

NORTH VALPO

NEIGHBORHOOD

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WIN THE DAY!
THE MULLIGAN FAMILY

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There's something to be said about having a positive attitude, setting goals, and making progress towards those goals...even if you're reminded to do so seven days a week. "Every morning when my dad wakes up, he shouts 'Win the Day!'," laughs Mia (15). Devon admits that he drives his kids crazy by repeating it every day, but it's an idea that has stuck and is reflected in not only Devon and Kristen's lives, but in the lives of their three kids.

With a super active family and crazy schedules, Kristen shares that "winning the day can be as simple as taking time to chill out and have a family movie night." Devon agrees. "Win the day to me is about lining up one small win after another like getting up on time; making your bed; going to school with a positive mentality; or eating a balanced meal. You only get one shot at today so make the most out of it. Do your best and work towards the bigger picture."

Devon's can-do attitude was honed over the course of many moves during his childhood.

"I was born in Washington, D.C. and lived on the East Coast," he shares. "My dad was an event producer and my mom a costumer, so we moved each time they took on a new theater job. They both found jobs at Disney, so we moved to Orlando then to Chicago when

my dad got a job at Navy Pier." Devon graduated from high school in Chicago.



Devon and Kristen at an Edward Jones awards night.

Kristen hails from Evansville, Indiana. She and Devon met in Tallahassee, Florida while both worked at the Roadhouse Grill as servers and both attended Florida State University. In 2003, after graduation, they moved to Valpo so Kristen could attend Valparaiso University School of Law and Devon could attend Purdue North Central. "We got engaged here and were married in 2005 at Meyer's Castle in Dyer," she shares. "We were so poor we went to Jamaica for our honeymoon six months after we got married." Devon recalls that as 23-year-old "broke youngsters, we went to dinner to celebrate the first time we had \$1,000 in our savings account!"

"Our plan was just to live in Valparaiso until I finished law school," says Kristen, "but then we started establishing careers, got married, made friends, bought a house, and had our

first child. We've now been here 21 years and we love it! We love the people, the city and all the connections we've made." Devon concurs. "Valpo has made a true investment in the community. The downtown area is intentional, and a place people want to

go. We also have excellent schools and strong church and sports communities. There are a lot of reasons to feel good about where we live.”

Whenever friends or family come to visit, Devon and Kristen love taking them to some of their favorite Valpo restaurants, destinations, and events. “We like going to Suzie’s Café, Stacks, or any number of local places that are incredibly attractive and inviting for families,” says Devon. They also enjoy ice-skating downtown, the 4th of July fireworks show, and Popcorn Festival. When they can, they enjoy spending time outdoors hiking in the dunes, Coffee Creek, or in the many Shirley Heinze Land Trust properties in the area.

Devon began his career as a teacher, but quickly realized that he wanted to make a difference in people’s lives from a financial perspective. “My interest in education comes from a desire to serve,” he shares. “In 2009, I got into the financial industry primarily doing insurance work. In 2013, I obtained my securities license and immediately knew this was my true interest. I became a financial advisor with Edward Jones and then earned my CRPC® and CFP® designations. “This is 100% what makes me tick and gives me a sense of purpose. I’m passionately committed to the people I serve. I enjoy the personal connection where I can help support client’s lifestyles and dreams.” Kristen adds that, “he can take something complex and explain it so that it’s understandable which allows his clients to participate in the decision making.”

After earning her Juris Doctorate degree from VU, Kristen worked as the Assistant Director of Admissions at Valparaiso University School of Law. She held that position until 2010, at which time she became legal counsel to the Indiana Department of Child Services. In July 2020, Kristen took the bench to become the Porter County Circuit Magistrate. She presides over juvenile delinquency, child custody, child support, adoption, paternity, CHINS, and termination of parental rights cases. “When I began working for the Department of Child Services, I loved it from day one,” she shares. “I felt it was my passion and calling. I have almost 15 years in child welfare, and I can’t imagine doing anything else. I’m here to help and make a difference. I can’t undo something that has happened, but my hope is that we can provide education and services to families during a very difficult time.”

The Mulligans have three extremely active and athletic kids: Mia (15), Braden (12), and Nathaniel (8). “Sports are a big part of our lives and the lives of our children,” says Devon. “We try to use sports as a platform to reinforce important life skills like hard work, discipline, and leadership.”

After spending four years playing soccer, Mia picked up volleyball in sixth grade and hasn’t looked back. She plays on the VHS team and also with Valparaiso’s KeAloha Volleyball Club. “It’s a year-round commitment and we are extremely proud of the work she puts in to get better.” Mia is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

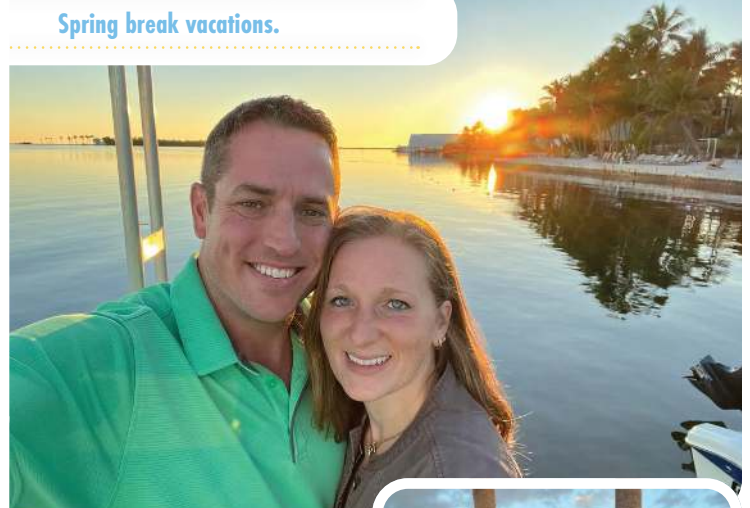
Brady and Nate play football in the fall, wrestle in the winter, and recently started playing lacrosse. As Devon says, “We preach progress over perfection, every day better, and always do the hard stuff before the fun stuff. Keeping up with all their schedules



Passionate about sports!



Spring break vacations.



is a full time job, but we wouldn't have it any other way." Brady has participated in Math Bowl for several years. Brady, Nate, and Mia all play piano.

The family's lovable pet is Toby, a four-year-old boxer-border collie mix. "He's the greatest dog on the planet," says Devon. "He's incredibly loyal, smart and was the best thing that came out of the 2020 covid quarantine. He also rules the roost. This is Toby's house and we're just paying rent!"



When the Mulligans aren't running their kids all over NWI, they enjoy being outside, spending time with friends, and watching FSU football games. Devon loves to golf but rarely has time to do it. The family attends Calvary Church where Kristen volunteers with the Care Ministries as a table leader for their Navigating Grief program. Devon has been a volunteer coach for the last 10 years in various Valpo programs but mostly with Pop Warner.

The family loves to travel when they can. "With our work schedules and the kids' sports schedules, it became too easy to watch the years fly by just doing our family routine," says Devon. "Spring break has become a special week where we check out and spend time together. The last three years we have been lucky enough to go to Cancun, Kauai, and Cabo."

The Mulligans feel very blessed to call Valparaiso home. And if there was one thing they could say to neighbors, it's this: "Give! Give your time, your money, your guidance, your friendship, and give back to the community. Valpo is a special place and it's our job to keep it special. The more we all give, the more we all grow."

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