

In Your Backyard

By Liz Holzemer



Life Publications is launching a new feature called *In Your Backyard*.

Each month, Liz Holzemer will pound the pavement in search of those people we most want to know about: people living in our communities. Whether it's the local grocery clerk who offers great customer service or your child's teacher who does that something extra special after hours, don't hesitate to contact Liz with your excellent story suggestion. Let's give credit where credit is due. Who knows, you may be featured in an upcoming issue.

To kick off our debut feature, we start with our very own publishers, Brian and Teresa Gomen. Brian and Teresa recently celebrated a momentous milestone—Life Publications' one-year anniversary. So how do the husband and wife team manage working side by side, meeting deadlines and raising two young boys and a darling chocolate lab, Brandy, to boot? Let's find out.

What do you love most about your job?

Brian: That I am constantly meeting new people, and that everything I do through the magazine, I am able to portray in a positive light. I spent one year as an account rep. back in Kansas City, Mo., where I spent the last of my school years; I had all the lousy categories, and that didn't last long.

Teresa: Everyone thinks I work in the mountains, but I really work from home. My full-time position with Vail Resorts does let me, Brian, the boys escape from time to time. In just over an hour, we can hike, bike and ski!

Last movie you saw?

Brian: (long pause before answering) Some sort of G-rated kids' movie!

Teresa: (calls out to their 6-year-old son, Andrew), he replies *Ice Age: The Meltdown*. At least one of us remembered.

What do you wish you had more time for?

Brian: Wow! I wish I had more free time with my family. I can't complain, but I'd love to have more time to do nothing and just hang out together. There's never enough camping time.

Teresa: I couldn't agree more. I'm lucky to be home with my boys and work from home, but it never seems to be enough.

Describe your dream vacation.

Brian: To stay on a tropical island where I can golf, fish and scuba dive all day.

Teresa: Tropical island, but with Brian compromising: he'd only dive a few days. I prefer to stay above water.

If you could have dinner with any celebrity, who and why?

Brian: Phil Mickelson. I met him a couple times many years ago when I was a golf pro at the Arizona Country Club. I'd love to pick his brain about golf. I wouldn't mind meeting Matthew McConaughey because I think he would be the coolest guy to hang out with and get his point of view on life.

Teresa: Oprah. She always comes across as down to earth and incredibly real. And who knows, maybe she'd like to be profiled in our magazine.

What makes you tick?

Brian: Knowing that every day I have the opportunity to be a successful entrepreneur and that the opportunity is there to make it or break it.

Teresa: My family. It's all about family for me.

Who has had the greatest influence on you?

Brian: It's not so much influence, but support, and that would have to be Teresa.

Teresa: My dad who passed away seventeen years ago. I grew up in a big tight-knit family, and it was tough losing him.

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