

Neighbors of GLEN ELLYN

NOVEMBER 2022

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Meet
Tracie Marie

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY FELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY

BVM
Best Version Media

CELEBRATING
15
YEARS
ESTABLISHED 2007



Meet Tracie Marie

STORY BY TINA MORNA FREITAS, WHEATON RESIDENT

PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY FELTEN PHOTOGRAPHY



When Tracie Marie was growing up with her two sisters, Nichol and Shari, their parents instilled a sense of wonder in the girls by surprising them with “Candy from the Sky.” Their parents would announce the impending shower and then, to their delight, sweets would magically rain down on them. It was fun traditions like this that Tracie credits with inspiring her love of writing, creating children’s books and continuing to be a kid at heart.

Just before she turned 10, Tracie and her family moved from Chicago to Glen Ellyn. She went to Lincoln Elementary, Hadley and graduated from Glenbard West. She

recalls not liking school very much until moving to Glen Ellyn and having “the best teacher ever,” Mrs. Janet Bermann, in 5th grade. Her memories of that year were so special that when, decades later Tracie found herself on an elevator with Mrs. Bermann at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, she had a fangirl moment. “My family could not believe my reaction to her,” Tracie said. “To me, she was a celebrity but better- she was real!”

Tracie received a bachelor’s degree in Interdepartmental Communications from Elmhurst College (now University) and then for most of her adult life lived in Plainfield and Naperville. She’s held roles working in human resources, talent acquisition, marketing and communications, and is currently the Head of Human Resources for a start-up healthcare technology company in San Francisco.

In 2017 Tracie and her daughter Grace, now 22, moved back to Glen Ellyn to be closer to the whole family who still lives in the area, including her four nieces. It’s all girls in this family; her parents had three daughters and now they have five granddaughters!

She is very proud of her own daughter, Grace, who recently graduated from Tracie’s alma mater, Elmhurst University with a degree in Communications. Grace was the first Newman Civic Fellowship student at Elmhurst, and a member of several honor societies. She enjoys volunteering, all kinds of music, creating things on her Cricut and spending time with family and friends.

They have a 13-year-old dog named Eldon. They had him DNA tested and he is mostly a mix of Russell-type Terrier, Australian Cattle Dog and Beagle. Tracie would also add 1% human and 10% angel. They rescued him after he had been left in a dumpster as a puppy. He loves cuddling and pup cups from the Starbucks drive thru. The whole family has a definite soft spot for rescue pups.

When Tracie and Nichol decided to start their own small business to self-publish children’s books they have written, the sisters looked to their childhood memories to find a name, and in 2020, Candy From the Sky, LLC was born. Tracie calls children and puppies her happy place, so it’s only fitting that the first children’s book they



chose to publish is titled *Mac to the Rescue - a short tail*. It's based on Eldon's former partner in crime, Tracie's beloved rescue dog Mac. It was just released on what was his birthday, October 10th and available on their website candyfromthesky.com. The mission of their business is "creating sweet memories that give back," so a portion of the proceeds from this book will benefit rescue dog charities. Tracie's hope is to pass on some of the sense of wonder that she experienced as a child. "My dream is to positively impact children like my teachers, friends and family did for me," Tracie said. "I believe children are naturally

intelligent and curious!" This is the first of many books they plan to publish.

While she still has fond memories of downtown Glen Ellyn as it was in her youth, she's a big fan of all of its current establishments. She shops local whenever she can and loves the restaurants, with Fire & Wine, Glen Oak, and Santa Fe among her favorites. For the last few years Tracie has been involved with "This Run's for Jack," and is a mental health advocate and speaker for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI DuPage). She speaks with adolescents going through tough times and finds it

a rewarding and humbling experience.

Tracie also has a special man in her life, her boyfriend John, who she started seeing this year. She currently lives near Ben Franklin school and has great neighbors who are fun to be around. Whether it's having a dance-off with her 5-year-old neighbor or finding out someone she grew up with lives right around the corner, she has many reasons to love being back in her hometown. "Glen Ellyn feels like home to everyone," Tracie said. "Even to those who visit for the first time, nearly every person who experiences the charm of our village wants to live here."

 **AlwaysGreatSmiles.com**



David W. Zaremba, DDS
Jennifer J. Langner, DDS, ABDSM
Patrick A. Pecora, DDS, MS

I can't recommend Always Great Smiles enough. They are knowledgeable, thorough, careful, and gentle. The work they do with children is amazing too. If you are nervous to go to a dentist this is the dentist for you! - Amanda Noeske

Great is the appropriate word for all of my experiences with AGS. Everyone is pleasant, thoughtful and kind. Staff is so skilled and effective. No one likes going to the dentist, but I do not dread it, or even worry about it at all. Thank you, AGS - EVERYONE!!!! - Douglas

Our family has been with Always Great Smiles since we moved to Glen Ellyn over 25 years ago. Everyone is professional and caring. Wonderful care! Highly recommend. - Christel Gallagher

**Feel Better,
Leave Smiling**

630.469.0296

586 Duane Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137