 years ago when I had a client who wanted to do a quick flip of a Bloomfield property. Darla was such a valuable resource and helped us with contractors and gave wonderful advice about what needed to be done and what to avoid. She was so passionate and knowledgeable about her business. As we worked through the project, I learned what a wonderful, kind, and smart individual Darla was. I have a deep respect and admiration for her." - Rob H.

"Darla is a truly gifted artist when it comes to staging. Her tastes are reflective of the times, and often times, buyers want to buy her stuff because it is so great. She is always there to help, too." - Gwen Schultz

"I will miss her smiling face, and she really had the knack for making you feel like you were her most important client. I love that we connected through Women Build as well — all the great memories will not be forgotten." - Jennifer Zardus

"I loved that she got into boating. We met a couple of times on Lake St. Clair, rafting our boats together. She really enjoyed being on the water." - Melinda Nagler

"We are heartbroken to learn of the passing of Darla Hunter Rowley. Darla was not only a valued Preferred Partner of the Women's Council but also a true advocate for women in real estate and a generous supporter of our mission. She once received our Partner of the Year award — just one reflection of the impact she made on our board and members over the years. Darla's passion, warmth, and leadership left a mark on all of us. Her legacy lives on through the incredible team at Impact Home Staging Experts, and she will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and everyone at Impact during this time." - Women's Council of **REALTORS®** Birmingham-Bloomfield





Darla was featured in our publication for writing a book about home staging.

"I had the privilege of working closely with Darla for many years, where she served as my mentor. For the better part of two years (2021-2023), she was my constant guide, shaping me into the person I am today. That time being by her side — learning, growing, getting on each other's nerves, drinking too much at the airport, and simply being present — are deeply etched into my heart forever. She saw potential in me that I couldn't see in myself and nurtured it with infectious energy. Even in her hardest hours and difficult moments, I was honored to be there







to offer a hand and to share those times together. What a privilege it was to offer support. The gratitude I feel is immeasurable that words can barely touch." - Tina Stratton

"From the very beginning, Darla believed in Real Producers when we launched our publication seven years ago. It was truly a joy to be in her presence — her confidence, determination, and strength were incredibly inspiring. She will be deeply missed by so many. Our thoughts are with the entire Impact Home Staging team and her family during this time." - Chris & Terra Csotty



## **BY THE** NUMBERS

#### HERE'S WHAT THE TOP AGENTS IN MACOMB COUNTY SOLD IN 2024



## [\$2,497,874,124] SALE VOLUME



[7,720] TOTAL TRANSACTIONS



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[26] **AVERAGE TRANSACTIONS** PER AGENT

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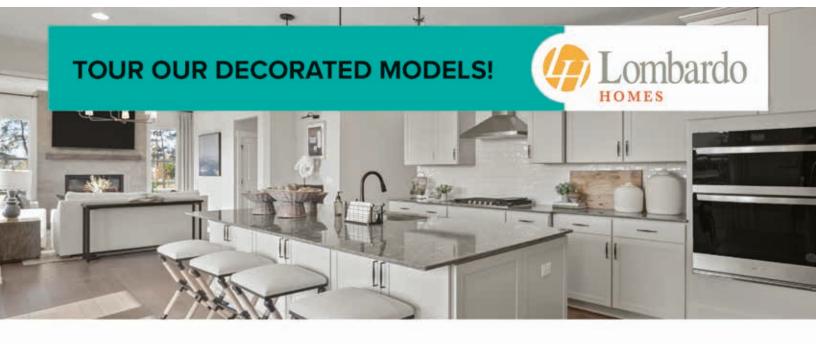








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