

# NORTH VALPO

NEIGHBORS

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# Troon's Irving Family BE KIND

Cover photo by Angie Januchowski, Aspen Studios

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Troon's  
Irving Family

BE KIND

■ BY CHERYL WOOTEN-WILCOX

PHOTOS BY ANGIE JANUCHOWSKI, ASPEN STUDIOS AND PROVIDED BY THE FAMILY

Whether it's offering help, sharing skills with others or listening when someone is

having a hard time, kindness is a positive way to help make someone else's day a little better. Practicing kindness is a hallmark of the Irving family. Because as Tiffany says, "There's enough negativity, sadness, sickness, bullying, and hate out there. So, we tell our kids and remind ourselves often to be kind. You never know what someone else may be going through." It's a motto that's made a difference in the lives of others, but also in their own lives.

Tiffany and her family are active volunteers and donors in the community. A longtime member of the Women's Fund of Porter County through the Porter County Community Foundation, Tiffany is also a board member of the Caring Place, a Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce member, and sits on the Troon POA board. "We have always felt it's important to give back and to support the community where we live," she explains. Zoe (20) a lover of cats, often dropped off donations at the Independent Cat Society when she was younger. Now, she works at the Society during the summer when she's home from college. Jorie (18) shares a passion for the Caring Place and volunteered on the youth task

force of the Amanda Forum, raising awareness about teen dating violence and helping to educate teens on safe relationships.

Jeremy and Tiffany grew up in Crown Point and became high school sweethearts. Both graduated from Crown Point High School, although three years apart. "Jeremy and my brother were friends and that's how we met," says Tiffany. The couple were married in 1998 at Meyer's Castle in Dyer, IN and celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary this past June.

While Jeremy worked in retail management, Tiffany began her schooling at DePaul University, graduating with a finance degree. She went on to complete her MBA through the University of Phoenix. For the last 25 years, she has been in the wealth management industry, managing client assets and providing financial advice to families and non-profit organizations. "I really enjoy helping my clients reach their financial goals through careful planning and sound investment decisions," she says. "I'm also passionate about helping women—caregivers, widows, divorcees, business owners, etc.



DISNEY WORLD OCTOBER 2023.



Growing up in a male dominated industry, I realized that advisors were always talking to the men and the women were often overlooked. It really bothered me, and I wanted to focus on financial education and empowerment for everyone. Women make important financial decisions, we are caretakers, we work, we own businesses, we invest. Don't assume we are not the decision maker." Tiffany is a senior vice-president and wealth advisor at Mesirow. She is also a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners and holds the CFP® certification and CEPA® designation.

Six years into their marriage and at the birth of their first child, Zoe, Jeremy and Tiffany made the decision for Jeremy to be a stay-at-home dad. He's been the family COO ever since. "When you're in your 20's, you don't think you'll be a stay-at-home dad, but we decided if it was possible, one of us would stay home while the other would work," says Jeremy. "I didn't comprehend it would be me, but honestly, it's been a blessing. I get to attend all their school and sporting events. When the girls were young, I was often the only dad there. Being a stay-at-home parent has its challenges, but this has truly been my calling. I wouldn't have it any other way." His days are filled with household chores, grocery shopping, meal planning, pool maintenance, gardening, cooking, taxi driving, helping with homework, prepping for the girls' exodus to college, and taking care of

the family's clowder of cats. "His relationship with our kids is so beautiful. He is our rock, our foundation, and his love and unending support means everything," Tiffany says.

Zoe (20) graduated from Andean High School and now attends Illinois State University where she is majoring in musical theater. "My goal is to perform in live theater. There's nothing like it and every show is different," she shares enthusiastically. "I love musicals where I can sing, dance and act. I can see myself working in a big city like New York, hopefully on Broadway, but I'd be happy just working somewhere in the industry." Zoe has performed at Chicago Street Theatre and was involved with Regional Performing Arts over the years. In addition to community shows, Zoe was involved in competitive theatre through the Indiana Thespians chapter of the International Thespian Society where she won several accolades at the local, state, and national levels. She is also a resident advisor in her dorm and loves making her fine arts floor fun for the incoming freshman. "I host game nights, movie nights, and every month we have a theme. The first one will be Making Your Broadway Debut."

Jorie (18) graduated from Valparaiso High School in May. An exceptional athlete, she spent most of her time in high school either in the pool or on the track. As a new freshman at the University of Illinois Chicago, Jorie will



TRIP TO ASHEVILLE, NC WITH JORIE, 2024.

be studying kinesiology and running Division I track. Although she swam competitively for 13 years, running is also one of her passions, something she's done since she was little. She ultimately chose to run because of her positive experiences with her team the past few years. "What I liked about the opportunity at UIC was their track program and the coach," she shares. "It was everything I was looking for in a team and in a coach. I could see all the best parts of my high school coaches in my new coach." Jorie dreams of owning her own gym and becoming a personal trainer to assist athletes in performance improvement.

Isaac (8) is an answer to his sister's prayer. "When Zoe was 11, she asked Santa for only one thing—a little brother," the family recalls. "While Santa couldn't deliver on Christmas Day, Isaac did arrive the next July." Now in third grade, Isaac attends St. Paul Catholic School where his sisters were also students. He enjoys all things gaming, especially Minecraft and PvZ (Plants vs. Zombies). Through Valpo Parks he's played soccer and baseball and taken ice skating lessons, but soccer seems to be his favorite sport so far. During summers, he enjoys the Rodgers-Lakewood Park camp and Camp



THE FAMILY ATTENDS ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (2021).





#### NYC TRIP WITH ZOE IN 2022.

Funset at Sunset Hill. "We do archery, make slime, and we got to dunk the counselors in the dunk tank!"

Not to be left out are the family's four cats: Midnight, Simon, Loki, and Pumpkin. Zoe also has Goose who lives with her in the dorm and comes home from college each summer.

The Irvings live in Troon and appreciate its friendly neighbors, beauty and quietness. They enjoy family walks, runs, and bike rides; and during the summer, they can hear the sounds of Sunset Hill Farm's music festivals and the laughter of children from nearby Camp Lawrence. Wildlife abounds in Troon with frequent sightings of deer, turkey, sand hill cranes, geese, ducks, turtles, and salamanders. There are also wild black raspberries growing nearby which Zoe makes into jam.

Jeremy is an avid reader and usually has three or four books going at the same time. He roots for the Cubs, and it was a dream come true when they won the World Series in 2016. He and Tiffany enjoy gardening—Jeremy vegetable and Tiffany flower—and they both enjoy hiking and spending time together as a family. Family movie nights are a must and recently they watched *Sharknado 2* at night in the pool. "Our parents are our best friends," says Jorie. "We spend a lot of time together. And even from college, we facetime them for family dinners. We have a really strong bond."

The family takes an annual vacation, but all agree that Disney World is their favorite

destination. Last October, they enjoyed the Boo to You Halloween celebration and parade at Magic Kingdom. In addition, they began a tradition for celebrating high school graduations. "Instead of having a big open house, Jeremy and I took Zoe to New York City to see Broadway shows," says Tiffany. "This summer we took Jorie to Asheville, North Carolina to white water raft and hike. It will be interesting to see what Isaac chooses."

The Irvings are parishioners at St. Paul Catholic Church and believe that love and kindness are never wasted. Being first generation college graduates, Tiffany and Jeremy wanted to give their children and others more opportunities than they had. As Tiffany says, "It's important that we give back—through work, family, charitable and community endeavors." Because kindness is a gift that everyone can afford to give.

#### DO YOU KNOW A NEIGHBOR WHO HAS A STORY TO SHARE?

NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR TO BE FEATURED IN ONE OF OUR UPCOMING ISSUES! CONTACT US AT [CWOOTEN@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM](mailto:CWOOTEN@BESTVERSIONMEDIA.COM).

Mesirow

## Your family, your future, your plan

Every family's unique. Your financial plan should be too.

As a longtime Northwest Indiana resident, Tiffany brings 25+ years of wealth management to understand local families' challenges. Through personalized planning and proven strategies, she'll help you build a path to your goals.

Backed by Mesirow's Global Investment Management and local commitment, we put your family's future first. Let us help your family achieve your dreams.

**Tiffany Irving, CFP®, CEPA®**  
Senior Vice President, Wealth Advisor  
Mesirow Wealth Management

[tiffany.irving@mesirow.com](mailto:tiffany.irving@mesirow.com)  
312.595.8130

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# ART BLITZ

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