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PROFILE PERSON: KRISTIN DEMOS

The champion of community volunteers opens up about life, love and food

By Rachel Haglar • June 2, 2011

Recently, I sat down with Kristin Demos in the home she shares with her husband Peter and two children, Jamey (8) and Karys (6), on a dreary days when all you want to do is get cozy on a couch and chat with a friend: I hoped to be able to do just that. Demos has one of those magnetic personalities that everyone is drawn to—she loves to laugh and instantly makes you feel you’ve known her for years.

Right now, this dynamic community volunteer is gearing up for one of the most important events of the year: The Child Advocacy Center’s annual Duck Derby, for which she serves as “Queen of Quackers”—encouraging local residents to adopt rubber ducks, all for the sake of helping abused children who badly need assistance. Thousands of adopted “quakers” will float merrily down the Stones River, and Demos will be there, cheering them along—and knowing that those innocent rubber ducks make a dramatic difference in the lives of children.

What do you think makes you “you?” You know, I’m a happy girl. I love to laugh—mostly at myself. I’m very easily amused. I think it’s hilarious when my husband trips or my kids say something silly. I am quirky: I love pigs, boots, mascara and that same quirkiness probably explains my love for rubber ducks.

Every year, you devote your time to being the Duck Derby’s “Queen of Quackers.” What drives you to do that? I absolutely love where we live. I truly believe that the health of any community is based on the least fortunate and the services they are able to receive. Child Advocacy Center means so much to me, because I have children, and I couldn’t imagine going through [physical and/or sexual abuse]. With every duck we sell, there’s one more family that we are able to provide a place of hope and security for—a safe place.

Many people associate the Demos family with great food, thanks to Demos Restaurants. What would you say was your most memorable meal? I have many. I remember the night after our wedding, Peter took me to 101st Airborne, reminiscent of our first real date. We were still so giddy and nervous that we couldn’t eat anything. The food just sat in front of us as we drank our wine. I remember thinking “Oh my goodness, we just paid so much for food that we can’t event eat!” It was hilarious.

This year, Peter took me to Miami to fulfill one of my dreams—watching the Dolphins play in their home stadium. We went to this restaurant that was just amazing, you had to book it a month in advance. We sat outside, and he tried to impress me, telling me movie stars ate there. I just wanted to know what dessert they had. I had a great chocolate soufflé—which leads me into another funny story: My craziest meal was probably when we went on a cruise with the restaurant. I’d never had chocolate soufflé before, and I loved it so much I ate five. I ended up getting sick. But to this day, I obviously still enjoy it.

How did you meet Peter? I worked at Demos’ in college and his mom and sister were very insistent that I meet him. He had a girlfriend, I had a boyfriend, and this went on for a while. He moved back from Kansas City, where he’d attended law school, and one night the Demos’ were gone—so things were a little more laid back. Then



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Peter showed up, and everyone groaned. He sat in my section and I said, “I don’t need your help. You can just go on over there. I think they need you.”

He said, “Really?”

I said, “Yeah, seriously, get out of my section.”

We argued all night. He got my number off the server’s schedule and called me. I hung up on him—I didn’t give him my number! But after that night we started talking, and four months later we were engaged.

I’m very inspired by how you incorporate so much into your life: Mother, wife, social media director of Demos’, and community volunteer. It’s a lot, but you do it with so much enthusiasm. What’s one great life lesson you’ve learned? I have three. 1) Absolutely always be yourself in all situations. 2) Always be confident in yourself, your abilities and your God-given talents. 3) Always remember people are just people. I believe deep down inside all anyone really wants is to be loved and accepted for who they are. This helps me stay at ease in new situations or when meeting new people, and hopefully, because of that I help make others feel comfortable as well.

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